



NEWS RELEASE

OCEAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
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For Immediate Release:

YOUNG ADULT ARRESTED AFTER THROWING ROCKS AT POLICE K-9 VEHICLE

At approximately 1:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 11, 2008, Ocean City Police responded to Robin Drive to assist the Maryland State Police (MSP) with a young man who was destroying public property. MSP witnessed the man, Justin Zepp, 20 years old of Birdsboro, PA, pulling down a street sign and bending it so that it blocked a portion of the sidewalk.

OCPD Officers placed Zepp under arrest. While arresting Zepp, OCPD and MSP were confronted by a man, Michael Snyder, 19 years old of Reading, PA. Snyder was a friend of Zepp and became upset and about his friend's arrest. Officers asked Snyder to leave the area and witnessed him disappear behind the Old Pro Golf Course.

During the arrest of Zepp, OCPD and MSP personnel noticed rocks being thrown at them. The rocks, which were being thrown one at a time, were approximately the size of a half-dollar. One of the rocks actually struck Zepp and several others came close to hitting the officers. The OCPD K9 vehicle's rear window and tail light cover was shattered after being hit by several rocks. K9 "Indy" was in the car at the time, however, was not injured.

A witness on Robin Drive identified Snyder as the person throwing the rocks at the officers. Snyder was arrested after a short foot chase. At the time of Snyder's arrest he was found to have a handful of rocks. During the arrests, Officers noted both Zepp and Snyder to appear to have a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage about their breath and were both were found to be in possession of a quantity of suspected Marijuana as well.

Zepp was charged with misdemeanor offenses of malicious destruction of property and possession of marijuana. Snyder was charged with one felony count of malicious destruction of property to the OCPD police K9 vehicle, misdemeanor malicious destruction of property to the MSP vehicle, two counts of assault in the second degree on the OCPD and MSP officers, as well as possession of marijuana.

The total damage to the OCPD officer's vehicle exceeded \$500 and includes damage to the rear window and rear signal lamp covers, as well as several dents and paint scratches. The MSP vehicle sustained minor dents and scratches believed to be under \$500.00. The Town of Ocean City Street sign sustained approximately \$75 worth of damage.

No one was injured during the incident.

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PAS Jessica King

Quite often, citizens' hunches turn out to be valuable information to us. If you have information that you feel we should know, we encourage you to leave us e-mail. OCPD@ococean.com