



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### **Detectives arrest seven men in prostitution operation**

In an effort to deter prostitution and human trafficking in Howard County, police conducted an undercover operation Nov. 26, resulting in the arrest of seven men for solicitation of prostitution and related charges.

Officers arrested the would-be johns for soliciting prostitution at a hotel in the 8800 block of Columbia 100 Parkway in Columbia. As part of the operation, detectives placed fake ads on websites known by detectives to be used for prostitution. Men who called the number in the ad spoke with an undercover female officer who provided a meeting location upon the caller's request. When the men arrived and offered money for sex acts, they were arrested and charged with solicitation of prostitution and disorderly conduct:

Michael Hightower, 49, of Aberdeen  
Lonnell Brooks, 48, of Westminster  
Santos Miranda Garcia, 43, of Silver Spring

This operation is part of Howard County's ongoing effort to combat prostitution, human trafficking and related offenses and aids in making the county an unappealing place for traffickers and johns.

If you are a victim, HCPD can offer housing, treatment and other help. If you suspect human trafficking, OR YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS A VICTIM:

- CALL 911 or 410-313-3200 to speak privately to a detective.
- Tip line: 410-290-3784 or email: [hpcdrimetips@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:hpcdrimetips@howardcountymd.gov)

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