



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For Release: October 30, 2007

Contact: Sherry Llewellyn
(410) 313-2236

Police Check Sex Offender Locations in Time for Halloween

The Howard County Police Department recently conducted a check of all registered sex offenders in the county. The goal of the three-day sweep was to identify anyone in violation of the registry's reporting requirements.

The 12-officer team located **all but one of the 84 sex offenders** registered in Howard County this month. **Registered offenders were reminded of probation restrictions involving children and strongly encouraged not to participate in Halloween.**

One offender, Frank Rogers, 40, was found to be living at an address other than the one listed on the registry. He was arrested and charged with the violation. **The only absconder, Edward Devlin, 36, may have left the state and police are continuing to search for him.**

The police department created a new position in December 2006 for a detective to be dedicated to monitoring the sex offender registry. The officer has been conducting regular visits to verify sex offenders' residences and places of employment. He also has followed up on complaints from the community about offenders who are not registered or are not living at their registered locations.

"We wanted to do this sweep before Halloween to make sure we know where our sex offenders are living," said Police Chief William McMahon. "We recommend that parents check the sex offender registry before taking their children trick-or-treating."

The Howard County Sex Offender Registry can be found at www.HCPD.org.

In Howard County, every registered sex offender is verified four times a year: they are required to re-register every six months with the police department and a detective team conducts verification operations twice a year.

The registry verification effort is conducted through the Howard County Child Advocacy Center, a multi-disciplinary team that includes police, parole and probation officials, and the state's attorney's office, among others.

###