

NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Police Charge Suspect in Destruction of Political Sign

Howard County Police arrested a man tonight for the destruction of a political sign in Ellicott City. Cory Robert Cooke, 33, of the 3600 block of Fels Lane in Ellicott City, was charged with destruction of property after police observed him cutting down a Bush-Chaney sign on Route 40 during a surveillance operation.

Over the last few weeks, a number of Bush political signs have been vandalized in Ellicott City, many along the Route 40 corridor. Police set up a surveillance operation after one of the destroyed signs was replaced tonight. At approx 8:35 p.m., they observed Cooke approach the sign and use a cutting tool to remove it from its post. Cooke was arrested immediately.

Police are continuing to investigate other similar cases, including signs that were cut, painted and, in once case, burned. It is unknown at this time whether Cooke will face additional charges, but the investigation is continuing.

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