Human Trafficking Update

Jeri L. Williams, Police Chief

Phoenix Police Department Human Exploitation & Trafficking Unit Lieutenant Dave Saflar



Street Operations

- Following the onset of COVID-19, metropolitan Phoenix did not experience a reduction in trafficking related activity
- During the height of COVID-19, trafficking related calls for service & community complaints increased
 - On view activity at or above previous rates
- Street level operations where detectives conducted enforcement efforts continued following COVID-19 specific guidelines
- Victim services continued to be the focus during COVID-19

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Customer Apprehension Program (CAP)



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- Street level operations targeted the buyers of sex with undercover female detectives
- Seven operations conducted during the height of the COVID-19 environment
- 79 Arrests made; all vehicles towed in conjunction to the offense.
- Operational techniques changed in order to minimize exposure with unknow contacts



Online Efforts



Undercover operation targeting the demand for child sex crimes and human trafficking. Throughout the operational period, officers and undercover detectives place ads on websites and apps which are commonly sought out by suspects seeking illegal sex acts with children.

34 arrests were made during this operation



Massage Parlor Investigations

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Officially CLOSED during COVID-19, however ongoing surveillance showed some locations still conducting business.

Ongoing covert operations currently being conducted now that businesses have reopened.



Covid-19 HEAT Operations

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Questions?

