



NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR
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For Immediate Release:

Teenager Sentenced to Nearly Two Years in Prison for Burglary of Laurel Gun Store

Howard County, MD (September 10, 2020) – Antonio (TJ) Matthews, age 17, was sentenced to twenty-two months (1 year 10 months 20 days) in prison today by Howard County Circuit Court Judge Richard S. Bernhardt for burglary and illegal possession of regulated firearms stemming from a burglary of Fox Firearms last year. Matthews pleaded guilty to the two charges in March and his sentence will be consecutive to the sentence he received from his involvement in a burglary of a firearms retailer in Montgomery County.

On June 12, 2019, around 2 a.m., Howard County Police were called to Fox Firearms, located in the 11200 block of Scaggsville Road in Laurel for a report of an alarm. Upon arrival, they discovered that a stolen van had crashed through the front entrance of the store. Video surveillance showed four subjects entered the store, following the vehicle crash, and stole firearms. It was later determined that a total of 18 firearms were stolen.

On June 13, 2019, during the overnight hours, Montgomery County Police responded to United Gun Shop, located in Rockville, for a report of a burglary in progress. Entry into the store was made by a vehicle crashing through the entrance of the store. Joint investigation efforts led to the arrest of several suspects. In addition to other subjects, evidence linked Matthews' involvement to both incidents.

Assistant State's Attorney Natasha Byus prosecuted this case.

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