



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Police nab package thieves with a truckful of stolen holiday deliveries *Officers returning to neighborhood tonight to hand-deliver boxes*

Quick-acting Howard County police officers nabbed two package thieves last night with a truckful of stolen holiday deliveries in Columbia. Tonight, officers are returning to the neighborhood to hand-deliver as many of the 77 stolen boxes as possible to their rightful owners.

A resident called 911 around 4:50 p.m. to report that a suspicious box truck was driving around their neighborhood in the area of Greystone Lane and taking boxes from neighbors' homes. Three HCPD community resource officers were in the area and heard the call come out over the police radio. They quickly responded, with the first officer arriving on-scene in less than a minute. They located and stopped the truck and found the stolen packages inside. Both suspects were arrested.

Officers will attempt to make personal deliveries tonight, Dec. 8, to residents who are home to receive their packages. Any packages that cannot be delivered will be available for pick-up Monday - Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Northern District Station, 3410 Courthouse Drive in Ellicott City. ***Police are also making Saturday hours available on Dec. 10, from 9 a.m. - 12 noon.*** Residents should bring photo identification and/or proof of address in order to receive their packages. Questions can be directed to 410-313-3200.

The recovered packages are from addresses on the following streets in Columbia: Tamar Drive, Dry Barley Lane, Four Foot Trail, Fire Cloud Court, Sanctuary Court, Dark Hawk Circle, Black Star Circle, Dry Stone Gate, Roan Stallion Lane, Dawn Whistle Lane, Sea Light Lane, Summer Cloud Way, Saddle Drive, Oak Bush Terrace and Silver Trumpet Drive.

Arrested in the incident were Ernest Ohanyan, 25, of Marnat Road in Baltimore, and Amjad Jaouni, 28, of W. Lombard Street in Baltimore. Each was given \$5,000 bond; Ohanyan was released and Jaouni is still being held at the Howard County Detention Center.

To prevent package thefts, police encourage residents to follow these tips:

- Track shipments and try to be home when they are scheduled to arrive. If you won't be home, have the shipment delivered to your work if permitted or ask the delivery company to leave the package in a discreet location.
- Ask a neighbor to take the package inside until you get home.
- Be aware of suspicious people and vehicles. If you notice suspicious behavior, call 911 immediately. Make note of any vehicle's make, model, tag number and direction of travel.

Howard County police have been increasing their presence in shopping areas, neighborhoods and on roadways to ensure residents stay safe this holiday season. Officers have increased patrols in cars, on foot and on bicycles, both in uniform and in plainclothes to deter holiday crime.

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