

Going above and beyond her job description at Motorola, Cynthia has demonstrated an enormous capacity for helping others and doing whatever she can to support the work of our first responders. On behalf of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I thank Cynthia for her dedication and outstanding contributions to the safety of our Nation's firefighters. I wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

ATTORNEY GENERAL ERIC HOLDER'S FAILURE TO CONFRONT BACKPAGE.COM

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit a letter I sent last week to Attorney General Eric Holder, my fourth this year on the topic (I also submit the previous four), pressing him and the Department of Justice to prioritize combatting sex trafficking on the Internet. I specifically highlighted the Web site Backpage.com, which time and again has been proven to be a conduit for the buying and selling of human beings, including minors.

My letter was prompted by a Washington Post article, which I also submit for the RECORD, which details the exploitation of a young local girl on Backpage.com.

Attorney General Holder has failed to shut down or even publicly shame Backpage.com, one of the major vehicles for trafficking in this country. Enough is enough. I am not going to drop this issue until every mother and father in this nation has the peace of mind that our government is doing everything it can to confront this criminal enterprise. Backpage.com is profiting from the sexual exploitation of minors. This must not be permitted to continue.

DECEMBER 6, 2013.

Hon. ERIC H. HOLDER, Jr.,
Attorney General, Department of Justice,
Washington, DC.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER: The lead article in the Metro section of today's Washington Post provided yet another sad account of a young girl being sexually trafficked on the Web site Backpage.com. What makes it even more tragic is that the alleged pimp is a D.C. police officer. Enclosed is a copy of the article. I marked the reference to Backpage.com.

For five years, I have been asking you and your department to deal with this problem. You have given a lot of speeches, but have you ever even publicly called out Backpage.com for its critical role in facilitating sex trafficking?

When are you and your department going to get serious about solving this problem? How many more young girls are going to become victims before the department deals with this?

From now on, I'm going to hold you personally accountable for each victim trafficked on that Web site—each someone's daughter, sister, or mother. I'm asking you—not as attorney general but as a father—to use your remaining time in office to find a way to end Backpage.com's trafficking of young girls and women.

Best wishes,
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

[From the Washington Post, Dec. 6, 2013]
POLICE SEARCH OFFICER'S HOME

(By Peter Hermann, Ann Marimow and
Clarence Williams)

Authorities are investigating whether a veteran D.C. police officer was running a prostitution ring out of his Southeast Washington apartment where they found a 16-year-old girl who had been reported missing, according to documents unsealed in federal court.

The officer, who has been on the force for 24 years, had not been arrested as of Thursday evening, but he was put on paid administrative leave as police continued their investigation. The teenager told police that the officer took nude photos of her and arranged for her to have sex for money, the court papers say.

News of the allegation broke publicly as another D.C. police officer was in U.S. District Court facing a federal charge of producing child pornography: Marc L. Washington, 32 was arrested Monday on allegations that he took pictures of a semi-nude 15-year-old who had run away from home.

Authorities said it does not appear that the cases are related, but the specter of having two officers from the 7th District station house in Southeast investigated on crimes linked to sexual abuse of minors has shaken the 4,000-member department. D.C. Police Chief Cathy L. Lanier said the department "is very concerned about the recent allegations of egregious conduct."

Lanier acknowledged that the cases could make the force look bad, but she said that "misguided actions of a few in no way reflects on the professionalism, dedication and integrity of the department."

The Washington Post is not naming the 47-year-old officer because he has not been charged with a crime and was not identified in the search warrant application, filed in U.S. District Court. Efforts to reach him were not successful.

It was unclear how investigators came to focus on the officer and the apartment on Stanton Road. The court documents state only that detectives investigating a family's report of a missing 16-year-old girl learned that she might be at the officer's residence.

Police went to the apartment Tuesday night and the officer answered the door after repeated knocks, according to court papers. He let them in, and they reported that they immediately smelled marijuana. Detectives were told that two females were in a bedroom; one was the missing teen, the court documents stated, and the other was an 18-year-old.

Officers stayed at the apartment through the night and most of Wednesday, and after getting a search warrant, they confiscated nine pairs of shoes, one bra, two boxes of condoms, computers and cellphones. The court documents stated that they also took a mirror with names written on it and that the 16-year-old told police that the names were of women who had worked as prostitutes.

A high-ranking D.C. police official said authorities were sorting through conflicting statements and trying to determine precisely what was happening in the apartment. How the officer met the girl was not described in documents made public thus far.

According to court documents, the girl told police that she had gone to the officer's apartment at least twice and that the officer took nude photos of her wearing sparkly, high-heeled shoes and showed them to a potential customer. The man liked the photos and was scheduled to meet her and pay \$80 for sex, the girl told police. Of that, she said, \$20 was to go to the officer. The girl said that the officer was to pay for her hairstyle, shoes

and new clothes and that her working name would be "Juicy." It was not clear whether the girl met the customer.

The girl said that six other women worked out of the apartment and that advertisements were posted on the Internet site backpage.com, the documents said.

In U.S. District Court on Thursday, authorities were dealing with the separate case involving Marc Washington. Magistrate Judge John M. Facciola said he wanted to release the officer to stay with his father in Waldorf, Md., and be put on electronic monitoring. But Facciola issued a 24-hour stay on the order to give prosecutors a chance to appeal.

"It is despicable for anyone to do this," Facciola said of the alleged conduct. "For a police officer to do this is beyond anyone's imagination."

But with Washington's gun and badge no longer in his possession, the judge said it "reduces substantially" the possibility of the officer being able to abuse his previous position of authority. The arresting officer told the judge that Washington's police powers had been revoked and that he was in the process of being suspended without pay.

The officer's attorney, Michelle Peterson, told the judge that her client "understands the serious nature of the charges, but they are just that—charges."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Ari Redbord said that investigators recovered dozens of photos from Washington's camera, including images of two semi-nude females who appeared to be minors, and that they think there may be other victims.

"He committed this crime on duty, in uniform and with a firearm," Redbord said in arguing for Washington to remain in custody. "He picked the most vulnerable of victims in our community."

OCTOBER 23, 2013.

Hon. ERIC H. HOLDER, Jr.,
Attorney General, Department of Justice,
Washington, DC.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER: I write to share with you a letter I sent today to President Obama urging that either he or you make a major policy address in the next 30 days publicly calling out Web sites like Backpage.com, which time and again feature prominently in court cases involving the horrific sexual exploitation of American children. This issue is as timely as it has ever been given a recent Washington Post article which revealed that Northern Virginia gangs have concluded that trafficking young girls is actually more profitable than traditional criminal enterprises like drugs or weapons sales—in part because prostituted minors can be bought and sold multiple times. Not surprisingly the gangs use the Web to advertise services.

As you know, this is an issue about which I have long been deeply troubled. I had a productive meeting with several Department of Justice employees today regarding the most effective means by which to tackle this insidious criminal activity.

I recognize there are no easy answers, but as I stated in my letter to the president, I believe it is critical that we embrace a holistic approach, which includes public education, demand reduction and, importantly as it relates to Backpage.com, public shame.

Best wishes,

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

JULY 30, 2013.

Hon. ERIC H. HOLDER, Jr.,
Attorney General, Department of Justice,
Washington, DC.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER: Many Americans were undoubtedly heartened to

learn yesterday that authorities rescued 105 children from 76 different cities across this nation who had been forced into prostitution, and arrested 150 pimps who were intimately involved in the exploitation of these minors—children ranging in age from 13 to 17. But I suspect that just as many Americans were shocked to learn of the scope and reach of human trafficking in our own backyard. For under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act any minor used in a commercial sex act is a victim of human trafficking.

I applaud the impressive work of the FBI; its local, state, and federal law enforcement partners, including the Fairfax County Police Department and the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). As you know, I have long supported efforts locally and in the annual Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) appropriations bill to elevate this issue as a law enforcement priority. In fact the CJS bill which recently passed the House Appropriations Committee included language instructing U.S. Attorneys to maintain their human trafficking task forces and undertake proactive investigations of persons or entities facilitating trafficking in persons through the use of classified advertising on the Internet. The bill also directs the U.S. Attorney General to submit a comprehensive report on all DOJ anti-trafficking activities, including legislative proposals that may advance any efforts, no later than 60 days after the bill is signed into law.

While the details of this campaign, Operation Cross Country, are still emerging, not unsurprisingly, Backpage.com featured prominently in the announcement of the crack-down. In fact, a CNN story this morning cited the assistant director of the FBI's criminal investigative division, as saying, "This seventh iteration of Operation Cross Country also was the most successful, with a 30% to 40% increase in 'identifying both victims and pimps' compared with previous operations." The story continued, "He credited the success in part to an expansion of the probe to websites such as www.backpage.com, which he called a forum 'where pimps and exploiters gather.'"

An NBC news story following the raid reported, "Search for 'Backpage.com' on the FBI's main website and up pops eight whole pages of press releases and public announcements naming the classified advertising site as a tool for sex criminals, particularly those selling children, sex and prostitution." Case after case shows that as long as web sites like Backpage.com operate with impunity, impervious to public shame, law enforcement will simply be playing catch up.

In that vein, just last week, an overwhelming majority of state and territorial attorneys general sent a letter to the chair and ranking members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The letter indicated that "Federal enforcement alone has proven insufficient to stem the growth of internet-facilitated child sex trafficking," and pleaded that, "Those on the front lines of the battle against the sexual exploitation of children—state and local law enforcement—must be granted the authority to investigate and prosecute those who facilitate these horrible crimes."

I couldn't agree more, which is why in April 2012, well over a year ago, I wrote you a letter making clear that classified Internet advertising was the latest front in the battle against sexual exploitation and trafficking of minors. Specifically I wrote, "... if DOJ is of the mind that there are insufficient laws on the books to prosecute this activity, I respectfully request a broader, legal analysis and recommendations to Congress of

legislative initiatives that may be undertaken to fully equip law enforcement to tackle this problem." This was the first of several letters I've written on the topic.

On June 8 2012, I wrote, "... I continue to believe that unless there is the very real prospect of criminal liability that Backpage.com will fail to change ... I recognize that these are complex legal questions but surely we can agree that this is not a complex issue. Children ought not to be bought and sold online. Those who facilitate and enable this practice should have to face consequences. I welcome the best legal analysis the Department can provide in how to ensure that this happens."

And again, on March 27, 2013 I wrote you, this time including a series of recommendations provided by NCMEC that Backpage.com and similar Web sites used for trafficking could voluntarily adopt to reduce the sexual exploitation of children online. I urged you, as the nation's chief law enforcement officer, to press Backpage.com to immediately adopt these practices and said that if they fail to do so you should "... take legal action against Backpage.com."

These last two letters have gone unanswered. The legal analysis has never been provided and the exploitation of innocents continues.

Human trafficking has rightly been deemed the slavery issue of our time. It isn't simply an international tragedy, it's a national and local outrage. For years, the back of my office door featured a giant picture of William Wilberforce—the remarkable abolitionist, and man of faith, who labored tirelessly for decades to ban the slave trade in the British Empire. Wilberforce was part of a broader transatlantic abolition movement dating back to the 1700s. He served as an inspiration for the abolitionist cause on our own shores, laying the foundation for the likes of Frederick Douglass, Harriet Beecher Stowe and even Abraham Lincoln, who 150 years ago this year issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

Wilberforce, famously said, "Having heard all this, you may choose to look the other way, but you can never again say that you do not know." We know that our nation's children are at risk of horrific exploitation that almost defies imagination. We know how pimps and johns use specific Web sites to profit from and prey on their vulnerability. Will you continue to look the other way?

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

MARCH 27, 2013.

HON. ERIC H. HOLDER, JR.,
Attorney General, Department of Justice,
Washington, DC

DEAR MR. ATTORNEY GENERAL: As you know I have long been outraged that Web sites like Backpage.com, which in case after case have been found to be a conduit for the buying and selling of human beings, including children, to the tune of millions of dollars in profits a year, appear to do so with impunity from federal prosecutors.

Just recently, Joshua Jacquis Dumas, plead guilty to "running a commercial sex business that prostituted multiple juvenile girls in Herndon, Virginia, and other locations throughout Virginia, Maryland, North and South Carolina, Georgia and Florida." To his great credit, the office of U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, Neil MacBride, brought the case against Dumas. The "statement of facts" that Dumas agreed to before entering his guilty plea is a grotesque account of abuse, manipulation and exploitation and much of it took place in and

around my congressional district. These crimes were made possible with Backpage.com. The FBI press release announcing the guilty plea specifically mentioned the website: "Daily, the enterprise posted multiple advertisements on Backpage.com, and sometimes within minutes customers would call."

I have repeatedly requested that the Department of Justice provide an analysis of whether there are sufficient laws on the books to prosecute the type of activity that Backpage.com engages in, and, if not, that the department provide a broader legal analysis and recommendations to Congress of legislative initiatives that may be undertaken to fully equip law enforcement to tackle this problem. To date this request has gone unanswered. Meanwhile, as the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) pointed out in a recent letter to me, "children are still being sold for sex on this site [Backpage]."

I recognize that complex legal questions are involved in this discussion, but surely the safety and security of America's most vulnerable, our children, warrants such a discussion. I have enclosed the letter I received from NCMEC as I believe it provides invaluable information about critical next steps that the department could take to challenge Backpage.com.

Specifically NCMEC provides four recommendations for practices that Backpage.com and similar Web sites used for trafficking could immediately and voluntarily adopt to reduce the sexual exploitation of children online, including:

"Prohibiting payment sources that mask the customer's identity—such as gift cards, prepaid credit cards and using another's credit card. These payment sources hamper law enforcement's ability to investigate these ads.

"Verifying and knowing its customers. Verifying the identity and age of the person submitting the ad as well as the person depicted in any images in the ad. These are ways to verify this information either in person or online when the ad is purchased. Other classified ad sites have implemented verification processes including database checks and review of government issued identification.

"Consistently blocking or removing postings believed to involve minors being sold for sex.

"Preventing ads with previously flagged images from being posted and refusing to post ads from customers who are believed to have posted suspicious ads in the past."

I urge you, as the nation's chief law enforcement authority, to press Backpage.com to immediately adopt these recommendations. And if they fail to voluntarily adopt these recommendations, I implore you to take legal action against Backpage.com.

Despite mounting public pressure, Backpage.com seems impervious to criticism and even shame. I am increasingly convinced that they will only respond to the very real prospect of criminal or civil liability. Sites like Backpage.com have historically hid behind the Communications Decency Act (CDA) which, as NCMEC points out, "Provides immunity to Internet communication service providers, such as website operators, for publishing content by third parties." But importantly, the CDA does not prevent federal prosecutions of sexual crimes against children.

On January 10, the Kansas City Star reported that the Eighth Circuit Court of appeals "decided for the first time that a federal anti-slavery law applies to both the consumers as well as the sellers of sex with children." Specifically the court found, "The unambiguous text ... makes no distinction

between suppliers and purchasers of commercial sex acts with children, and the defendants have failed to persuade us Congress intended a supplier-only limitation or a purchaser exception.”

The anti-trafficking movement has recognized this as a landmark ruling which closes an important loophole in the fight against trafficking through criminal deterrence, and raises the priority of prosecution of demand. However, this victory will be short-lived if backpage.com and related online classified sites operate without fear of repercussion, fostering an atmosphere of demand which results in the continued trafficking of women and children for sex.

This is a grave injustice—a blot on our collective national conscience which demands action. Will you allow this exploitation to continue on your watch?

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

CONGRATULATING AHN MIRA AND
SEAN RYAN HALPIN ON THEIR
WEDDING IN SEOUL, KOREA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2013

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the wedding ceremony of Ms. Ahn Mira and Mr. Sean Ryan Halpin held earlier this fall, on September 14, 2013, in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The couple met during Sean Halpin's current service as a first lieutenant with the Special Operations Command—Korea (SOCKOR), United States Forces Korea.

Ms. Ahn is from the distinguished Ahn family of Haeju City, South Hwanghae-do Province, currently in North Korea. The Ahn clan of Hwanghae-do is remembered historically for their several family members who took leading roles in the independence movement during Korea's colonial occupation.

Ms. Ahn's paternal grandfather came to the port of Pusan, in South Korea as a refugee during the Korean War. Her family currently resides in the port city of Incheon where her father, Ahn Jaeman, is the principal of the top-rated East Incheon Middle School and her mother, Kim Kyunghee, is the devoted mother of two daughters.

Sean Halpin is from a family that has served the United States for more than a century. His paternal great-great-grandfather, Captain Patrick Foley, an immigrant from County Kerry, Ireland, served in the 23rd Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry (“the Irish Brigade”), fought under General Philip Sheridan in the last major Civil War battle, the siege of Petersburg, and was present at Appomattox Court House for the final surrender.

His paternal great-grandfather, Dr. Thomas P. Foley, of Chicago, Illinois, served as a medical officer with the United States Army during the First World War. His grandfather, Thomas J. Halpin, was a captain serving with the 88th Infantry during the liberation of Rome in the Second World War. His father, Dennis P. Halpin, served with the United States Peace Corps in Korea, the U.S. Department of State, and the U.S. House of Representatives as a professional staff member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Sean's loving mother, Mina Chuok (née Pak) Halpin, is originally from Pusan, Korea.

For historical purposes, I submit this statement to be part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in recognition of the union of Ahn Mira and Sean Ryan Halpin, and of the distinguished service provided by their families to their respective countries.

IN RECOGNITION OF CORPORAL
DONNY DAUGHENBAUGH, U.S.
MARINE CORPS (RET.).

HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2013

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support and deepest thanks for a fine young man and outstanding soldier from my congressional district—Corporal Donny Daughenbaugh, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.).

Corporal Daughenbaugh was hit with a bullet in the face, and miraculously survived the injury. After a long and grueling rehabilitation, he has made it his life's mission to give back to veterans facing similar situations. He is now the Assistant Vice President and National Spokesperson for the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes. A 501(c)(3), non-profit, non-partisan organization, it was established in 2004 to provide severely wounded veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and their families, with emergency financial assistance and other support services to help them recover from injuries and rebuild their lives. The Coalition has also provided several grants to various programs benefiting veterans in Texas, which is home to approximately 1.7 million veterans.

On December 9–13, the Coalition will host “The 7th Annual Road to Recovery Conference and Tribute” in Orlando, Florida to help hundreds of military veterans and their families adjust to civilian life. Although he may never fully recover from his injury, Corporal Daughenbaugh has been able to inspire others through his story of resilience. The bullet lodged in his brain is a constant reminder of his service to our nation as a proud member of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Together with Coalition CEO David Walker, Corporal Daughenbaugh is rebuilding an organization that rebuilds lives. In just one year, they have transformed an organization with a righteous mission into a leading national organization that gives hope to veterans.

Their mission: ensuring our war-weary nation does not lose sight of its obligations to those protecting our freedoms. The Coalition is addressing a serious challenge facing our nation: helping thousands of returning veterans reintegrate into American society by creating a safety net that would help returning veterans avoid the high rates of unemployment (averaging 17.9 percent nationwide), suicide (24 per day), divorce (60 percent), etc. Unfortunately, these true American heroes often receive little or no support from the nation for which they sacrificed so much. Because of a shortage of funding and an interminable bureaucratic backlog at the Veterans Administration, they wait for roughly a year, on average, to receive disability pay and benefits. Thousands never receive the proper care for PTSD, because it still remains a largely misunderstood condition.

The Coalition is an organization standing in the gap—and their work is already producing impressive results through public and private partnerships across the nation. One of these successful endeavors is with a Dallas-based international restaurant chain, Bennigan's, and their “Wall of Heroes” initiative. Through the promotion, Bennigan's customers are invited to purchase a drink, write a note, and upload a picture in honor of anyone currently serving or those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Corporal Daughenbaugh also has been a guest of honor at multiple “Happy Hour with a Hero” events sponsored by Bennigan's—and his story has also been featured on their Wall of Heroes site.

America has been a nation at war for the longest period of time in our history—bringing a new set of challenges, not only our military fighting force, but to a generation of young veterans. Many are facing unprecedented physical and psychological trauma while transitioning back to civilian careers. Over 1 million veterans are expected to make that transition this year. Through his work with the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, Corporal Daughenbaugh is inspiring thousands of young veterans who are on a road to recovery from their injuries. I applaud his work and dedication. He is indeed a true American hero.

RECOGNIZING PMI WASHINGTON,
D.C., ON ITS 2013 LEADERSHIP
AWARD

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 9, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and recognize the Project Management Institution's Washington, D.C., Chapter for its commitment to leadership and advocacy on behalf of the project management profession. PMI Washington, D.C., is the recipient of the 2013 PMI Chapter Award for Leadership, Planning & Operations. This award is given in recognition of PMIWDC's focus on business and operational planning, including the chapter's outstanding website. In addition to the chapter's achievements, this year also marks its 35th anniversary.

PMI is the world's largest nonprofit membership association for project management professionals. PMI's resources and research empower more than 265 chapters worldwide and 700,000 members, credential holders, and volunteers to further enhance and develop their careers. PMI's worldwide advocacy for project management is reinforced by its globally recognized standards and certification program and extensive academic and research programs. PMIWDC has nearly 11,000 members and remains the fastest-growing and largest PMI chapter in the world.

The PMIWDC Chapter has made significant organizational advances by having both a Governance Board for strategic planning and an Operations Board for directing the organization. Additionally, the chapter has developed advanced policies and processes to ensure continuity through changing leadership. PMIWDC has been praised for providing expanded management development and providing a path for volunteer members to advance into roles with greater responsibility.