



## “Body of Missing Swimmer Recovered from Liberty Reservoir”

**Finnsburg, Carroll County, Maryland; July 5, 2025** ----- On July 5, 2025, the body of 20-year-old Smith Veras was recovered from Liberty Reservoir following an extensive and coordinated multi-agency search effort that began on July 3.

Mr. Veras was first reported missing after he failed to resurface while swimming in the reservoir. Search and rescue operations were launched immediately, with a large number of agencies responding to assist.

On July 4, emergency personnel from the Carroll County Sheriff's Office, Baltimore Environmental Police, Maryland State Police Search Operations, Natural Resources Police Dive Team, Howard County Fire Department Search Operations, Chesapeake Search and Rescue, and Gamber & Community Fire Company conducted coordinated search efforts both in the water and along the shoreline.

The search resumed on July 5 with support from additional dive teams from the Maryland State Police, Delaware State Police, Baltimore County Police, and the Office of the State Fire Marshal, alongside personnel from the Carroll County Sheriff's Office and Baltimore Environmental Police.

After two days of exhaustive operations, the body of Smith Veras was located and recovered from the water in the afternoon of July 5. His family, who had traveled from Queens, New York, was provided lodging nearby during the search and has been notified of the outcome.

At this time, investigators do not suspect foul play. However, the incident remains under investigation.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the family and loved ones of Smith Veras during this tragic time.