



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### **Traffic stop leads to felony drug distribution, firearm charges**

Howard County police have arrested an Ellicott City man on felony drug distribution and firearm charges. Alec Vazquez, 21, of Old Saint Johns Lane, was charged with multiple counts of felony drug possession with the intent to distribute, use of a firearm in a drug trafficking crime and related charges. Additional charges are pending.

During a traffic stop on February 21, officers located suspected THC oil, also known as “dab,” in quantities indicative of distribution, and cash. Dab is highly concentrated THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, and is significantly more potent. Vazquez was arrested at the scene.

Detectives served a search warrant at his residence and found approximately ten pounds of suspected marijuana, 75 grams of suspected THC wax, over one hundred vaping cartridges filled with suspected THC, a loaded shotgun and assault rifle and thousands of dollars in cash.

The investigation led HCPD detectives and members of the Carroll County Drug Task Force to a second address in Westminster, where a search warrant revealed an additional 57 pounds of suspected marijuana, suspected hallucinogenic mushrooms, another loaded assault rifle, two additional shotguns, a large amount of ammunition and other evidence indicative of large-scale drug distribution. Charges in this case are pending.

Vazquez is currently held without bond at the Howard County Detention Center.

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