

Jamie Flynn  
President



Ron Mabe  
Secretary

## HOWARD COUNTY POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION, INC. FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE – LODGE 21

26 January 2026

Council Member Walsh,

### **REF: Your Actions Compromised a Child Predator Investigation and Put Lives at Risk**

I am writing as the President of Howard County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 21 regarding your social media post claiming ICE activity in Columbia on January 21<sup>st</sup> 2026. That statement was false. The activity you publicized was a covert Howard County Police operation targeting individuals attempting to sexually exploit children in our community.

Your decision to post unverified information interfered with an active undercover investigation. That has real consequences: suspects are alerted, evidence is lost, criminals evade identification, and undercover officers face increased danger. Most seriously, an operation designed to protect children from predators was put at risk. Publicly broadcasting inaccurate enforcement claims during a live operation functions as a warning to criminals.

This reflects a serious failure of judgment. Statements from your office carry authority, and releasing incorrect information about law enforcement activity creates foreseeable risk to officers and the public. It also forces a troubling question: when your actions disrupt efforts to apprehend child predators, **are you standing with the police protecting this community, or with the criminals we are trying to stop?**

We are formally requesting:

1. An immediate public correction clarifying that the activity was a Howard County Police child-exploitation operation.
2. Removal of the original misleading post.
3. A public acknowledgment of the risks created by releasing unverified law enforcement information.
4. A commitment to verify future posts about enforcement activity through proper law enforcement channels.
5. A formal statement acknowledging your support of every single Howard County Police Officer who protect this community from dangerous criminal predators, whom you attempted to protect.

Compromising operations that target those who prey on children is dangerous and unacceptable. We expect prompt corrective action.

Respectfully,  
Jamie Flynn  
President, FOP Lodge 21  
Howard County Police Officers Association