



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Police Searching for Murder Suspect, Offer \$5,000 Reward

Arrest Warrant Issued for Joel Valles in Murder of Juan Gonzalez

Howard County police are offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of Joel Nunez Valles, who has been identified as a suspect in the homicide of Juan Gonzalez. Gonzalez, whose real name has been determined through fingerprints to be Abolinar Avila, was found dead in his residence last week with small stab wounds.

Through the investigation, police learned that Valles and the victim were acquaintances. Detectives believe Valles killed Avila and robbed him of an unknown amount of money.

Valles, 32, of an unknown address, has been charged in a warrant with first and second degree murder, armed robbery and theft.

Police have established a hotline to receive tips in this case in both English and Spanish. Anyone with information is urged to call (410) 313-2283. Callers may be eligible to receive the \$5,000 reward.

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JOEL NUNEZ VALLES (H/M 06-13-73 or 07-13-79)