

Making a Difference

Newsletter for
Maryland Coalition Against Pornography, Inc.

MCAP Hotline: 301-439-8475

www.mcap1.com



TOGETHER WE CARE

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VICTORY! Prince George's County Shuts Down Strip Clubs

Zoning Laws which MCAP pursued for many years were used to close Strip Clubs. The actions finally came April 8, 2016, after a year-long court battle between the businesses and the county. Susan Hubbard, a spokesperson for the department, said "Folks who live in these neighborhoods don't want the added traffic, they don't want the noise they generate, and they don't want that type of establishment in a community." County officials said the clubs need to be located in light industrial or warehouse districts only.

Some of the establishments, like Irving's, stopped operating as a strip club. The county expects some of the owners to appeal. The clubs listed are: Mustangs, Irvings (now Plushlook), Ebony Inn, Maages, Fuego, Music Studio 63, Upscale Ballroom, Bazz and Crue, X4B, Harley Riders, Mile High, and Club Exstasy.



MCAP also helped with testimony at hearings before the Prince George's County Board of Appeals about the operations of a strip club known as the "Harley Riders Club", one of the clubs mentioned above, and the likelihood of prostitution. The Board considered whether the club violated licensing and zoning ordinances, a process that had also been fraught with repeated hearing postponements for a year. The board finally decided in January against the club – a separate victory! We are also monitoring two other federal court cases dealing with adult establishments that call themselves "banquet halls."

MCAP also provided testimony at a January hearing in Annapolis before the House Judiciary Committee on a bill, HB 30, introduced by Del. William Wivell (R, Hagerstown, Washington County), which called for limiting the display of books and magazines with sexually explicit content or images considered harmful to minors and requiring them to be covered by retailers. The American Petroleum Institute and the Retailers Association testified in opposition (apparently believing it to be too much extra effort for them), so it was an uphill battle. Though it did not get out of committee, please thank the delegate... william.wivell@house.state.md.us

Like Us on Facebook!

Are you on Facebook? If so, consider "Liking" MCAP. If you had already, in December you would have seen information like the following advice.

Smart Cyber parenting – Avoid Interactive Toys

Mattel's "Hello Barbie" is the start of a new smart toy generation in which marketers can listen to your children while they play in order to gather information about their likes and dislikes.

Essentially, Barbie is an Internet-enabled interactive digital device disguised as a doll and is not the only toy available this Christmas which uses this technology. Thomas and Friends, my grandson's favorite, now has "Talk to You" which records conversations between Thomas and your child.

See <http://www.internetsafety101.org/news.htm?id=286>

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The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends not exposing children age 0-2 to any electronic media because "a child's brain develops rapidly during these first years, and young children learn best by interacting with people, not screens."

Parents should consider questions like the following before allowing toys for their children:

Does the toy connect to the Internet? What are the privacy settings for the device?

Where does the data go? Who can view it? Can I have access to the data?

How long is the data saved for? Where is it saved? What age is the toy/device intended for?

Does it use Wi-Fi? Does it allow password protected settings? Can my child talk to strangers with the device?

Trafficking is Happening Here

Trafficking is happening here--in massage parlors, nice hotels, even a town house in Rockville.

<http://www.bethesdamagazine.com/Bethesda-Magazine/September-October-2015/Human-Trafficking-in-Montgomery-County/#.Vk1Iq7i6Gwk.email>

Utah Signs Resolution Declaring Porn a Public Health Crisis

The governor of Utah signed a resolution this week declaring pornography a "public health hazard."

Dawn Hawkins, executive director of the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, called it 'a watershed moment in protecting dignity and a turning of the tide against pornography...Pornography with its raw, debasing, violent and hate-filled scenes are the sex education for our children.'

As a result, Hawkins said, sexual assault on college campuses, revenge porn, child-on-child sexual abuse and children creating pornography for adults is on the rise.

People have asked "What does this resolution mean?" "Will this resolution infringe on first amendment rights?" "What good will it do? To answer those questions:

1. What it means - It's simply a declaration from the Utah State Legislature stating that pornography is indeed a public health crisis. Nothing more.

2. Will this resolution infringe on first amendment rights? No. This is a resolution, not a law or bill.

3. What good will it do? It not only helps validate the efforts of many who are fighting porn but it also establishes a foundation to bring this subject out of the shadows and allows discussion of it within the framework of a public health concern rather than

focusing on morality. It also paves the way for other states to follow suit. MCAP is exploring what support Maryland can be in this effort as well.

To see what the National Center on Sexual Exploitation is doing to oppose pornography, visit their website, the #EndExploitation Action Center, to find easy ways to make your voice heard.

Playboy PassA: Why Nudity is Now Irrelevant

Playboy magazine announced that it is discontinuing its practice of publishing fully nude photos of women. Seems like good news? Unfortunately, the reason that Playboy is making this change is largely due to the increasing amount of free, hardcore, pornography that is now available online.

Even Playboy can't keep up with the public health crisis of porn, as some porn users get to a point that they can no longer be satisfied with mere nude photos as they seek out more extreme and violent images in order to become stimulated. Obviously, the less distributions of nude pictures, the better, but we have seen that Playboy paved the way for normalizing pornography in our culture, and now we are left to deal with the aftermath. Rather than being a point of celebration, this decision by Playboy should serve as yet another warning to us about the pervasiveness of online pornography.

Also see <http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-playboy-magazine-legitimized-pornographyand-destroyed-itself-in-the-process>

Colorado School Jolted by "Sexting" of Hundreds of Nude Photos

At least 100 students at a high school in Cañon City traded naked pictures of themselves, the authorities said Friday, part of a large sexting ring. The revelation has left parents outraged, administrators searching for missed clues, and the police and the district attorney's office debating whether to file child pornography charges — including felony charges — against some of the participants. Students at the school had been circulating 300 to 400 nude photographs, including images of "certainly over 100 different kids," on their cellphones. The children in the pictures were believed to also include eighth graders from the middle school.

Members of the high school football team, the Cañon City Tigers, were at the center of the sexting ring. The team was forced to forfeit its final game of the season. <http://tinyurl.com/gnvod82>

MCAP has heard of local high schools that have had similar experiences. We are inquiring what the policies of three local public school systems are as to

how such incidents are handled. What do you parents among our readers think? Should there be state legislation to address this problem?

Because the problem arose at this Montgomery County, MD high school, a stated policy was posted with a helpful web page that includes tips for parents, which could serve as a model for others. See <http://schools.uknowkids.com/sexting-prevention-at-our-lady-of-good-counsel-high-school-md/>.

New Montgomery County Prostitution Penalties Target People Buying Sex

MCAP has been monitoring these developments in Montgomery County. Police now have alternative methods of enforcement. At an officer's discretion someone soliciting sex can be charged with either a civil or criminal offense. Increasingly, in this day and age, prostitution is a vehicle for human trafficking, probably more so than ever and this gives us a new tool to deal with it, said Councilman Marc Elrich. Similar to traffic violations, civil fines for buying sex could be paid immediately with violators choosing not to go to court. The theory for how that would reduce human trafficking and prostitution is that if penalties are now more expensive, fewer people will risk patronizing prostitutes and demand will go down. Civil penalties for a first offense now are up to \$500. Subsequent offenses could be fined up to \$750. Criminal penalties for soliciting prostitution can now include jail time of up to six months and a fine of up to \$1,000. The County Executive and Montgomery County Police supported this legislation as a method to streamline enforcement efforts directed at the demand side of prostitution and human trafficking.

These citations create both financial and social deterrents to the solicitation of prostitution. Similar policies have produced positive outcomes in other jurisdictions, such as San Francisco and Cook County, Illinois. MCAP will pursue whether Prince George's County could also try to pass such legislation.

<http://wtop.com/montgomery-county/2015/11/moco-passes-new-laws-increases-penalties/>

US Using Malware to Trap Child Porn Users

The FBI infiltrated and shut down what it called "the largest remaining known child pornography hidden service in the world" this summer, using a hacking method to track IP addresses on the Dark Web, *Vice Motherboard* reported. The Dark Web bulletin board site, named "Playpen," launched in August 2014 and within one year had garnered 215,000 accounts with 11,000 unique visitors each week. The FBI did this by seizing the server running Playpen in

February 2015, but didn't shut it down immediately. Instead, the FBI took "unprecedented" measures and ran the site via its own servers from February 20th to March 4th, at the same time deploying a hacking tool known internally as a network investigative Technique (NIT).

The NIT identified at least 1,300 IP addresses belonging to visitors of the site.

See <http://www.engadget.com/2016/01/07/fbi-hacked-the-dark-web-to-bust-1-500-pedophiles/> and <http://gadgets.ndtv.com/internet/features/how-the-us-is-using-malware-to-trap-child-porn-users-793261>

Good News

Operation Cross Country

A nationwide law enforcement action in October, focusing on underage victims of prostitution, concluded with the recovery of 149 sexually exploited children and the arrests of more than 150 pimps and other individuals. The FBI, in partnership with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), conducted the annual action—the ninth and largest such enforcement to date—as part of the Bureau's "Innocence Lost" national initiative. Since its creation in 2003, the Innocence Lost program has resulted in the identification and recovery of approximately 4,800 sexually exploited children. Prosecutors have obtained more than 2,000 convictions of pimps and others associated with these trafficking crimes, including at least 15 cases that have resulted in life sentences. This year's enforcement action, coordinated through 73 of the FBI's Child Exploitation Task Forces—which include federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies—was conducted nationwide in 135 cities. More than 500 law enforcement officials took part in sting operations in hotels, casinos, truck stops, and other areas frequented by pimps, prostitutes, and their customers. The youngest recovered victim was 12 years old. If you have observed any questionable circumstances that might need FBI investigation, the toll-free number to call is 1-800-THELOST (1-800-843-5678).

<https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2015/october/operation-on-cross-country/operation-cross-country>

Hyatt Hotels Will Remove All On-Demand Porn, Globally!

Hilton Worldwide isn't the only hotel chain to be making some big changes lately. Thank Hyatt for being willing to take this stand against pornography, which is by nature a sexually exploitive industry.

ACTION BOX

- [] Help us with efforts to petition Maryland legislators to emulate those of Utah, to pass a resolution declaring pornography's harms to be a public health crisis. Email us at mcapinc@juno.com.
- [] Visit the MCAP web page and click on the "Porn Harms Action Center" icon, which links to actions you can take.
- [] Participate in the White Ribbon Against Pornography (WRAP) campaign by flying ribbons on your car, mailbox or wearing one. Call Melinda Green, 240-475-3414, if you would like more ribbons to distribute.
- [] We are in need of new Board members. Please consider volunteering! Contact Bob Kammer at 301-942-0882 or email us at mcapinc@juno.com

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