



**Phoenix Police Department**  
**Public Affairs Bureau**  
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# MEDIA ADVISORY

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## Multi-Agency Operation Proves Successful

(February 17, 2023) Between January 30, 2023, and February 11, 2023, a multi-agency operation was conducted in the Metro-Phoenix area. This comprehensive operation involved the below listed law enforcement agencies, along with the support of several non-governmental organizations and service providers. The goal of the operation was to provide victim outreach, and to interdict and deter prostitution related activities.

During the operation, several large events were held across the Valley including the Super Bowl, Waste Management Phoenix Open, and the Barret-Jackson Auto Auction. These events draw large crowds of people, many of them from outside of the state, and large events can create a bigger market for human trafficking and prostitution related activities.

Law enforcement partners conducted five different enforcement actions in Phoenix, Scottsdale, Mesa/Tempe and Glendale. Over 100 law enforcement officers from state, local and federal agencies worked daily to address the issue of human trafficking in the Valley.

The various operations targeted adults attempting to pay for sex with minors, online predators, street prostitution interdiction and sex buyer apprehension. The priority of these operations was to identify and recover juveniles or adult victims of human trafficking as it relates to fraud, force or coercion as well as to provide victim outreach. Those who were identified as potential traffickers as a result of these operations are being further investigated by either state, local and/or federal agencies.

The combined efforts resulted in 48 felony arrests, and 300 misdemeanor arrests (120 of them were sex buyers). Five juveniles and one adult victim were recovered, and seven firearms were taken off the streets. This operation was successful thanks to the below listed partners.

Phoenix Police Department  
Glendale Police Department  
Mesa Police Department  
Tempe Police Department  
Chandler Police Department  
Peoria Police Department  
Surprise Police Department  
Scottsdale Police Department  
United States Marshals Service  
Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network  
Phoenix Children's Hospital  
Mind 24/7

Queen Creek Police Department  
Goodyear Police Department  
Arizona Department of Public Safety  
Arizona Attorney General Office  
Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center  
Homeland Security Investigations  
DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Customs and Border Protection,  
Department of Child Services  
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children  
International Association of Human Trafficking Investigators