



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For Release: Dec. 15, 2016

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Clarksville man charged with vandalism in his own community

Howard County police have charged a Clarksville man with 42 counts of vandalism crimes committed in his own community between April and December.

Taylor Richard Allen, 24, of Linden Linthicum Lane, is facing 37 charges of destruction of property, two counts of using a destructive device, two counts of malicious burning and one count of committing a hate crime.

Police began investigating the cases as a series when officers observed similarities in the incidents, which were occurring during the overnight hours. During an eight-month period, they responded to multiple vandalism incidents on 15 different dates, all within a one-mile radius of each other. The cases had recently escalated and become more frequent in late-November and December.

In many cases, the words “Rag Doll” and other graffiti, including swastikas in a few incidents, were painted or written on sidewalks, footpaths, playgrounds, mailboxes, cars and other property. Since the spring, residents in the area have reported a total of 51 tires on 26 cars that were punctured in a similar fashion. On two occasions, a homemade explosive device, known as a “Molotov Cocktail,” was thrown onto a field at River Hill High School.

Through investigation, police developed Allen as a possible suspect and conducted surveillance in the area. They spotted Allen on a footpath Dec. 14 around 3 a.m., and took him into custody. Detectives have linked him to cases on each of the 15 dates on which the vandalism was committed. Police believe he acted alone.

Allen is being held at the Howard County Detention Center on \$50,000 bond.

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