

Zephyrhills Police Department



Zephyrhills Police Department Concludes 4-Day Operation Targeting Human Trafficking

ZEPHYRHILLS, FL — The Zephyrhills Police Department (ZPD), in partnership with the Tampa Bay Human Trafficking Task Force, announced the results of a focused four-day enforcement and victim-support operation aimed at identifying individuals involved in human trafficking and related criminal activity.

The operation resulted in six arrests on charges connected to human trafficking, solicitation, and associated offenses. Four of the individuals arrested were placed in the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Those four individuals are currently being held on immigration detainers and are awaiting deportation proceedings.

"This operation highlights our commitment to protecting vulnerable individuals and holding traffickers and exploiters accountable," said Zephyrhills Police Chief Derek Brewer. "The purpose behind these efforts is to send a clear message: Zephyrhills will not be a haven for traffickers."

The four-day effort combined proactive investigative techniques, coordinated enforcement, and outreach to victims. Officers and task force investigators focused on identifying traffickers, facilitators, and individuals seeking to purchase sex, while ensuring that potential victims encountered during the operation were treated as victims first, not criminals.

ZPD urges residents to remain vigilant and report suspicious activity. Human trafficking can occur in any community and often involves coercion, fraud, or force to exploit victims for labor or commercial sex. Warning signs may include individuals who appear controlled by others, lack freedom of movement, show signs of physical abuse, or are unable to speak for themselves. "Community tips are essential," Chief Brewer added. "If something feels off, trust your instincts and report it."

If you suspect human trafficking or need help:

- Call 911 in emergencies.
- Call the Florida Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-855-FL-AWARE (1-855-352-9273).
- Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888 or text "BEFREE" (233733).
- Submit a tip online: humantraffickinghotline.org.

Reports can be made anonymously.

ZPD extends its thanks to the Tampa Bay Human Trafficking Task Force and supporting partner agencies, the St. Petersburg Police Department, and the Polk County Sheriff's Office, for their coordinated efforts. The Department also recognizes the vital work of local service providers who assist survivors with recovery and long-term support.



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Chief Derek Brewer



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INCIDENT TYPE: Human Trafficking Operation



Scott Paul Smith

Charges:

Human Trafficking; Traveling to Meet a Minor for Sex; Unlawful Use of Two-Way Device; Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor



Evelyn Lemus Reyes

Charges:

Prostitution



Zuleira Astorga-Nodarse

Charges:

Transporting for the Purpose of Prostitution



Pedro Oscar Iglesias Tamayo

Charges:

Expired DL More than 6 Months



Sebastian Ramirez

Charges:

Human Trafficking; Traveling to Meet a Minor for Sex; Unlawful Use of Two-Way Device



Edgar Reyes-Lopez

Charges:

Human Trafficking; Traveling to Meet a Minor for Sex; Unlawful Use of Two-Way Device; Attempted Lewd/Lascivious Battery on a Minor x2