



St. Petersburg Police Department News Release



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For Immediate Release

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St. Petersburg Police Investigate Bomb Threat/ Suspicious Bag - Update 3

Arrested Suspect: Brian James Russell, W/M, DOB 04/16/82, Transient (booking photo attached)

Russell has been charged in this morning's bomb threat outside the Pinellas County Health Department at 205 Dr. MLK Street North.

After placing a black duffel bag near the front door, Russell told witnesses that there was a bomb in the bag and that he wanted to committed suicide. He was last seen walking north bound away from the building.

Once the Tampa Regional Bomb Squad determined the bag to be harmless, closer examination of its contents revealed identification inside belonging to Russell.

Two witnesses later identified Russell as the subject they saw place the bag down on the ground and utter the threats of a bomb being inside.

Prior to Russell being implicated in the bomb threat, he was arrested at about 1:00 p.m. by the Gulfport Police Department on an unrelated charge of Giving a False Name during their investigation of a suspicious person call at 27th Avenue South and Tifton Street.

Russell was transported to the Pinellas County Jail where St. Petersburg detectives later placed on him the additional charge of making a Bomb Threat.

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