



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### **Detectives arrest 13 men in prostitution operation** *Police are posting online “warning ads” to potential suspects*

Howard County police recently conducted a reverse prostitution operation, resulting in the arrests of 13 men for solicitation of prostitution and related charges.

Officers arrested the men for soliciting prostitution at a hotel in the 8100 block of Washington Boulevard in Jessup. As part of the operation, detectives placed a fake ad on the website Backpage, which is a site known to detectives to be used for prostitution. Men who called the number in the ad spoke with undercover female officers, who provided a meeting location upon the caller’s request. When the men arrived, they were arrested and charged with solicitation of prostitution and disorderly conduct:

- Oscar Romero, 33, Laurel
- Justo Portocarrero Gonzales, 50, Laurel
- Marvin Burton Cornish III, 26, Laurel
- Vinit Erun Patil, 26, Columbia
- Henry D. Sagastume, 32, Owings Mills
- Jose Cisneros Saiguero, 21, Laurel
  
- Mark Bryan Rix, 53, McLean, Va.
- Gautam Gupal Dravid, 43, Elkridge
- Juan A Hernandez, 43, Gaithersburg
- Jam-Pav James Wu, 44, Baltimore

This is part of Howard County’s ongoing effort to combat prostitution, human trafficking and related offenses. The HCPD has started posting ads on relevant websites reminding people of the dangers and penalties of engaging in this kind of activity. The new ads read:

#### **LOOKING FOR A GIRL? POLICE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU.**

HCPD has zero tolerance for Prostitution and Human Trafficking.

If you commit these crimes, you WILL be arrested, prosecuted and your personal information released to the media.

**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: [hcpdcrimetips@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:hcpdcrimetips@howardcountymd.gov)

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