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Board of Elections

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Break-In Reported at Library Polling Site

FAYETTEVILLE – East Regional Branch Library, one of 10 one-stop voting sites in Cumberland County, was broken into early this morning. A person is shown on security footage breaking into the building and taking a coin machine from the library, located at 4809 Clinton Road.

Board of Elections Director Terri Robertson reports the library's activity room, which serves as the one-stop polling room, had a window broken out and the door leading from the room to the lobby was shattered. Voting equipment and materials were not tampered with during the incident, Robertson said.

According to security footage, the person entered through an activity room window and exited the polling area through a door leading to the lobby and main library section where a coin machine is located. The individual took the coin machine and returned through the one-stop room to leave the building.

"There was no evidence that anything in the one-stop area had been tampered with," Robertson said. "There were two electronic voting machines that fell down, but this appeared to be when the person tripped over the cords."

Each night, the Board of Elections computers that have voters' data are secured in a locked cage, along with all election supplies, Robertson said. Elections officials retrieved the laptop that was used to complete the site's closing on Tuesday evening from the locked cage. Seals placed on the machines the night before were still intact and were then cut on each electronic voting machine and the counts recorded by the machines the night before matched those on the laptop.

Robertson notified the three members of the Cumberland County Board of Elections and Kim Strach, Director of the State Board of Elections, about the incident.

"We assure our voters that there was no breach in the voting system. This video evidence shows this person was after a coin machine only," Robertson said.