



Media Alert

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BENNY N. NAPOLEON
Sheriff

For immediate release

Inmate escapes after attack on deputy in Detroit

(September 9, 2013) Detroit – An inmate facing sentencing on carjacking and armed-robbery charges Monday morning stabbed a Wayne County Sheriff's deputy in a holding cell outside a courtroom at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice and escaped wearing the officer's uniform.

Abraham Pearson, who uses the alias Derreck White, used a comb sharpened at one end to attack the deputy inside a cell near courtroom 704.

Deputy Harrison Tolliver, 63, is in good condition with non life-threatening injuries at Detroit Receiving Hospital. A retired Detroit police officer, he joined the Sheriff's Office last December.

Pearson, 25, assaulted the officer, who was not armed, and took his uniform, cell phone and radio after he handcuffed the deputy. The attack occurred shortly after 8 a.m. in front of two other inmates who were in the cell. The inmates did not intervene or leave the cell, police said.

Pearson escaped from the rear of the building and carjacked a civilian near Macomb and Beaubien, escaping in a Dodge minivan that was later recovered near Concord and Jefferson. The officer's uniform was recovered under a vehicle near 1300 Beaubien.

Pearson has a lengthy criminal history and was on parole. He was facing 10 to 15 years in prison for the carjacking, armed robbery and related charges, according to sentencing guidelines.

"We are pleased that the officer is in good condition," said Wayne County Sheriff Benny N. Napoleon. "This criminal has only delayed his appointment with justice. He will be found."

Pearson is approximately 5-foot-6 and 125 pounds and has dreadlocks but may have altered his appearance. Anyone with information about Pearson's whereabouts should contact the Sheriff's Office at 313-224-0414.

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