



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### **Six-month investigation yields no arrest in violent Columbia rape** *Police re-release sketch and continue to offer reward up to \$5,000*

After six months of investigation, Howard County police are once again asking for the public's help to identify an unknown man believed to be responsible for a violent rape in a Columbia apartment building in January.

Police are re-releasing a composite sketch of the suspect. The reward in the case is up to \$5,000, with a contribution from the apartment management company. No other similar crimes were reported before the incident, nor have any similar cases been reported since.

The victim, a woman in her 30's, reported to detectives that a man she did not know approached her inside the Columbia Landing Apartments in the 8900 block of Tamar Drive Jan. 21 and tried to engage her in conversation. She said that the man suddenly pulled her into a vacant apartment, where he physically assaulted and raped her. He did not display a weapon.

After the attack, the woman ran from the unit to another apartment to seek assistance. Police found no evidence of forced entry into the vacant apartment and believe the man may have been staying there.

The victim does not reside in the apartment building, but believes she recalls seeing the same man in the area sometime during the week before the rape. Police cannot provide any additional information about the victim, due to the nature of the crime.

The woman described the suspect as a black male with short dreadlocks or braids, approx. 2-3" in length, that are gold-colored or bleached. She told detectives he has pronounced cheek bones and that the pigment of his cheeks appears darker than the rest of his face, which she described as a medium complexion. He is possibly in his 30's or older, with a muscular, medium build. He was wearing black sweatpants and no shirt.

The management company for the apartment complex, Equity Management in Columbia, is contributing an additional \$4,000 toward the reward, which now stands at up to \$5,000.

Investigators are asking anyone who may have information to call police at 410-313-STOP.

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