



CITY OF DORAL Office of the City Manager Letter to Council

LTC No.: 049-2019

To: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Albert P. Childress, City Manager

Date: October 5, 2019

Subject: **Doral Police Department, Criminal Investigation Section Human Trafficking Arrests**

This Letter to Council is to inform the Mayor and City Council-members of operations conducted by the Doral Police Department's (DPD) Criminal Investigations Section, which resulted in several recent arrests related to Human Trafficking and prostitution.

The DPD has had a long-standing commitment to combating crimes associated with Human Trafficking. The DPD has educated its police force by providing in-house training to officers with regard to identification and assistance of victims of Human Trafficking and participated in the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Human Trafficking Task Force.

The DPD has handled multiple violent crimes related to Human Trafficking during the past several years that routinely have included firearms. On September 1, 2015, DPD responded to a shots fired call that originated out of the Quality Inn located at 3959 NW 79th Avenue. During this incident a "Pimp" attempted to rob a "John" that had arranged to meet a prostitute online. The encounter spilled into the streets of Doral along NW 79th Avenue as shots rang out. On March 21, 2017, a victim was arranging to meet a prostitute at the Courtyard Marriot Hotel at 3929 NW 79th Avenue. The prostitute along with the "Pimp" attempted to rob the victim. The incident escalated and the victim was shot and murdered. On September 23, 2018, a victim reported that she was being forced to meet a quota of \$1,000 per day by unwillingly sleeping with men. If this quota was not met, she was forced to dance at the Pink Pony in Doral. DPD Detectives arrested the subject who was found in possession of a firearm, cocaine and large amounts of US Currency.

Unfortunately, a large amount of Human Trafficking crimes go unreported because of the embarrassment associated with the crime. The Criminal Investigations Section has discovered that Human Trafficking is a major problem that still occurs every single day throughout the city and if left unaddressed can escalate into additional violent criminal activity. Therefore, any report of activity possibly related to Human Trafficking is taken very seriously.

On August 3, 2019, the DPD received a complaint of an alleged possible prostitution operation occurring in an apartment inside of the Apex complex located at 7819 NW 104th Avenue. Following an extensive investigation, DPD Detectives discovered a sophisticated prostitution operation which revealed that several women were being offered for a cost of \$50.00 plus a tip. This operation resulted in the arrest of two females who were soliciting prostitution from this location.

On September 19, 2019, members of the DPD's Criminal Investigations Section conducted a proactive operation to combat Human Trafficking throughout the City of Doral. Members from the Miami-Dade Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigations also participated in the operation. A simple search of the keyword "Doral" utilizing HT Spotlight (Human Trafficking Software) produced over 800 advertisements during the month of August 2019. This operation successfully resulted in six arrests, and several additional leads which are currently under further investigation; this information is not available for dissemination.

The DPD is committed to meeting our goal of reducing crime and maintaining a safe community. Our innate ability to solve these crimes sends a very clear message that crime in Doral will not be tolerated and those who do commit a crime will be apprehended.

If you have any questions about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the City Manager's Office or Police Chief, Hernan Organvidez.

c: Mari Gallet, Deputy City Manager
Hernan Organvidez, Police Chief
Raul Ubieta, Deputy Police Chief