

# *Human Exploitation and Trafficking Unit*

Jeri L. Williams, Police Chief

Phoenix Police Department  
Lieutenant Dave Saflar



# *Operation Broken Hearts*

Jeri L. Williams, Police Chief



Operation Broken Hearts was a multi-agency, undercover operation targeting the demand for child sex crimes and human trafficking.

# *Operation Broken Hearts*

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- 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.



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- 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.

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# *A wholistic approach*

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- 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.

# *Phoenix Police Department*

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# Questions?

