



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For release: Dec. 18, 2015

Contact: Sherry Llewellyn, 410-313-2236
stllewellyn@howardcountymd.gov

Police charge Laurel man in attempted thefts from ATMs

Tips from social media aid investigators in ID

Howard County police have charged a Laurel man in connection with multiple attempted thefts from ATMs after residents provided an overwhelming number of tips upon seeing photos of the suspect posted by police on social media.

Scott Joseph Costa, 26, of 9541 Jeanne Court, was charged with three counts of attempted theft, three counts of malicious destruction of property, burglary and attempted burglary.

Costa is charged in connection with the following incidents, all of which took place on Nov. 21, in which police believe he attempted to open and damage an ATM at the Bank of America in the 8600 block of Washington Boulevard, Jessup; attempted to pry open the doors of AMA Systems in the 8100 block of Lark Brown Road, Elkridge; and attempted to open and damage an ATM at the Bank of America in the 8800 block of Centre Park Drive, Columbia.

Detectives are investigating whether Costa may be linked to other similar cases in the area.

Following the incidents, police posted ATM surveillance photos of the suspect on Facebook and Twitter, prompting numerous tips from the public. Upon further investigation, Costa was identified and arrested at his home without incident. He posted a \$15,000 bond and was released from the Howard County Detention Center.

The police department appreciates the community's assistance and collaboration to help close these cases.

###