



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For release: July 21, 2016

Contact: Sherry Llewellyn, 410-313-2236
stllewellyn@howardcountymd.gov

Detectives arrest nine men in prostitution operation

Police posted fake ads online

Howard County police conducted a reverse prostitution operation July 20, resulting in the arrests of nine men for solicitation of prostitution and related charges.

Officers arrested the men for soliciting prostitution at a hotel in the 9800 block of Washington Boulevard in Laurel. As part of the operation, detectives placed fake ads 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 and offered money for sex, they were arrested and charged with solicitation of prostitution and disorderly conduct:

- Geremias DeSouza, 31, of Laurel
- Alejandro Jiatz, 49, of Burtonsville
- Edgard Martinez Melendez, 41, of Laurel
- Edwin Shim, 47, of Laurel

This operation is part of Howard County's ongoing effort to combat prostitution, human trafficking and related offenses.

The HCPD also posts ads on relevant websites reminding people of the dangers and penalties of engaging in this kind of activity. The 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

###