



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

For Immediate Release:

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Howard County Drops Escape Charges Against Escaped Prisoner David Watson

At a hearing held in Howard County District Court today, prosecutors dropped all Howard County charges against David Michael Watson, the escaped prisoner recaptured by a county police tactical team last week. Watson has been transported back to Wicomico County where he also faces an escape charge. Authorities in both counties charged Watson with escape. He was charged with first-degree escape by Wicomico County plus first-degree escape, second-degree escape and second-degree assault by Howard County.

On April 28, Watson, age 28, was transported to the Clifton T. Perkins Hospital Center by two guards from the Wicomico County Detention Center when he fled into the woods as he was being moved from the vehicle into the hospital. Watson is serving a sentence of more than 100 years in a Delaware prison for attempted murder. He is also charged in Wicomico County for attempted murder of police officers and was being transported for a periodic psychiatric evaluation at Perkins when he escaped custody.

Watson's May 4 bail review hearing was continued pending the competency evaluation ordered by Howard County District Court Judge Mary C. Reese. The hearing, scheduled for this Friday, May 12 in Howard County, will now take place in Wicomico County.

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