



## HANOVER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SHIELD

AWARENESS THROUGH INFORMATION SHARING

Informational Assessment

June 29, 2018

HCSO SHIELD Publication  
NYPD SHIELD Publication  
Baltimore County SHIELD Publication

Open Source Assessment

# Shooting at Capital-Gazette Newspaper Building – Annapolis, MD

Information Cutoff: 2:30 p.m. on June 29, 2018

## INCIDENT SUMMARY

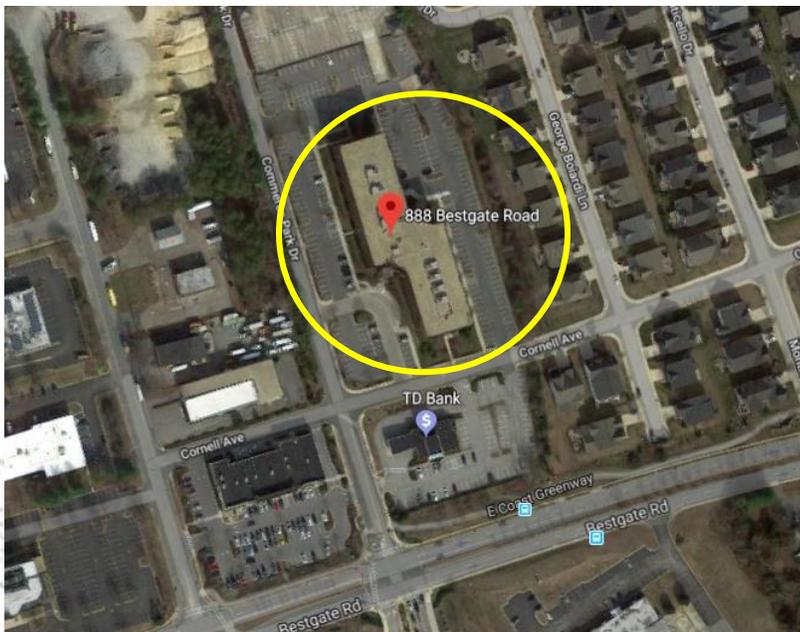
- Five people were killed after a shooting occurred June 28, 2018, at the Capital Gazette newspaper in Annapolis, Maryland.
- Two others were injured during the shooting.
- The suspect responsible for this incident has been identified as Jarrod Ramos, 38.
- Ramos is believed to have had a longstanding grudge against the newspaper.
- Ramos sued after the newspaper accurately reported on his guilty plea to charges of harassing a woman he went to high school with.
- Additionally, he had a long history of harassing many of the newspaper's employees, as well as threatening them via letter and email.
- Ramos appeared in court June 29, 2018, and has been charged with five counts of first-degree murder.



## INCIDENT OVERVIEW

This brief is an open-source initial assessment of the active shooter incident that occurred at the Capital Gazette office located in Annapolis, Maryland. The situation and details are still unfolding as of this brief, which is designed as a general assessment of the incident for awareness purposes.

On June 28, 2018, at approximately 2:30 p.m. Jarrod W. Ramos, 38, arrived at 888 Bestgate Road, a mixed-use office complex located in Annapolis, Maryland. Ramos traveled to the location in a rental vehicle



that was later identified using tag-reading software. The news publication, Capital Gazette, has offices located on the ground floor of the building. Ramos had been previously involved with a defamation case that he lost against the Capital Gazette during 2015. The case brought by Ramos alleged that the Capital Gazette defamed him by publishing an article regarding a guilty plea he made after he was alleged to have criminally harassed a female via social media during 2011. Ramos began making threats towards the Capital Gazette staff. Law enforcement had previously investigated Ramos regarding the threats that he made towards the staff of the Capital Gazette; however, they were unable to charge him as the threats did not meet a criminal standard.

As Ramos entered the building, he deployed smoke grenades and barricaded the door providing access to the building. He then used a shotgun loaded with buckshot to shatter the glass entrance door to the Capital Gazette office. Ramos entered the office, at which point he began shooting those inside. Ramos walked through the newsroom ultimately killing five employees: Wendi Winters, Rebecca Smith, Robert Hiaasen, Gerald Fischman, and John McNamara. Several others suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

Police responded to the scene within a timeframe of approximately 60 seconds. As they entered the building they immediately encountered those who were wounded. They moved through the office, eventually locating Ramos, who was hiding under a desk as if he were a victim. Ramos was identified via CCTV as the suspect. He was placed under arrest without incident. Ramos was uncooperative after he was arrested and was subsequently identified using facial recognition technology.

As police were securing the office and checking for additional suspects and/or evidence, they located a suspicious bag near the area where Ramos was found. The bag was found to contain smoke

grenades that had been used during Ramos' entry into the building. A search warrant was later conducted at Ramos' home. No details of the search warrant are available at this time.

Ramos appeared in court June 29, 2018, and has been charged with five counts of first-degree murder.

## RESOURCES

### COPING

#### WITH AN ACTIVE SHOOTER SITUATION

- Be aware of your environment and any possible dangers
- Take note of the two nearest exits in any facility you visit
- If you are in an office, stay there and secure the door
- Attempt to take the active shooter down as a last resort

*Contact your building management or human resources department for more information and training on active shooter response in your workplace.*

### PROFILE

#### OF AN ACTIVE SHOOTER

An active shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area, typically through the use of firearms.

### CHARACTERISTICS

#### OF AN ACTIVE SHOOTER SITUATION

- Victims are selected at random
- The event is unpredictable and evolves quickly
- Law enforcement is usually required to end an active shooter situation



**CALL 911 WHEN IT  
IS SAFE TO DO SO**

## HOW TO RESPOND

WHEN AN ACTIVE SHOOTER IS IN YOUR VICINITY

### 1. RUN

- Have an escape route and plan in mind
- Leave your belongings behind
- Keep your hands visible

### 2. HIDE

- Hide in an area out of the shooter's view
- Block entry to your hiding place and lock the doors
- Silence your cell phone and/or pager

### 3. FIGHT

- As a last resort and only when your life is in imminent danger
- Attempt to incapacitate the shooter
- Act with physical aggression and throw items at the active shooter

**CALL 911 WHEN IT IS SAFE TO DO SO**

## HOW TO RESPOND

WHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRIVES

- Remain calm and follow instructions
- Put down any items in your hands (i.e., bags, jackets)
- Raise hands and spread fingers
- Keep hands visible at all times
- Avoid quick movements toward officers such as holding on to them for safety
- Avoid pointing, screaming or yelling
- Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating

## INFORMATION

YOU SHOULD PROVIDE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OR 911 OPERATOR

- Location of the active shooter
- Number of shooters
- Physical description of shooters
- Number and type of weapons held by shooters
- Number of potential victims at the location

## IMPLICATIONS FOR HANOVER COUNTY

- There are no known credible threats to locations within Hanover County as of this report.
- A critical component for mitigating attacks is information sharing and the prompt reporting of suspicious behavior. The relationship between the public, private-sector, and law enforcement is vital to the deterrence, detection, and disruption of criminal activity and the prevention of attacks.
- Community partnerships continue to be critical in providing for the safety and security of our Hanover community.
- Public vigilance and awareness campaigns such as the "if you see something, say something" initiative play an important role in identifying potential criminal behavior or threats.

## SOURCES

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<https://patch.com/maryland/annapolis/reports-4-shot-annapolis-newspaper-building-unconfirmed>

## REPORTING

Should you have any information about any crime or suspicious activity, please contact the Sheriff's Office. If it is an emergency, please dial 911. For non-emergency events in progress please dial (804) 365-6140. Other non-emergency information can be shared at [SHIELD@hanovercounty.gov](mailto:SHIELD@hanovercounty.gov).

