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PRESS RELEASE

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Wicomico County Motel Operator Sentenced for Illegal Sewage Discharge

BALTIMORE, MD - Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today announced that Sitaram Hospitality, LLC (Sitaram) pleaded guilty in the Circuit Court for Wicomico County to two counts related to illicit discharges of sewage waste from a failed septic tank at a motel owned and operated by the company located in Delmar, Maryland. The Honorable Judge Daniel Long, retired, ordered the company to pay fines totaling \$50,000, suspending all but \$25,000 to be paid to the Maryland Clean Water Fund, and five years probation.

On March 6, 2019, an inspector with the Wicomico County Health Department conducted an unannounced site visit at Traveler's Motel, located at [9461 Ocean Highway](#) in Delmar. Traveler's Motel is a 13-unit motel owned and operated by Sitaram. During the inspection, the inspector observed, photographed, and recorded a submersible pump discharging untreated sewage from a damaged septic system directly onto the ground. Investigation revealed the system failed in March of 2018 and that Sitaram was aware of the failed tank and initially paid to have the sewage pumped and hauled. The frequency of pumping and hauling decreased significantly in September 2018. Investigation also revealed that the company was aware of the illegal pumps and hoses and illegal discharge of sewage by company employees. Since discovery of the illegal discharging, the motel paid for and successfully completed connection to the municipal sewer.

In making today's announcement, Attorney General Frosh thanked Environmental Crimes Chief Investigator Thomas Waugh and Assistant Attorney General Kory H. Lemmert for their work on this case, in addition to the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Wicomico County Health Department.

<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2021/081621.pdf>