



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Two Maryland men arrested in human trafficking and drug case

Howard County police have arrested two Maryland men in a case involving human trafficking and drug charges.

Prince Q. Torres, 25, of Donnell Place in District Heights, has been charged with multiple counts of human trafficking violations, prostitution, assault and a handgun violation. Anthony Kenneth Wilson, 39, of Blairmore Street in Baltimore, was charged with multiple counts of drug distribution and conspiring in human trafficking.

Police received a tip about possible human trafficking and prostitution at the Red Roof Inn on Washington Blvd. in Jessup. Detectives responded and located two women they recognized from prostitution ads on the website Backpage. They noted that both women, as well as two men, were coming in and out of a hotel room.

Police approached the room and through investigation, they learned that Torres had been posting ads on Backpage for both women, who are 28 and 29 years old, and taking the money they were being paid for prostitution. They also learned Torres was physically assaulting the women. Wilson, who was with Torres, was charged with drug distribution after quantities of suspected heroin and crack cocaine were found in his pocket.

Both of the women have been referred to appropriate services for assistance.

Howard County has an ongoing effort to combat prostitution, human trafficking and related offenses. At the end of 2015, the county 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.

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 regularly place 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.

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