

## News Release 12/12/14



On Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at approximately 1:21 PM a 25 year old female victim responded to the Smyrna Police Department and reported sexual assault. The female victim was walking carrying several grocery bags on Georges Alley in Smyrna in the area of Mt. Vernon Street in the rain when she was approached by a white male suspect in a burgundy SUV offering a ride to her residence. The female victim agreed to allow the suspect to give her a ride to her residence but then once she was inside the car the doors locked and the male suspect did not take her home. The male suspect then kept the female victim in his car while he drove around for approximately 45 minutes east of Smyrna soliciting the female for sex, inappropriately touched her and ignored repeated requests to let the female victim exit the car or take her home. During the incident the female suspect was able to secretly activate her cellular phone and record the interaction and at one point was able to capture the image of the suspect which was provided to detectives.

Detectives were provided a physical and clothing description of the male suspect from the victim along with the video and were provided with a vehicle description of a burgundy SUV. Detectives were able to attain video surveillance from local businesses and properties to identify the suspect vehicle as an older model 2000's Chevrolet Trailblazer with unknown Delaware registration. The still images of the suspect taken by the victim and the still images of the suspect's motor vehicle were released to the media and the public via the Smyrna Police Department's website ([www.smyrnapolice.org](http://www.smyrnapolice.org)) and social media accounts (Twitter and Facebook). After about 12 minutes and numerous emails, phone calls, messages, and posts on Facebook with the public's assistance officers were able to identify a possible suspect. Officers using this information had the victim do a photo lineup and immediately the female victim was able to identify John W. Hestera, 44, of the unit block of Minnie Pratt Lane in Clayton, DE as the suspect in this incident. By 12:15 PM detectives were able to apprehend Hestera who was arrested for Unlawful Imprisonment 2nd degree, Sexual Harassment and Offensive Touching. Hestera was video arraigned in the Justice of the Peace Court 2 and released after posting \$1,000.00 unsecured bond pending a future court date.

The Smyrna Police Department would like to thank everyone in the community who assisted with this investigation and credit you the public with the identification and arrest of this individual.