



# NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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## **Patrol car struck by driver under the influence**

*Officer sustained minor injury; driver arrested*

Howard County police are investigating a collision in which a police officer's patrol car was struck by a driver under the influence of alcohol. It was the second collision in a week in which a Howard County patrol car was struck by a driver under the influence of alcohol.

On March 6, at approximately 10:37 p.m., Police Officer First Class Antonio Thomas was traveling southbound on Washington Boulevard in Laurel, south of Brewers Court. A dark-colored vehicle traveling northbound was attempting to make a left-hand turn across the southbound lanes. The vehicle failed to yield and struck the patrol vehicle's left front bumper and wheel well. The patrol vehicle sustained significant damage and was rendered disabled at the scene.

After the collision, the suspect vehicle fled the scene, traveling southbound on Washington Boulevard. A short time later, the vehicle was located behind the Super 8 Motel in the 9900 block, and the driver, identified as Jason Nathaniel Marks, 31, of Temple Hills, was arrested without incident. He was charged with driving under the influence, leaving the scene of a collision and multiple traffic violations. He is being held at the Howard County Detention Center on \$150,000 bond.

PFC Thomas, a 9-year veteran, sustained a minor injury and was transported to Howard County General Hospital, where he was treated and released. Earlier in the week, on Feb. 28, at approximately 12:30 a.m., an unoccupied patrol vehicle was struck by a driver who was under the influence of alcohol. The officer was out of his car conducting a field sobriety test on a suspected drunk driver on the shoulder of Old Columbia Pike when another driver under the influence traveling southbound veered off the roadway and sideswiped his patrol vehicle. He was not injured. Both drivers were arrested and charged with DUI.

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