



Salisbury Police Department  
699 W. Salisbury Parkway  
Salisbury, MD 21801  
(410) 548-3165



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**June 09, 2017 (7:40 p.m.)**  
**Bomb Threat Investigation (Arrest)**  
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Detectives have tracked, identified and arrested a 24 year old male for threatening to blow up the Salisbury Police Department Headquarters.

On June 09, 2017, at approximately 8:30 a.m., the Salisbury Police Department in North Carolina began receiving social media messages from an unknown suspect who was threatening to blow up what they initially thought was their police headquarters. Detectives in North Carolina began exchanging messages with the suspect and it was quickly learned that the suspect was targeting the Salisbury, Maryland Police Department.

As the investigation began to unfold, detectives from the North Carolina agency partnered with detectives from our agency. The social media messaging continued through the North Carolina police department, and detectives from both agencies coordinated their investigative efforts throughout the morning hours. Detectives reviewed evidence collected through social media, interviewed individuals, and collaborated with law enforcement personnel in the region, in an effort to identify and apprehend the suspect. Detectives were able to obtain information through social media which ultimately led to the identification of the suspect.

The investigation revealed that the suspect had traveled from New Jersey to Maryland earlier in the week, in an attempt to reconcile his relationship with his ex-girlfriend. Upon making contact with his ex-girlfriend here in the city of Salisbury, Maryland, the suspect's efforts to reconcile failed. The suspect is alleged to have assaulted his former girlfriend and allegedly stole her cell phone. Neither the robbery nor the assault were reported to the police. The suspect then used the stolen phone to "spoof" the Facebook account of his ex-girlfriend's new boyfriend. The suspect then began sending bomb threat messages under the 'spoofed' account to our agency shortly after midnight. However, the account is not monitored around the clock and the messages were not received until after the investigation was under way. The suspect began sending messages to the Facebook account of the Salisbury Police Department in North Carolina at approximately eight o'clock this morning.

Officers and Detectives were able identify the suspect and take him into custody without incident, during a traffic stop, which was conducted in the area of RT50 and Cypress Street at approximately 11:30 a.m. The suspect, identified as 29-year-old Joshua B. Askins of Bridgeton, New Jersey, was subsequently released to Wicomico County Central Booking for an initial appearance.

For up to date information follow us: [Twitter@SalisburyPD](https://twitter.com/SalisburyPD) and [Facebook.com/SalisburysFinest](https://facebook.com/SalisburysFinest). Free app Ping4alerts!

CASE # 2017000025207

Captain Rich Kaiser



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Wicomico County Sheriff's Office K-9 conducted a scan of the Salisbury Police Department Headquarters immediately following the threat notification. The scan did not locate evidence of a bomb. Wicomico County Sheriff's Office K-9 also conducted a scan of the suspect's vehicle for bomb related evidence, which was also unsuccessful in locating additional evidence related to the investigation. There were no injuries reported as a result of the bomb threat. The victim did receive minor injuries to her facial area as a result of the prior unreported assault and robbery. The victim was not treated for her injuries.

The Salisbury Police Department would like to thank the members of the Salisbury-North Carolina Police Department for their dedicated service during this investigation and the coordinated response of the Wicomico County Sheriff's Office Bomb Detective K-9 Team as well as assistance provided by the members of the Maryland State Police, the Maryland State Police Gang Unit, and allied agencies.

The investigation is continuing and the Salisbury Police Department is asking anyone who may have information concerning this investigation to contact Crime Solvers of the Lower Eastern Shore at (410)548-1776, or the Salisbury Police Department at (410)548-3165.



**Name:**

Joshua B. Askins, 29 years of age, Bridgeton, NJ

**Charges:**

Threat of mass violence, threat of arson, threat of destructive device, assault, reckless endangerment, theft

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