



## TEMPLE TERRACE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **SUSPECT ARRESTED IN PHARMACY ROBBERY**

**TEMPLE TERRACE, FL. – 3/17/14)** – Police have charged a 25-year-old Naples man with attempted murder in connection to the weekend pharmacy robbery in Temple Terrace that left the pharmacist hospitalized.

Brandon James Walker, of 1821 Richard St., Naples was arrested at around 2 p.m. Monday at a Clarion Hotel in Tampa. Walker has been charged with attempted murder, armed robbery, occupied armed burglary and three other counts of burglary.

Police say Walker broke into the Omega Drugs pharmacy, 11410 N. 56<sup>th</sup> St., shortly before 8 p.m. Saturday and surprised the pharmacist from behind. The suspect struck the victim several times with a commercial hole-punch machine, while demanding drugs. Police say Walker entered the rear of the shopping center through another business, and then climbed through a crawl space in the ceiling to access the pharmacy. He escaped with a small quantity of prescription drugs, police said. The pharmacist has been identified as Akinbo Babatunde, 59, of Wesley Chapel. He remains in critical condition at Tampa General Hospital.

Walker, an employee of Tim Moore Painting Co. of Naples, was in Tampa for a work project, painting a building in Ybor City. Early Monday morning, he was involved in a hit-and-run accident with the company vehicle. He boarded a HART bus and began conversing with a fellow passenger. He told the passenger he had been “bitten by a pharmacist” when questioned about a mark on his face.

Walker borrowed the passenger’s cell phone to make a call. Shortly thereafter, the passenger called the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office, which contacted the Temple Terrace Police Department. After the speaking with the passenger, further investigation revealed the suspect’s name and the location of the hotel where he was staying.

Walker was arrested at the hotel and is being booked into the Orient Road Jail in Hillsborough County.