



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For Release: May 1, 2017

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

U. S. Marshals take lead in search for escaped prisoner

Reward increased to \$10,000;

Howard County and Maryland State Police continue to support investigation

Howard County Police are transferring primary responsibility for the search for escaped prisoner David Watson to the U.S. Marshals Service. While multiple agencies have been collaborating since the beginning of the search, the U.S. Marshals Service has taken over as the lead agency in the investigation. With Howard County Police, they are offering a reward up to \$10,000.

Watson, 28, was being transported to Clifton T. Perkins hospital in Jessup April 28 by two guards from the Wicomico County Detention Center when he escaped custody and fled into a wooded area. When the transport van parked at the facility, Watson pushed a guard and ran into the woods. Investigators found handcuffs and a waist chain near the van and articles of Watson's clothing in the woods.

Since the escape, authorities have used bloodhounds, K-9 units, teams of officers, and helicopters with heat-seeking technology to search for Watson. There have been no sightings or indications of him in the area.

Watson is serving a sentence of more than 100 years in a correctional facility in Delaware for attempted murder. He also has been charged in Wicomico County for attempted murder of law enforcement officers.

Today, Howard County police officers are visiting businesses in the Jessup area that may be reopening after the weekend. Officers will be handing out flyers and asking businesses to check their properties, trucks, vans, buildings and any video footage for possible break-ins or sightings of someone matching Watson's description.

Watson is described as a white male, 5 feet eight inches tall and 150 pounds. He was last seen in the woods in the area of Dorsey Run Road wearing white clothing, with no markings or emblems. Investigators confirmed that Watson did not have access to a weapon at the time of the escape, as both of the guards' handguns were in lockboxes inside the van.

Watson has face tattoos between his eyes and under his right eye, and numerous body tattoos, including "EVIL" on the back of his neck and "SIN" on his hand. Police are still gathering information and evidence to determine if Watson's escape was planned, or if it was an impulsive act.

Anyone who sees Watson should call 911 immediately. For general tips and information, contact the U.S. Marshals Service at 443-885-0923 or CAR.FTF@Maryland.gov.

###