



Division of Capitol Police News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Capitol Police seek Freedom Monument vandalism suspect

RICHMOND -- Virginia Capitol Police are asking for the public's help in identifying the man who vandalized the Emancipation and Freedom Monument on Brown's Island along Richmond's riverfront earlier this month.

Security camera footage indicates the damage occurred shortly after 4 p.m. on Friday, May 13.

A Black man wearing a gold jacket, blue denim shorts with cuffs, a light gray or white skull cap and black and white shoes was observed riding a bicycle up to the state-owned monument shortly before 4 p.m.

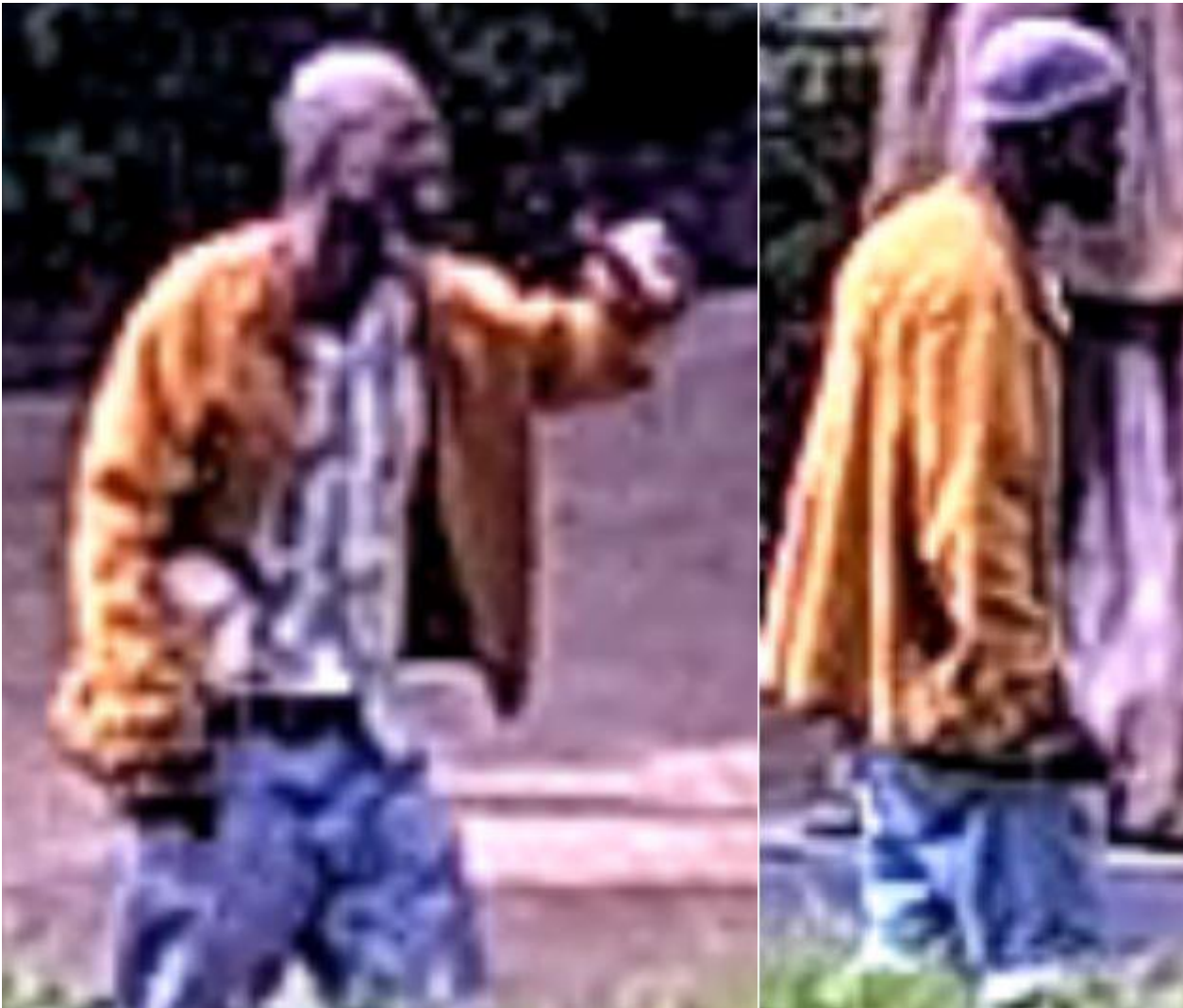
He spent several minutes in the area of the monument, near the Halsey Bridge at the base of Fifth Street along the north bank of the James River, and at one point angrily confronted two women who had walked up to observe the monument. After the women hurriedly left the area, he can be seen on camera pulling on various parts of the monument's large bronze figures, and at one point he swings from a bar and chains so hard that they are bent and damaged.

The monument was dedicated last September to the contributions of African American Virginians in the centuries-long fight for emancipation and freedom.

“We are hoping someone in the community will recognize this individual so we can bring him to justice,” said Col. Anthony S. Pike, the Capitol Police chief.

Anyone with information can call Capitol Police dispatch at (804) 786-2568 and ask for the investigator on duty.

The images below were captured from a surveillance camera, and a short security camera video is attached to the email of the release.



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