



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Police charge two juveniles in recent East Columbia robberies

One of the suspects also charged with spray-paint vandalism cases dating back to 2014

Howard County police have charged two juveniles in a recent series of East Columbia street robberies and are investigating whether they were involved in multiple other robbery cases. One of the suspects also has been charged in a series of approximately 200 spray-paint vandalism cases dating back to late 2014.

Due to the serious nature of the robbery incidents, Michael Jonas Mays, 16, of Hickory Log Circle in Columbia, has been charged as an adult with multiple counts of armed robbery, firearms charges, assault and theft. The second suspect, a 12-year-old from Columbia, is facing similar robbery charges as a juvenile; he is not eligible for adult charges due to his age. He also is facing numerous destruction of property charges for spray-painting cars and buildings in various areas of Howard County for more than a year.

Both Mays and the 12-year-old are charged in the following robbery cases:

Jan. 21, 6600 block of Cradlerock Way: Two teenage victims were walking to the village center when they were approached by three suspects. One suspect asked to borrow a cell phone to call his mother and the victims agreed. The suspects then displayed a handgun and a knife, assaulted one of the victims and demanded their belongings. The victims had no other valuables and the suspects fled. Investigators are working to identify the third suspect in this case.

Feb. 5, 7500 block of Broken Staff: A resident reported that a suspect knocked on her door and asked if he could use her cell phone to call his mother. She opened the door and a second suspect pointed a handgun at her. She was able to quickly close the door and the suspects fled with no property.

Feb. 6, 9300 block of Ourtime Lane: A man reported that he was walking on a footpath when he was approached by two suspects. One suspect asked the victim to use his cell phone to call his mother. He then pointed a handgun and demanded both the iPhone and the man's Apple Watch. Both suspects fled.

The 12-year-old was charged in one additional robbery/kidnapping case:

Feb. 2, 6600 block of Cradlerock Way: Two suspects visited the house of an acquaintance. When they arrived, they ordered the acquaintance out of the house at gunpoint and directed him toward the East Columbia Library. Once in the parking lot, they demanded the victim's property. He advised he had no belongings with him and the suspects fled. Police arrested one suspect, age 12, following a foot pursuit shortly after the incident. The second suspect, also 12, has now been charged.

Mays is being held without bond at the Howard County Detention Center. The 12-year-old has been remanded to a juvenile detention facility. Investigations into other similar robbery cases are ongoing. Anyone with information should contact police at 410-313-STOP or HCPDcrimetips@howardcountymd.gov.

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