



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On First Day of New Law, Parole and Probation Executes Six Warrants, Four For Violent Offenders

TOWSON, MD (October 1, 2009)---On the first day of a new Maryland law expanding the ability of parole and probation agents to execute violation of probation arrest warrants, the Maryland Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) helped to arrest six people, four of them repeat violent offenders who fall under the Division of Parole and Probation's Violence Prevention Initiative. Agents also cleared 14 outstanding warrants by verifying the status of criminals who had been re-arrested.

Under House Bill 1545, DPP's Warrant Apprehension Unit was given the legal authority to execute warrants for the arrest of probationers who have allegedly violated the terms of their supervision. The new law potentially speeds-up the arrest process, taking violent offenders off the streets sooner.

"This is a critical law for public safety, and the citizens of Maryland have already benefited on the very first day," said DPP Director Patrick McGee.

DPP is a key agency in Governor Martin O'Malley's multi-pronged effort to take more violent criminals off the street, and another sign of increased collaboration between multiple law enforcement agencies in the State of Maryland.

DPP's Violence Prevention Initiative is an effort to target the most violent criminals under DPP agent authority by using scientifically developed risk assessment tools and much stricter supervision. The program, begun in mid-2007, cracks down on offenders who violate the terms of their supervision. It allows certain specially-trained DPP VPI agents to request more warrants more quickly---and now, allowing them to execute those warrants as well. In the last 18 months under the VPI, DPP agents have requested more than 3,600 warrants on violent offenders. The result has been 1,277 of Maryland's most violent offenders having their parole or probation revoked.

---MORE---

DPSCS NEWS RELEASE
NEW DPP WARRANT LAW
10/1/09
Page Two

Backed by the O'Malley Administration's \$3.1 million budget commitment to high risk offender supervision, DPP hired and trained 134 new agents last year. In addition, DPP agents are now working fulltime with law enforcement in three jurisdictions in Watch Centers, in which allied law enforcement agencies share intelligence daily on violent offenders, assisting police in determining those offenders' involvement in serious crimes---and arresting them as quickly as possible.

The Maryland Division of Parole and Probation's Warrant Apprehension Unit includes 40 men and women with special law enforcement training and the legal authority to execute arrest warrants.

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