



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For release: April 19, 2016

Contact: Sherry Llewellyn, 410-313-2236
stllewellyn@howardcountymd.gov

Alert officers notice signs of human trafficking in domestic violence call *California man arrested for trafficking two teens from Arkansas*

Howard County police have charged a California man with human trafficking in Ellicott City after officers noticed what appeared to be signs of trafficking on a call that came into 911 as a domestic violence incident.

Charlton Jeanpierre, 39, of Hayward, Ca., has been charged with multiple counts of human trafficking and prostitution. He is being held at the Howard County Detention Center on \$500,000 bond.

Police responded to a call for a domestic assault in the 8600 block of Town and Country Blvd., when a witness reported seeing a man dragging a woman out of a vehicle. While officers questioned the involved parties, one man and two women, they picked up on information that led them to believe the case may involve human trafficking.

Patrol officers called in detectives who specialize in human trafficking cases. The detectives obtained additional details indicating that Jeanpierre was likely trafficking the women, both 18-year-olds from Arkansas. Jeanpierre was carrying a large amount of cash and the personal IDs belonging to both women, which is a common practice in human trafficking. He also had a bag containing multiple cell phones, travel information and a large quantity of condoms. One of the women told detectives that Jeanpierre drives her to appointments where she is expected to perform sex acts for money. Police arranged for the victims to be provided with services and assistance.

“We have increased our training and resources in the area of human trafficking so our officers know what to look for,” said Police Chief Gary Gardner. “Howard County simply will not tolerate this kind of exploitation in our community and we will take action against anyone who commits this type of crime.”

Howard County has an ongoing effort to combat prostitution, human trafficking and related offenses. The county recently created a dedicated account to fund victims’ services and additional police training, and added a second full-time detective to investigate human trafficking cases. Investigators are focused on arresting traffickers and offering assistance to victims through housing, treatment, transportation and other help.

“We are pleased to see that our focus on this issue in Howard County is having an impact,” said County Executive Allan H. Kittleman. “Our strategies of devoting funds to address human trafficking and increasing police resources are paying off in ways that are helping real victims and taking offenders off the streets.”

Howard County detectives also regularly monitor the website Backpage, which is known by police to be used for prostitution, often involving girls who are victims of trafficking. Police recently placed their own ad on Backpage, warning men not to engage in prostitution or human trafficking in Howard County.

Anyone with information about human trafficking in Howard County should call 410-313-STOP or email HCPDCrimetips@howardcountymd.gov.

###