



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For Release: Nov. 17, 2017

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

Local man charged with human trafficking

Police locate two victims believed to be forced into prostitution

Howard County police have arrested a local man for human trafficking in a case involving two women from out-of-state.

Keven Oswald Joseph, 36, of Marblehedge Way in Silver Spring, was charged with multiple counts of human trafficking and prostitution charges. He is being held on no bond at the Howard County Detention Center.

Detectives received a tip that an ad on the website Backpage, which is known to be used for prostitution, was offering sexual services with a woman at a hotel in the 9700 block of Washington Blvd. in Laurel.

Undercover detectives responded to the ad and went to the hotel. They located two women, a 20-year-old from Pennsylvania and a 27-year-old from California, who were believed to be engaging in prostitution. It is unclear how or when the women came to Maryland.

Through investigation, detectives believe that Joseph was posting ads on Backpage advertising sexual services with the women and coordinating prostitution appointments for them. It appears he forced them to perform sex acts for money, which he would then take for himself. They also believe Joseph had been transporting the women to Philadelphia and New York for the purposes of prostitution.

Detectives arrested Joseph at the hotel and are continuing to investigate to determine if he may be connected to additional victims. Both victims were offered support services and taken to appropriate locations for their safety.

Howard County is continuing its efforts to combat human trafficking through increases in 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.

###