



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### **Police arrest three in string of burglaries**

Howard County police have charged three suspects in a series of burglaries reported earlier this week. Emely Garcia, 21 and Christian Pereyra, 20, both of Florida; and Olivia Palma, 22, of New York, are facing numerous counts of burglary, destruction of property, theft and handgun violations. All are being held without bond at the Howard County Detention Center.

Police were called to a home in the 10000 block of Saddle Brook Farm Trail on Nov. 27 around 2:15 p.m. by a resident who reported that someone had been aggressively knocking on the front door and ringing the doorbell. He observed a man at the door from an upstairs window, as well as a gray car with tinted windows in the driveway, but did not answer. He then heard noises from the basement and saw the same man trying to pry open a back door with a crowbar. The resident called out and the suspect ran away.

The victim called police and provided a description of the suspect and the vehicle, including the tag number.

Two hours later, around 4:30 p.m., police were called to the 1200 block of Crystal Ridge Road in Marriottsville for a report of a burglary. The resident reported he returned home, found a door forced open and two laptops, a video gaming system, jewelry and a credit card missing.

At the same time, additional officers were responding to the 8400 block of Old Frederick Road in Ellicott City for another report of a burglary. The resident reported he returned home, found a door forced open and a laptop and credit card missing.

Thirty minutes later, around 5 p.m., police were called to the 1200 block of Marriottsville Road in Marriottsville for an additional burglary. The resident reported he returned home, found a broken window and jewelry, handbags, a camera and a handgun missing.

Police launched an investigation and later that evening, one of the stolen credit cards was used at a liquor store in Jessup. Detectives responded and saw two people on surveillance video exiting a gray car and attempting to use the card to make a purchase.

Investigators focused resources in the Jessup area, located the same gray car in a hotel parking lot in the 8000 block of Washington Blvd., and determined that the suspects were staying at that location. Police obtained a search warrant Nov. 28 and found three suspects inside a hotel room with property from all three burglaries, and additional property belonging to unknown victims. Detectives also seized five handguns, including the one stolen in the Marriottsville Road burglary.

The investigation into other cases related to the suspects, in Maryland and possibly other states, is ongoing.

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