



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Contact: PFC Jennifer Reidy
PFC Jamie Myers
(410) 313-2236

Police Arrest Suspect in Robbery, Sexual Assault Cases

Last night, officers with the New Haven Police Department in Connecticut were able to locate and take into custody the suspect responsible for two Howard County burglaries, one involving a sexual assault. Ronnie Gordon Smith, Jr., was located in the 400 block of Eastern St. in New Haven, Ct. and was taken into custody without incident. Howard County Police are anticipating extraditing Smith, who remains in custody in Ct., back to Maryland.

Yesterday, police asked for the public's assistance in locating Smith, 39. Smith was wanted for several crimes committed during the commission of two separate burglaries within five days in the Columbia area. Other charges included attempted rape, assault, theft, vehicle theft and sex offense.

In the first incident, which took place on Dec. 6, Smith entered a home on Smooth Meadow Way and tied up a female resident. He then stole money, jewelry, credit cards and the victim's car. The victim was not seriously injured.

In the second incident on Dec. 11, a female victim entered her apartment on Brook Way to find Smith already inside. Smith tied her up and then assaulted her. He fled after stealing electronics and cash.

After Howard County investigators identified Smith as the suspect in these incidents, members of the Warrants Fugitive section worked through the day yesterday trying to locate him. Multiple tips led them to believe that he had traveled to Connecticut, and Howard County Police asked the New Haven Police Department to assist in locating and taking him into custody. Smith was arrested at the house of a family member around midnight by New Haven Police officers.

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