



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For release: Dec. 24, 2009

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Police arrest man for Laurel armed carjacking, earlier armed robbery *Suspect confronted both victims at knifepoint on same day*

Howard County police have charged a Laurel man for an armed carjacking and an armed robbery that both occurred on Dec. 5 at Whiskey Bottom Shopping Center in Laurel.

Nortel Maurice Clayton, 21, of 9564 Canterbury Riding in Laurel, faces numerous charges, including armed robbery, robbery, armed carjacking, carjacking, kidnapping, first- and second-degree assault, motor vehicle theft, theft, reckless endangerment and credit card fraud.

In the armed carjacking case, a victim called police on Dec. 5 to report he had been carjacked at the Whiskey Bottom Shopping Center in the 9100 block of All Saints Road in Laurel. The suspect had asked the victim for a ride as the victim entered a liquor store, and the victim had declined. As the victim left the liquor store, the suspect confronted him, displayed a knife and forced the victim into the passenger seat of his own car. The suspect drove the victim's car to ATMs and withdrew money from the victim's account. The suspect then drove around the Canterbury Riding apartment complex honking the horn and forced the victim to buy cigarettes at a gas station. The suspect returned to the Canterbury Riding apartment complex, exited the vehicle and fled on foot with the liquor, cigarettes and stolen cash. The victim was not injured, and police recovered a knife in the vehicle.

Earlier in the day, police were called to the same shopping center for an armed robbery report with a similar suspect description. The victim told police he had been leaving a sandwich shop when the suspect approached him and asked for a ride. When the victim declined and attempted to leave the area, the suspect followed him, displayed a knife and demanded the victim's wallet. The victim complied, and the suspect fled on foot toward the Canterbury Riding apartment complex.

Based on a tip, detectives were led to Clayton as the suspect. After the victims positively identified Clayton as the suspect, detectives searched Clayton's residence and located incriminating bank receipts.

Clayton was arrested Wednesday night and is being held at Howard County Detention Center on \$350,000 bond.

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