



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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

Suspect in gas station robbery and carjacking taken into custody

Howard County police have arrested and charged a Bethesda man in yesterday's gas station robbery and carjacking.

Michael Gainer Rothenberg, 27, of Buxton Terrace in Bethesda, has been charged with armed robbery, robbery, first- and second-degree assault, theft, and armed carjacking.

Police were called to the Crown station in the 6300 block of Dobbin Road in Columbia around 10:45 a.m. on March 6 for an armed robbery. The clerk reported that a man wearing a gray hoodie and gray pants entered the store, displayed a handgun and demanded money. The suspect stole cash and fled in a car that had been previously reported stolen in another county.

A few minutes after the robbery, police received a call at the intersection of Dobbin Road and Old Dobbin Lane in Columbia for a carjacking involving the same suspect.

Detectives believe the suspect struck another vehicle while driving from the robbery scene. According to witnesses, the suspect exited his car, pointed a gun at the woman driving the other vehicle and demanded her car. The suspect drove off in the woman's red MINI Cooper.

No one was injured in either incident.

Through investigation, detectives identified Rothenberg as a suspect. He was located and arrested in Frederick yesterday evening. The stolen MINI Cooper was recovered in another jurisdiction.

Rothenberg is currently being held without bond.

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