



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### **Dirt bike complaint results in drug bust**

Neighborhood Community Resource Officers (NCROs) in Howard County recently followed up on dirt bike complaints on Columbia trails and ended up finding 70 vials of suspected crack cocaine in the process of the investigation.

Officers were working to address noise complaints related to dirt bikes in the Owen Brown area and determined that one of the bikes had been recently stolen during a transaction arranged through the online sale site OfferUp. When the seller arrived at the agreed-upon meeting place, the fake buyer took the bike and never returned. The victim later saw the same bike for sale online under a different account.

Through investigation, police identified the theft suspect as Deshawn Reed, 19, of Columbia and served a search warrant at a residence on Hickory Log Circle, where Reed had been staying. When officers served the warrant, they located the stolen dirt bike and arrested Reed for the theft, and for possessing a quantity of marijuana intended for distribution. They also located rounds of ammunition, for which charges are pending.

Police also discovered 70 vials of suspected crack cocaine in the apartment with evidence linking those drugs to a Baltimore man, Faiq Matin. A warrant was issued for Matin's arrest and he was taken into custody today in Baltimore.

As evidenced by this case, NCROs are an important part of tackling neighborhood crime and nuisance problems. By working with local NCROs, residents can help address issues occurring in their own communities. For more information, they can call HCPD Community Outreach at 410-313-2207 or email [HCPDoutreach@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:HCPDoutreach@howardcountymd.gov).

Residents should also note that Howard County Police provide three designated "Transaction Safe Place" locations for sales arranged online. Parking spaces marked with yellow signs are available at the Northern District station in Ellicott City; the Southern District station in Laurel; and the new Community Outreach facility on Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia. Individuals may also use the lobby of each station.

These "Safe Place" areas are video recorded every day, around the clock. If a buyer or seller refuses to meet at a police station, residents may want to reconsider the transaction.

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