



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOC Intelligence Leads to Federal Murder Indictments Thanks to Modified Cell Phone

TOWSON, MD (May 12, 2009)---Just days after Governor Martin O'Malley said he will push for federal legislation to jam cell phone use inside State prisons, DPSCS Secretary Gary Maynard announced today that Division of Correction (DOC) intelligence officers teamed with law enforcement to use an inmate's modified cell phone in prison to connect two people to a 2008 murder in Baltimore City, and to record conversations implicating at least five other violent criminals who are believed to have committed a dozen other killings.

Working with DOC intelligence officers, law enforcement officials gave a modified cell phone to a cooperating inmate at the Maryland Correctional Adjustment Center in Baltimore. DOC intelligence officers and law enforcement personnel then recorded his conversations, while listening also to conversations held in the vicinity of the phone. One of the suspects in a Baltimore home invasion called the cooperating inmate on his modified cell phone and spoke in detail about the crime.

Calling it "Operation Dial a Cell," federal prosecutors hail DOC and DPSCS' work as "bold and creative undercover investigating" and say more charges are likely. In addition to the two people indicted on the Baltimore home invasion and murder, federal authorities say five other violent criminals responsible for at least 12 murders, have also been identified thanks to the cell phone recording effort.

"The evidence gathered through this operation is typical of what DOC is doing now on a daily basis," said DPSCS Secretary Gary Maynard. "We're working more closely with local, state, and federal law enforcement on everything from gang issues to contraband interdiction, and these efforts are paying off. This should serve notice that committing crimes in our institutions will not be tolerated."

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