

Wendell Police Department

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 16, 2014

Wendell Resident Charged with multiple Sex Offenses

Wendell- On September 15, 2014 at approximately 5:55 pm, the Wendell Police Department was dispatched to Rosewood Court in reference to a sexual assault. The report was made by a member of the victim's family. Upon arrival, officers immediately determined that the victim was under the age of 16 and therefore contacted Wake County Child Protective Services who promptly arrived to assist. Child Protective Services assisted with the investigation to ensure that any involved minor children were appropriately attended to and their needs addressed.

After initial interviews were conducted, Maurice Antonio Howard, B/M/32 years of age of 3 Rosewood Court was charged with four counts of Statutory Sexual Offense against a Person Who is 13,14 or 15 Years Old by a Defendant Who Is at Least Six Years Older Than the Victim. Howard was placed in the Wake County Jail under a \$2,000,000 bond.

Police Chief Bill Carter said this was not a random act and that there was an established relationship between the victim and Howard and that the abuse had occurred over an extended period of time. Carter said this is an ongoing investigation that may result in additional charges against Howard once all the facts of this matter are determined.

Carter noted that Wendell and all of Wake County are served by a well established multidisciplinary team that responds to abuse allegations involving minors. It includes law enforcement, Child Protective Services, trained medical professionals and the Wake County District Attorney's Office who share a common goal of pursuing justice while protecting and supporting children who have been victimized.

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