



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Police arrest six local men in prostitution operation

Detectives to begin posting online “warning ads” to potential suspects

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

Officers arrested the men this week for soliciting prostitution at a hotel in the 8000 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:

- Davon Aaron Distance, 28, of Baltimore
- Samuel Alan Edwards, 20, of Severn
- Jeffrey Brian Bellamy, 44, of Abington
- Jerone Harper, 23, of Laurel
- Richard Jonathan Cookson, 47, of Elkridge
- Chandima Kavisekaramalawa,* 33, of Columbia

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

“LOOKING FOR A GIRL? POLICE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU.

The Howard County Police Department has zero tolerance for Human Trafficking. Detectives are monitoring internet sites related to prostitution, human trafficking, pimping and pandering.

If you are caught for this type of crime:

- You WILL be arrested.
- Your personal information and charges can be released to all local media outlets and posted on Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites.
- You will be prosecuted to the maximum penalty of the law, which may include significant jail time.

If you are a victim, or know someone who is, Howard County Police can help offer resources for housing, treatment assistance, transportation and other issues. Call 911 or email HCPDcrimetips@howardcountymd.gov with any information.

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*Editor’s Note: The spelling of this suspect’s last name is correct as written. It may be misspelled in some court records as “Kavisekaramaiaw.”