

Neighbourhood Watch Bulletin – February 3, 2014

This bulletin is prepared by the Wellington Community Police Centre (1064 Wellington St., 613-236-1222 ext. 5870) for distribution to area residents to promote safety and security in our neighbourhoods. Please distribute it to anyone who might be interested. Any questions or information concerning safety or security issues in your neighbourhood may be forwarded to wellingtoncpc@gmail.com.

- 1. “Operation Northern Spotlight”**
 - 2. Human trafficking arrest**
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1. “Operation Northern Spotlight”

Recently, police services from across Canada participated in a two-day blitz focusing on the growing concern that young women are being forced to participate in the sex trade. This project was coordinated by the Durham Regional Police Service.

“Operation Northern Spotlight” involved 26 police services from across Canada and took place on Wednesday January 22 and Thursday January 23, 2014.

Over 330 women, some as young as 15 years of age, were interviewed. Police found some were being forced to perform sexual acts, multiple times a day, for paying male customers.

The Criminal Code section refers to this crime as “Human Trafficking,” the public may better understand this issue as “sex slavery.” Although many of the women appear to be making their own decisions to participate for financial gain, investigators found several teenagers and young women were being forced to perform through threats of violence, physical intimidation, drug dependency and other forms of coercion. Part or all of the proceeds from the sexual encounters were kept by their controller or pimp.

Police Services will continue to monitor any incidents of “forced participation” in hopes of assisting any woman involved in the sex trade business against her will.

The 26 police services participating were:

Ontario

Barrie PS; Brockville PS; Cornwall PS; Durham Regional PS; Halton Regional PS; Kingston PS; London PS; Niagara Regional PS; Ontario Provincial Police; Ottawa PS; Peel Regional PS; RCMP; Greater Sudbury PS; Thunder Bay PS; Waterloo Regional PS; Windsor PS; York Regional PS.

Western Canada

Calgary PS Alta; Edmonton PS Alta; Regina PS Sask; Saskatoon PS Sask; Winnipeg PS Man.

Eastern Canada

Gatineau PS, Que; Halifax Regional PS, NS; Saint John's RNC, NFLD; Saint John PS, NB.

In Ottawa, 16 officers from Central, West and East District participated in this initiative and a total of 29 women were interviewed, some as young as 19 years of age.

Officers utilized the internet to identify individuals involved in the sex trade and through investigation found their locations. Officers attended the locations and conducted interviews to determine the level of control, if any, being exercised.

In 2013, the Ottawa Police Service investigated numerous Human Trafficking cases which resulted in charges being laid in five separate investigations.

On February 13, 2014, Jamie BYRON, 24 years old, of Montreal will be sentenced to charges that he was found guilty of on August 21, 2013. He will be sentenced on several offences ranging from living off avails of juvenile prostitution, trafficking of a person under the age of 18 years and assault.

"Our experience tells us from speaking with victims, that had the police interacted with them early they may have been able to break free from being controlled and this may have made a difference," noted Ottawa Police Inspector Paul Johnston.

The Ottawa Police Service is committed to the safety and security of our community and to assisting victims in this type of crime.

Anyone with information about Human Trafficking is asked to contact Ottawa Police Service S/Sgt. Atallah Sadaka at 613-236-1222 ext. 5495.

2. Human trafficking arrest

On February 2, 2014, Ottawa Police Service patrol officers arrested a 26 year-old Ottawa man for Human Trafficking and other related charges.

Mohamed AHMED will appear in show cause court on February 3, 2014, in relation to the following charges:

Human Trafficking, 2 counts
Assault, 2 counts
Intimidation, 2 counts
Uttering Threats – Cause Bodily Harm, 2 counts
Procure to Become a Prostitute, 1 count
Procuring, 2 counts
Assault With a Weapon, 1 count

The victim is an adult woman from Ottawa.

“This arrest is another step taken to make sex trade workers and the community members at large safer.”

Key Ottawa Police Service numbers:

- * Life threatening emergency assistance or to report a crime in progress .. **911**
- * Other emergency **613-230-6211**
- * Non-emergencies and general inquiries **613-236-1222**
- * To have the police attend your location **613-236-1222**
ext. 7500
- * To make a police report **613-236-1222**
ext. 7300

OPS and By-Law services base their work on call statistics. The more calls that you make, the more neighbourhood services we receive. There are three steps to making the call:

a) Deciding which number to phone.

If you have an emergency or see a crime in progress, call 9-1-1. If your car was broken into or you need police to attend another non-urgent situation, please call the “other emergencies” number (613-230-6211). To report an incident after it occurred without police attending the scene, please call 613-236-1222 – ext. 7300. You can reach by-law services at 3-1-1.

b) Getting a report number.

When the dispatcher answers, it is a good idea to ask for a report number immediately. We’ve found that dispatchers sometimes hang up before we get to ask for a number or we forget. Asking for a report number right away solves these problems.

c) Share your report number and incident.

Please e-mail your report numbers and a brief description of the incident to your Block Captain (if you have one), or directly to us.

Importance of Reporting Prostitution and Problem Addresses

Neighbourhood Watch members can support the police by writing down and phoning in important information such as: vehicle descriptions and license plate numbers (specify Ontario or Quebec) of anyone soliciting prostitutes, descriptions of drug dealers and addresses of crack houses.

Graffiti

If you spot graffiti, call 3-1-1. Graffiti kits are available from your city councillor.