



BREMERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Multi-agency operation results in ten arrests related to Human Trafficking.

A cooperative investigation was conducted over the last several weeks, culminating in an operation the evening of April 16, which involved detectives and agents from the Bremerton Police Department, Poulsbo Police Department, Washington State Patrol, Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and Homeland Security Service (HSI). The focus of the operation was enforcement of laws related to Human Trafficking, specifically to conduct a proactive effort to arrest and prosecute individuals promoting prostitution and commercial sexual exploitation of minors.

The operation was set up in a vacant townhouse in the Jackson Park area of the City of Bremerton, which houses Naval personnel. Detectives posing as “johns” contacted individuals through web sites, and arrests were made when the suspects arrived. Six adult females were arrested for Prostitution, one of whom will also be charged with Felony Drug Possession. Four adult males were arrested for Promoting prostitution in the Second Degree. During one of the contacts, the women and her “pimp” made an attempt to “rip”, or steal the money from the detective posing as a “john”.

Also, during two of the arrests, young children, including a seven month old baby, were in the car during the commission of the crime. The children were taken into protective custody and turned over to Child Protective Services.

Staff members from the Kitsap County Prosecutors Office were also present to provide services and referrals to the women involved. One suspect was from the Bremerton area, all of the other suspects were from the Tacoma area.

“Neglected kids, drug use, robbery, and continued violent victimization of women and girls are all part of this sad and insidious crime,” said Bremerton Police Chief Steve Strachan. The Chief added, “Human trafficking is a focus of the Kitsap County Prosecutor, and we will continue to work with our partners in this area, including federal agencies, to fight this serious issue.” The Chief also thanked our law enforcement partners for their continued support.