Phoenix Police Department
Public Affairs Bureau
620 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85003

M E D I A   A D V I S O R Y

Multi-Agency Operation Targets Human Trafficking

Phoenix, Arizona (February 18th, 2022): The Phoenix Police Department's Human Exploitation and Trafficking (HEAT) Unit took part in a multi-agency, collaborative effort aimed at confronting and reducing human trafficking-related crimes in the valley. The Phoenix HEAT unit worked with human trafficking units from Scottsdale, Glendale, Mesa, Tempe, HSI and FBI to address the problem in the greater Phoenix area. This joint operation was conducted in Scottsdale and Phoenix and resulted in 118 arrests related to Prostitution, Luring, Pandering, Escort Service Violations, and warrants. The focus was on hotel prostitution and street prostitution enforcement.

The investigations took place in two phases, the first over a three-day period in January during Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Phase two took place over a three-day period in February. The operation brought together officers, detectives, victim advocates, and criminal analysts from the listed agencies.

Other highlights during the operation:

- 3 of the subjects arrested had outstanding felony warrants; one of which was for homicide out of Texas.
- 1 individual was arrested after they agreed to meet believing they were paying to have a sexual encounter with an underage male.
- Several possible traffickers were identified, and follow-up investigations are pending.
- At least 70 individuals were offered services to help get out of being involved in prostitution and human trafficking.

This was a large-scale operation with a variety of moving parts. It's success was made possible by the hard work and cooperation of all the agencies involved.

The combined efforts of the agencies are part of a nationwide effort to eliminate human and sex trafficking. If you have information about someone being trafficked, contact your local police department or the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888 or humantraffickinghotline.org

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