

**MEDIA RELEASE
July 31st
11:30 A.M.**

Greenbelt Police Improves Ability To Address Child Exploitation Crimes

As a result of a petition received by the Greenbelt City Council in 2012 related to a child pornography case investigated by the Police Department, the City and Police Department have made significant strides in improving their ability to comprehensively address such crimes.

These improvements came after Council meetings, a Council work session and vetting by two Greenbelt advisory committees and citizen participation.

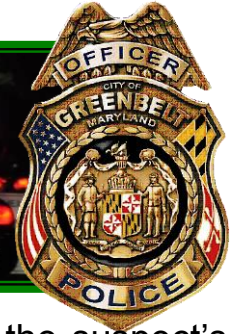
The enhancements encompass specialized training for the Police Department, development of the general order dealing with media relations regarding child pornography crimes, changes in city employment regulations, placement of a Greenbelt Detective on a Maryland State Police child exploitation task force and future training for Greenbelt CARES staff along with upcoming workshops for the community.

Specifically, Greenbelt officers received a course of instruction from the Maryland State Police Child Exploitation Crimes Unit in the recognition, response and investigation of child exploitation crimes to include human trafficking, child pornography and child prostitution. The Department will continue this training annually for new recruits and offer ongoing training for officers on the latest technology and relevant changes to existing laws.

The Department will be placing a detective on the Maryland State Police Internet Child Exploitation Task Force. Approval for this placement has recently been received.

Department regulations now require that anyone arrested for the crime of child pornography be placed in the Weekly Crime Report, as long as the specific identity of any victims or witnesses would not be compromised.

GREENBELT POLICE DEPARTMENT



A subsequent press release will also be issued immediately after the suspect's court disposition is determined. Updates on police officer training will be submitted to the *Greenbelt News Review* as well as regular tips on various ways residents can protect themselves and their children from predators.

The city employment code has also been modified so that any employee suspected of crimes against children can be managed quickly and effectively.

Dr. Liz Park, Director of Greenbelt CARES, is currently in the process of facilitating training for her staff by the organization "Darkness to Light." This organization is dedicated to educating people to prevent the sexual abuse of children. Membership information and more about the "Darkness to Light" program can be found on their website www.d2l.org. CARES is also planning a community-wide workshop to help raise awareness about child exploitation and how to prevent it.

The Greenbelt Police Department strives to be a leader in our region in aggressive efforts to prevent, identify, respond, investigate and successfully prosecute any person who preys on children. One child victim anywhere is one victim too many. The Department pledges to fully support and guide any courageous person willing to report such heinous crimes. Along with our resolute commitment to find and bring all child predators to justice, we wish to remind everyone of the Maryland Sex Offender Registry www.dpsscs.state.md.us/sorSearch. This site includes the residences of all sex offenders listed on the registry referenced by Zip Code or street address including those offenders found guilty of child pornography and other sex crimes living here in Greenbelt and throughout the State of Maryland.

Says Capt. Kemp "I am confident that with this additional training, new investigative tools, increased technology, more responsive employment policy and improved transparency in providing information to the public plus the dedicated spirit and cooperation of our citizens, together we have created a better and safer environment for our children. I can think of nothing more important or noble that we can accomplish."

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