



Is This What You Call Community Policing?

Posted by **Jason Cherkis** on Mar. 18, 2009 at 4:31 pm

As everyone who reads LL Daily knows, the *Washington Post* reported that a D.C. Police officer was busted for soliciting SEX from a prostitute last month. (This is not shocking. *Have you seen some of our cops?*) Officer **Robert A. Schmidt** was busted in a downtown hotel as part of an internet-sting operation run by his own department's anti-prostitution unit.

The *Post* writes:

His meeting with Officer Madeline Collado, who was posing as a prostitute, took place Feb. 20, just after 5 p.m., in a fifth-floor room at the Embassy Suites hotel near 10th and K streets NW, according to an affidavit filed by police in D.C. Superior Court. The document quotes their conversation in a room wired for sound and video.

"So, what do you do for a living?" Collado asked him, after the two had exchanged pleasantries.

"I work with the government," Schmidt said, to which Collado replied, "How cool is that!"

Here, Schmidt proves himself not too swift. Collado's how-cool-is-that response should have been a dead give away that she's full of it. No one, not even real sex workers could bluff that well. Schmidt doesn't walk out of the room. Instead, he agrees to pay the \$80 for a half hour of lovemaking.

For his bust, Schmidt just had to complete a stint at the John's School. His charges have been dismissed. The department is now investigating Schmidt.

But guess what Schmidt's doing in the meantime?

Schmidt is working a foot beat in 4D. Talk about community policing. Is the department desperate enough to keep this officer on the force? Would you want this guy patrolling your neighborhood?

Comments

Mike Riggs

March 18th, 2009
5:15 pm

#1

The law that Schmidt broke is a stupid one--he wanted to enter into a voluntary contract with another grown adult, but couldn't. Schmidt and Collado could have met at a bar and hooked up without hassle (so long as no money changed hands), or, someone else could have paid both Schmidt and Collado to fuck in front of a camera, and that would have been fine as well. But because Schmidt was paying Collado, we have to tar and feather this guy with the same broad brush that we should be reserving for [cops who pick up prostitutes and then beat them](#).

In short, I don't have a problem with Schmidt patrolling 4D. In fact, I'm hoping that, since he now knows what it's like to have someone else tell him what he can do with his body and his money, he'll be more lenient towards other scofflaws.

Jim

March 19th, 2009
8:21 am

#2

Wow, excellent response, Riggs. I find myself agreeing with every word of it. And not just because I usually find myself disagreeing with every word from Cherkis.

Steven

October 24th, 2010
3:41 am

#3

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