



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

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AACoSO Case #:

Release Date: 02/15/2008

Approved by:

(Supervisor's Signature/ID#)

Approved by:

(Sheriff/Chief Deputy)

News Release

"Happy Valentine's Day - You Are Under Arrest"

14 Arrests

ANNAPOLIS, MD (February 14, 2008) – *Valentine's Day turned into arrest day for 14 individuals wanted for an assortment of charges - courtesy of Sheriff Ron Bateman. Operating under a phony business name, Flowers by Ron, Sheriff Bateman's deputies delivered party gift baskets, balloons and empty flower boxes to wanted persons. The "delivery" van prominently displayed large magnetic signs that read Flowers by Ron, with an Arresting Bouquet on both sides, and, of course, the BATMAN emblem on the rear.*

The operation consisted of confirmation calls the evening before the big day, the use of very convincing props, and an undercover arrest team. Flowers by Ron comes on the heels of another successful sting orchestrated by Sheriff Bateman and the Office of the Comptroller on October 20, 2007, where they nabbed several wanted individuals and cleared over 65 warrants using an enticing tax rebate scheme.

Sheriff Bateman says, "In my tireless effort to make this county safe, I will utilize every legal means possible to accomplish this mission. Stings are just one method of our multi-layered approach to reduce the warrants on hand. My deputies come in all shapes, sizes, sexes, colors, and costumes. If you are wanted, turn yourself in."