NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

For Immediate Release:

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Frederick Man Pleads Guilty to Howard County Home Invasion

A 22-year-old Frederick man has pleaded guilty to a drug-related home invasion at a Savage residence that occurred last May. Diego R. Morales, of the 200 block of Wyngate Drive, pleaded guilty to one count of home invasion before Howard County Circuit Court Judge William V. Tucker yesterday. According to police and prosecutors, Morales was one of three men who broke into an apartment, located in the 9000 block of Washington Street, on the morning of May 15, 2017.

Deputy State's Attorney Kim Y. Oldham told the court that the victim was lying in bed with her six-week-old infant when two male suspects entered her bedroom and pointed long guns at her while they stole her boyfriend's AR-15-style semi-automatic rifle and a 12-gauge shotgun, $140 in currency and luxury-branded clothing accessories. The victim later discovered that a second shotgun was stolen and that the men had entered the residence through an open window after removing a window-mounted air conditioner found lying on the ground.

Oldham stated that the victim told police that one of the men said, "We know you have some weed; we know you have some money—give it to us." The victim also told police that she recognized one of the burglars as an associate of her former neighbor, Diego Morales, who stood in the hallway outside of her bedroom. Based on the victim's identification of Morales and the second suspect, police placed them under surveillance prior to arresting them in Frederick on May 16 when they recovered one of the items stolen during the home invasion.

Judge Tucker set a sentencing date of January 18, 2018. The second suspect arrested with Morales, Neal Stevenson Hall, 18, also of Frederick, has a trial date of December 12. The third suspect has not been arrested but the investigation is ongoing.

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