



NEW BERN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
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# City of New Bern

FOUNDED 1710

New Bern, North Carolina

Three Centuries of North Carolina Heritage

**FRANK PALOMBO**  
CHIEF OF POLICE  
(252) 672-4190

PRESS RELEASE  
For Immediate Release

September 28, 2009

## **POLICE INVESTIGATE ARMED ROBBERY**

New Bern police are investigating the report of an armed robbery that took place outside of the Wal-Mart store on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard around 3:15 a.m. Sunday. Police were notified of the incident around 4:30 a.m., after the victim returned to his home and decided to report the crime.

**Michael Anthony HOWEY, 07/30/1991**, of 3503 Taylor St., told officers he went to Wal-Mart just before 3 a.m. Sunday, and as he entered the store noticed a black male standing by the grocery entrance. **HOWEY** said the suspect followed him into the store and continued to talk to **HOWEY** as he shopped. The victim said when he walked outside the suspect was still following him.

**HOWEY** told officers he was going to get in his car and drive away from the man, but the suspect got into his passenger seat, pulled out a gun and demanded money. He said the suspect forced **HOWEY** to drive to the Five Points Mini Mart on Broad Street. As they approached the intersection of Broad and First streets, the suspect jumped from the vehicle and fled. **HOWEY** told officers he then picked up a few relatives and drove them to Vanceboro before returning home and reporting the robbery.

The suspect was described as a black male in his early 30s, around 5'8", with a thin build, short hair worn in braids/dread locks, a medium complexion and a tattoo on his right hand. He was last seen wearing a black hooded sweatshirt and jeans.

This is an on-going investigation as police are tracking leads. New Bern police have obtained surveillance images of the suspect and are asking anyone who may recognize the man to please call 252-633-2020.

The New Bern Police Department is committed to Community Policing. Citizens are encouraged to become a "**Partner in Policing**," by reporting suspected illegal activity to the New Bern Police Department's **TIPS** line at **(252) 636-5034** or the Craven County Crime Stoppers line at 633-5141.

For additional information, please contact Beth Stevenson, Public Information Officer at the New Bern Police Department at (252) 672-4211.

Frank Palombo, Chief of Police

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