Human Exploitation and Trafficking Unit

Jeri L. Williams, Police Chief

Phoenix Police Department
Lieutenant Dave Saflar
Operation Broken Hearts was a multi-agency, undercover operation targeting the demand for child sex crimes and human trafficking.
**Operation Broken Hearts**

Jeri L. Williams, Police Chief

- Phoenix Police Department recently partnered with the Mesa Police Department, Tempe Police Department, Chandler Police Department, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and the Attorney General’s Office for Operation Broken Hearts.

- Collaborative effort of multiple law enforcement agencies, Office of attorney General and taskforce intelligence support to combat online predators operating during pandemic conditions.

- Virtual operation set up for operational and Covid-19 reasons.

- One-week operational period.
Operation Broken Hearts

Throughout the operational period, officers and undercover detectives placed ads on websites and apps which are commonly sought out by suspects seeking illegal sex acts with children.

This operation required coordination between detectives, surveillance assets, uniformed officers, and tactical units.

The suspects solicited and/or brokered deals for various sex acts and were subsequently arrested.

The suspects ranged in age from 21 to 66 years old.

36 males and 1 female were arrested.
Operation Broken Hearts

Jeri L. Williams, Police Chief

[Images of mugshots of individuals]
A wholistic approach

- Traffickers are criminals.
  - In many cases, they are part of a criminal street gang however this is not always the case.

- Involvement in multiple crimes for the gang or profit.

- Trafficking is seen as an income source.
  - Trafficking
  - Drugs
  - Violent crimes

- A multi-faceted response.
Questions?