



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### **Driver critical after striking a tree in Columbia**

Police are investigating a single-vehicle collision that occurred overnight in Columbia after the driver drove in the wrong direction on a roadway and struck a tree.

An officer on patrol on McGaw Road around 10:40 p.m. observed a 2012 Dodge Charger fail to negotiate a turn and strike a median. The officer attempted to stop the car, but the driver sped off. The officer began to pursue the Charger, but the pursuit was terminated due to the driver's high rate of speed. The Charger was last seen driving southbound in the northbound lanes of Snowden River Parkway. Police located the Charger after it had left the roadway and struck a tree.

The driver and sole-occupant, Christopher Damien Williams, 40, of Glen Burnie, was transported to the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center, where he is currently in critical but stable condition.

Preliminarily, investigators believe speed and alcohol may have been contributing factors in the collision. The driver was not wearing a seatbelt. The investigation is ongoing.

Northbound Snowden River Parkway was closed between Berger Road and Rustling Leaf for approximately two hours.

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