



NEWS RELEASE

OCEAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND



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For Immediate Release:

BURGLARY INVESTIGATION LEADS TO ETHIOPIAN MAN

During the summer, Ocean City Police began investigating a series of burglaries that occurred at an Ocean City hotel. Detectives surmised that the crimes were similar and were most likely being perpetrated by the same burglar. Detectives were able to attribute a minimum of 10 burglaries to the same suspect, with a total estimated value of \$33,000 in property stolen.

In August, investigators identified a suspect who had been eluding police most of the summer by giving police false names and identification. Through computer analysis and intensive follow-up on leads and small bits of information, OCPD detectives were able to identify the suspect as Abel Demmelash, 20, of Ethiopia, and living in Silver Spring, Maryland. Police determined that Demmelash was wanted in another jurisdiction as well.



Once detectives positively identified Demmelash he was arrested. After Demmelash was taken into custody, police confirmed he was responsible for 10 Ocean City burglaries. Police have charged Demmelash with a total of 33 charges. Several items of stolen property were located at Demmelash's rented Ocean City apartment.

Demmelash is currently wanted by the Ocean City Police. Anyone with information regarding Demmelash's whereabouts is asked to please contact the OCPD at 410-723-6600. Anyone with information regarding Demmelash's criminal activity please contact the OCPD Criminal Investigation Division at 410-723-6604.

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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@oceancitymd.gov
For additional public safety information, go to the Official OCPD Blog at: <http://ocpdmdinfo.blogspot.com> or view real-time public safety advisories on "Twitter" by searching OCPDMDInfo.