



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Police charge man with human trafficking

Howard County police have charged a local man with trafficking a woman from Maryland to California and back. Demontre Haynes, 34, of Fort Meade, is facing multiple counts of human trafficking and assault after a witness called police to report that a woman was being assaulted in Columbia.

Police responded to the 8800 block of Tamar Drive on May 9 and discovered a woman with facial injuries and Haynes standing nearby. Investigators believe the victim had gone to a friend's residence for help and when she refused to leave with Haynes, he assaulted her and tried to force her to leave. He was arrested at the scene.

Patrol officers recognized signs of possible human trafficking and contacted detectives. Through investigation, police have learned that Haynes and the victim, 27, who is also from Maryland, traveled across the country, renting hotel rooms in various states. Haynes posted online prostitution ads with photos of the woman, arranged appointments and collected the resulting payments.

Haynes is being held without bond at the Howard County Detention Center. The woman was referred to HopeWorks, a sexual assault and domestic violence center.

Howard County has an ongoing effort to combat prostitution, human trafficking and related offenses. Investigators are focused on arresting traffickers and offering assistance to victims through housing, treatment, transportation and other services.

Detectives regularly monitor websites for prostitution ads and place their own ads from the police department with warnings not to engage in prostitution or human trafficking in Howard County.

Investigators are asking anyone who may have information about suspected human trafficking or prostitution to contact police at 410-313-STOP or HCPDcrimetips@howardcountymd.gov.

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