



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
POLICE
DEPARTMENT

INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE GABRIEL CAMACHO

101 NORTH MAIN STREET, HARRISONBURG, VA 22802

EMERGENCY NUMBER: 911

NONEMERGENCY NUMBER: (540) 434-4436

FAX NUMBER: (540) 437-2691

WWW.HARRISONBURGVA.GOV/POLICE

For Immediate Release

May 8, 2021

Contact: Officer H. W. McKenzie
HPD Public Information Officer
(540) 434-2314
hpd-pio@harrisonburgva.gov

HPD Makes Arrest During Commercial B&E Involving Stolen Vehicle

HARRISONBURG, VA – This morning at approximately 4:00 a.m. HPD officers responded to Joe Bowman Auto Plaza, 2455 E. Market Street after receiving a call from the alarm company reporting a series of alarm activations at the dealership.

On scene officers observed a pickup truck had crashed through a security fence and continued to drive into a service bay door - finally stopping inside the building. The driver, later identified as Christopher Matthew McPherson, 30 of Timberville, proceeded to break into another vehicle inside and fled the scene.

A nearby Rockingham County Sheriff's Office deputy patrolling the area observed the stolen vehicle, being driven by McPherson, traveling at over 100 miles per hour heading west on Spotswood Trail approaching the Harrisonburg City limits. While attempting to set up a roadblock, an HPD vehicle with the officer inside, was struck by the stolen vehicle.

EMS was called to the scene where both McPherson and the officer involved were evaluated. No serious injuries were caused due to the accident. Further investigation resulted in the seizure of a large amount of a Schedule I narcotic, and it was determined McPherson was under the influence.

McPherson was arrested at the scene and is being held at the Rockingham County Regional Jail without bond. He is charged with Felony Eluding Police (x2), Felony Property Damage (x2), Felony Assault on Law Enforcement (x2), Felony Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle, Driving on a Revoked License and numerous other traffic related violations. Additional charges are pending.

HPD asks if you were in the area or have further information related to this incident to contact them at (540) 434-4436. Anonymous tips related to this incident or any crime can be sent to Crime Solvers at (540) 574-5050 or by texting "HPD" plus their tip to CRIMES (274637).

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