



CARROLL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff James T. DeWees

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

NEWS RELEASE

"Driver arrested after striking patrol vehicle"

Westminster, Carroll County, Maryland; August 14, 2024 ----- On August 11th, 2024, at approximately 5:21pm, Carroll County Sheriff's Office Deputies were dispatched to the 1400 block of East Mayberry Road for a suspicious vehicle with a person laying down in the driver's seat. Upon arrival, Deputies found a black Toyota Sienna partially in the roadway in front of the entrance to St. Mary's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

A Deputy approached the vehicle and found the driver leaning back in the driver's seat with his eyes closed. He also observed 2 open containers of beer in the cupholders and that the vehicle engine was running. The Deputy was able to wake the driver up by knocking on the window, but the driver then put the vehicle in drive, ignoring the Deputy's commands to stop. The driver drove through the church parking lot, through the grass, and back onto Mayberry Road. The Deputy attempted a traffic stop, but the vehicle fled at a high rate of speed Westbound on Mayberry Road. At this point, the Deputy did not initiate a pursuit.

The Deputy was able to identify the driver as Steven Lee Rankin, a 36 year old male with a Westminster address.

A short time later, another call was received stating that the Toyota Sienna had returned to the parking lot of St. Mary's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Deputies arrived and ordered Rankin to step out of the vehicle, but he accelerated and struck the Deputy's patrol vehicle. Rankin then fled the area with Deputies pursuing. The pursuit eventually travelled North into Pennsylvania and was called off after notifying Pennsylvania law enforcement.

At approximately 7:27PM, Deputies were notified that Rankin was travelling back into Carroll County. Deputies located the Toyota Sienna in the area of Halter Road near Mayberry Road and attempted to block him from leaving again. As a Deputy approached the Toyota and ordered Rankin out of the vehicle, Rankin accelerated forward again and struck the Deputy with the vehicle's side mirror. Rankin fled down a gravel access road and into a cornfield. Deputies were eventually able to get the vehicle stopped in the fields behind the 3900 block of Littlestown Pike.

Rankin refused to comply with instructions from Deputies, and was eventually removed from the vehicle. He continued to resist attempts to place him into custody, and a Taser was

discharged. Rankin was then handcuffed and medics were requested. Rankin was transported to Carroll Hospital Center for evaluation.

It was later determined that Rankin did not have permission from the owner to drive the Toyota Sienna, and he was driving with a suspended and revoked driver's license.

A warrant was obtained charging Rankin with:

Assault 1st degree, 2 counts

Assault 2nd degree, 2 counts

Resist / interfere with arrest

Fail to obey reasonable / lawful order, 3 counts

Unauthorized removal of motor vehicle

Trespass - cultivated land

Additionally, numerous traffic citations were issued including reckless driving, attempt to elude law enforcement, consuming alcoholic beverages in vehicle, driving under the influence, and driving vehicle not equipped with and ignition interlock as required by program.

(All individuals are presumed innocent of the pending charges until proven guilty in a court of law)

On Tuesday, August 13th, Rankin was arrested and transported to Carroll County Central Booking where the warrant was served. A bail review is scheduled for later this morning (8/14/24).