



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



45th

PRESS RELEASE

October 29, 2019

(Arrest- Attempted Rape Investigation)

1 of 2

Detectives charge one suspect as a result of an attempted rape and assault that occurred during the early morning hours on Sunday.

On October 27, 2019 at approximately 2:56 a.m., members of the Salisbury Police Department responded to the 200 block of Milford Street for the report of an attempted rape. Upon officers' arrival to the area, they were flagged down by involved parties who directed officers' attention towards a black male who was fleeing from the area. Officers engaged in a foot pursuit with the male who refused to stop when requested. Officers were able to stop and detain 25 year old Jonathan Kelechi Mbagwu.

Further investigation revealed that there were two separate incidents that occurred involving Mbagwu. Officers and detectives were able to meet with a 21 year old female victim regarding the first incident. Officers learned that the victim was walking southbound on S. Salisbury Blvd. when she was approached by Mbagwu, who placed his hand in the victim's rear pants pocket and began to engage in conversation with the victim. The victim was not familiar with Mbagwu and due to this, she stopped walking with Mbagwu and remained in a well-lit area for safety purposes. Mbagwu continued to walk and when he was out of sight, the victim continued to walk to her destination. While walking in the area of S. Salisbury Blvd. and Canal Park Dr., the victim again observed Mbagwu, who was beginning to walk towards the victim at a fast pace. The victim ran towards S. Salisbury Blvd. and was ultimately tackled by Mbagwu in the median of S. Salisbury Blvd. near Canal Park Dr. Due to statements and actions made by Mbagwu, the victim believed Mbagwu was attempting to sexually assault her. While this was occurring, a passerby stopped to assist the victim. Mbagwu then fled from the assault towards Canal Park Dr.

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

CASE # 201900040877
Lieutenant Ryan Koerner



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Officers and detectives learned that Mbagwu had approached an 18 year old female victim who was walking with two 18 year old female witnesses in the area of Canal Park Dr. and Honeysuckle Dr. shortly after the initial incident. The investigation revealed that Mbagwu had engaged in conversation with the women and walked with them to the area of Milford St. During the encounter, Mbagwu had obtained personal property from one of the women and he was refusing to return it to the owner. During the encounter, Mbagwu slapped one of the women on the buttocks, grabbed her from behind, and began to grope her outside of her clothing. The other women then immediately began to call 911 prompting Mbagwu to start walking away. This is when members of the Salisbury Police Department began to arrive in the area pursuant to the initial complaint.

Mbagwu was identified as the suspect in both incidents and he was placed under arrest, transported to the Salisbury Police Department, and later released to the custody of the Wicomico County Detention Center.



ARRESTED: Jonathan Kelechi Mbagwu, 25 years of age, Hanover, MD

CHARGES: Attempted First Degree Rape, Attempted Second Degree Rape, Sex Offense Third Degree, Sex Offense Fourth Degree (two counts), Assault First Degree, Assault Second Degree (two counts), Failure to Obey, Disorderly Conduct

The investigation is ongoing and the Salisbury Police Department requests that anyone that was in the area at the time or with information regarding this incident to contact Crime Solvers of the Lower Eastern Shore at (410) 548-1776 or the Salisbury Police Department Criminal Investigation Division at (410) 548-3165.

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