

# WINTER HAVEN POLICE

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Date: April 7, 2015  
Time: 5 P.M.  
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WINTER HAVEN – Winter Haven Police are asking for the public to assist in identifying a suspect seen in surveillance video wielding a gun attempting to locate employees at Popeye's in Winter Haven after it had closed.

On 4-6-15 at approximately 11:35 p.m., a passing motorist traveling along Hwy 17 in front of Popeye's, located at 25 6th St. (Hwy 17), SW. heard what appeared to be breaking glass. He looked towards the business at the same time the suspect had just thrown a brick through the front door of the restaurant. The citizen called 9-1-1 and continued to watch the suspect until police arrived.

Although the business was closed for the evening, an employee was inside of the office and heard the glass break and locked the office door. The suspect is seen attempting to get into the office while holding a black handgun in his right hand. He roams the business and when he is unable to make entry into the office a second time, he heads back to the front of the business. At this point, the employee takes this opportunity to run out of the building. The suspect then attempts to open a cabinet located under the counter, but is unsuccessful. After being inside of the restaurant approximately a minute and a half, he is then seen running out of the business heading west down a back alleyway. When police arrived, the suspect had already run from the building.

The suspect had his face and head covered and was wearing a dark gray sweatshirt, black or dark navy pants with white tennis shoes.

"This could have turned out with the employee being injured or worse," said Chief Charlie Bird. "We need to get this guy off the street before his actions escalate into something tragic."

Anyone with information on this case is asked to call Heartland Crime Stoppers at 1-800-226-TIPS (8477). Callers can remain anonymous and could be eligible for a CASH reward.