

*Harrisonburg*  
VIRGINIA



POLICE DEPARTMENT  
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Harrisonburg, Virginia 22802  
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Chief Stephen P. Monticelli

For Immediate Release  
October 10, 2016

Contact: Harrisonburg Police Department  
**Sgt. J. Kidd, Major Crimes Division**  
**540-437-2640**  
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## Update to Arrest in Robbery

Harrisonburg, VA – In reference to the apprehension of the suspects involved in the robbery that took place on October 7 at the Valley Mall, the Massachusetts State Police notified law enforcement agencies in Virginia about a homicide that occurred Orange, MA during the evening of October 5. Two persons of interest in the homicide had possibly been in Harrisonburg during the morning of the October 7. These individuals were identified as Joshua Hart, 23, and Brittany Smith, 27, both of Massachusetts. On October 8, deputies from the Rockbridge County Sheriff's Office identified these individuals and detained them on charges stemming from a vehicle theft in Massachusetts.

The investigation revealed that Hart and Smith were passing through Harrisonburg in a stolen Toyota Corolla from Massachusetts at the time of the incident in Harrisonburg. The suspects needed money after fleeing Massachusetts, and this appears to have been the motive for the robbery. After the robbery, they left Harrisonburg in the stolen Corolla and rented another vehicle in Augusta County. The Corolla has been located and was transported back to Massachusetts. After locating Hart and Smith in Rockbridge County, the deputies transported both individuals to the Rockbridge Regional Jail where they were held without bond on a fugitive warrant from Massachusetts for vehicle theft. This is standard procedure for individuals who are located in Virginia with outstanding warrants from other states. The HPD expects to obtain criminal charges for the incident that took place in Harrisonburg after officials in Massachusetts have placed charges for the incidents that took place there.

HPD requests anyone with information related to this incident to contact the Major Crimes Unit at 540-437-2640. Those who may have information are strongly encouraged to call and can also remain anonymous by calling Crime Solvers at 540-574-5050 or by texting "HPD" plus their tip to CRIMES (274637).