



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Two Baltimore men arrested in Elkridge drug and human trafficking case *Observant patrol officers uncover drug dealing and prostitution*

Howard County police have arrested two Baltimore men in a drug and human trafficking case in which crack cocaine and money were being traded for sex with a young woman. Leroy Robinson, 34, of Calhoun Street and William Wyatt, 18, of Maplewood Drive, are both being held on no bond at the Howard County Detention Center.

Two officers were on patrol in the Elkridge area Nov. 17 around 1 a.m. when they observed two suspicious subjects walking from the Hillside Motel in the 6300 block of Washington Boulevard. As the officers approached and engaged the men in conversation, they saw one of the men reach for an unknown object. The officers asked what he was reaching for and the man, later identified as Wyatt, said it was a knife.

Through investigation, the officers determined Wyatt was carrying a knife, a handgun, seven vials of crack cocaine, five bags of marijuana and Robinson was carrying over \$650 in cash, two cell phones, and a key to a motel room, later determined to be from the Hillside Motel. They learned Robinson had arranged a prostitution appointment for Wyatt at the motel in exchange for drugs.

Officers went to the motel and found a 21-year-old woman in the room engaging in prostitution. Through investigation, police believe Robinson rented the room and arranged prostitution appointments for the woman, took her money and traded sex with the woman for drugs. Detectives located ads for sexual services with the woman on the website Backpage.com.

Wyatt was charged with multiple firearms violations and drug distribution. Robinson was charged with human trafficking, prostitution, and drug distribution. The woman was offered support services and transported from the scene.

Howard County is continuing its efforts to combat human trafficking through increases in awareness, funding, training and police resources. Investigators are focused on arresting traffickers and offering assistance to victims through housing, treatment, transportation and other help. Howard County detectives also monitor the website Backpage, and regularly place ads from the police, 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.

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