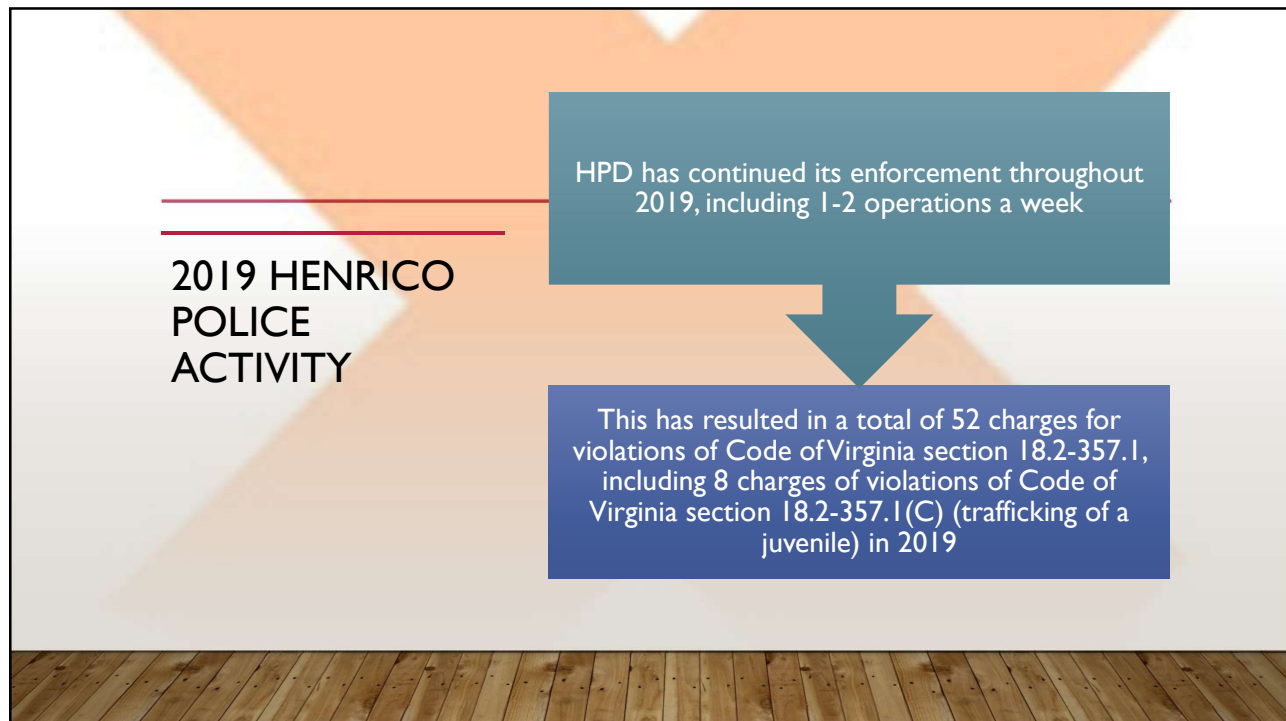


VIRGINIA CRIME COMMISSION 2019

MICHAEL Y. FEINMEL

DEPUTY COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY, HENRICO COUNTY







ICAC Cases have created some “down time” in prostitution enforcement which has created periods in which prostitution has increased in the County because of a feeling that the police are not doing enforcement

Since January of 2019, Henrico Police have brought 86 charges for violations of Code of Virginia section 18.2-374.3

ENFORCEMENT

In addition to the successes in prosecution, our approach of pairing victim services with prosecution of sex traffickers remains successful

- Safe Harbor operates 2 human trafficking residential programs
- House of Refuge operates a human trafficking residential program
- Our judges, police, defense attorneys, and sheriff remain supportive of our efforts to provide survivors of human trafficking with a path out of the life

RECENTLY, A TRAFFICKING SURVIVOR WROTE THIS IN A SURVEY ABOUT VICTIM/WITNESS SERVICES

My victim witness advocate and the commonwealth attorney and investigating detective spent more time talking to and empathizing with me and working to find a solution to my situation than any counselors I've had or probation Officers assigned to me. They placed me in a safe environmental where I experienced love and respect and learned to enjoy day to day life without drugs after the horrors of addiction and life as a sex worker. They rescued me from human trafficking and helped me to see myself as a young woman worthy of respect, and possessing more value than just my body. Now I am getting ready to graduate with a degree in Psychology in hopes of being able to help other women that have been victimized. This program opened doors for me that I never knew existed.:)

backpage

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post ad

backpage.com and affiliated websites have been seized

as part of an enforcement action by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division, with analytical assistance from the Joint Regional Intelligence Center.


Other agencies participating in and supporting the enforcement action include the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, the U.S. Department of Justice's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California, the office of the California Attorney General, and the office of the Texas Attorney General.


Backpage record certification requests should be sent to info@backpage.net. Please remember to attach the records you need certified and the certification document that you are requesting be completed and returned to you. Please allow 2-3 days for your request to be processed. If you have a record certification request that requires urgent attention, indicate that by including the word "URGENT" in the subject line of your email.


April 6, 2018

Worcester
Harrisburg

BACKPAGE SHUT DOWN

 The D.O.J. shutdown of Backpage accomplished some good but was also a hindrance to local law enforcement efforts to combat human trafficking

 In 2018, after the Backpage shutdown there was no central location on the internet for prostitution advertising

 From 1/1/18 to 12/31/18, Henrico Police sought 4 charges for violations of 18.2-346 (B) (solicitation)

BACKPAGE SHUT DOWN

Slowly, other websites have filled in the Backpage demand:

Skipthegames

Listcrawler

Bedpage

Onebackpage

USAsexguide

BACKPAGE SHUT DOWN

These websites are more graphic (couldn't even use pictures for this presentation)

These websites don't offer filters to ensure that juveniles aren't captured

These websites are generally hosted by international servers

BACKPAGE SHUTDOWN

To date in 2019, Henrico police have secured over 30 charges for violations of 18.2-346(B)

In one operation, of which we are particularly proud, an undercover officer assumed the identity of a former human trafficking victim who is now in recovery from substance involvement. Former clients began stalking her and pressuring her to engage in prostitution. This operation has netted 4 solicitation charges

In another day, the same undercover detective interacted with 19 different defendants and brought charges

HENRICO CHILD PROTECTIVES SERVICES

While I can't speak about other jurisdictions, as a result of legislation recommended by this Commission and passed by the General Assembly in 2019, including Virginia Code sections 63.2-1506.1, 63.2-1508, and 63.1-1517, we began in May 2019 meeting with Henrico Child Protective Services to help them formulate their response to juvenile sex trafficking victims

Following this legislation we have developed a strong working relationship

We have involved Henrico DSS in 2 cases since the 2019 legislation, and Henrico DSS has assisted in both cases with securing residential placement for the juveniles

METRO RICHMOND HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORK GROUP

Bon Secours hosts a monthly meeting of law enforcement representatives from Richmond, Chesterfield, Hanover, Ashland, Goochland, federal law enforcement agencies and other organizations

While other jurisdictions have not been conducting operations on the same scale as Henrico County, Chesterfield, Richmond, and Hanover have all increased the number of their operations and have worked in tandem with Henrico detectives

TRAININGS

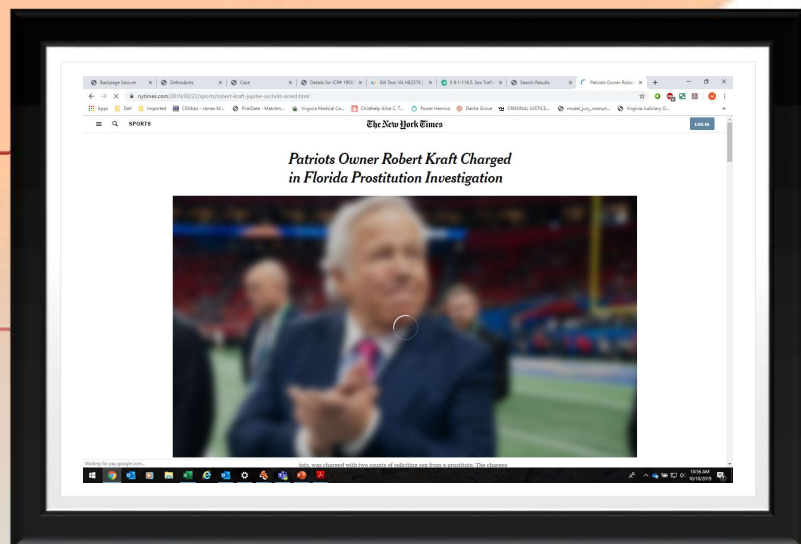
Henrico Detectives, C.A.'s, and Victim-Witness personnel have conducted trainings on how to prepare these cases in Prince William County, City of Richmond, Goochland County, City of Charlottesville, and Augusta County.

SEX TRAFFICKING RESPONSE COORDINATOR

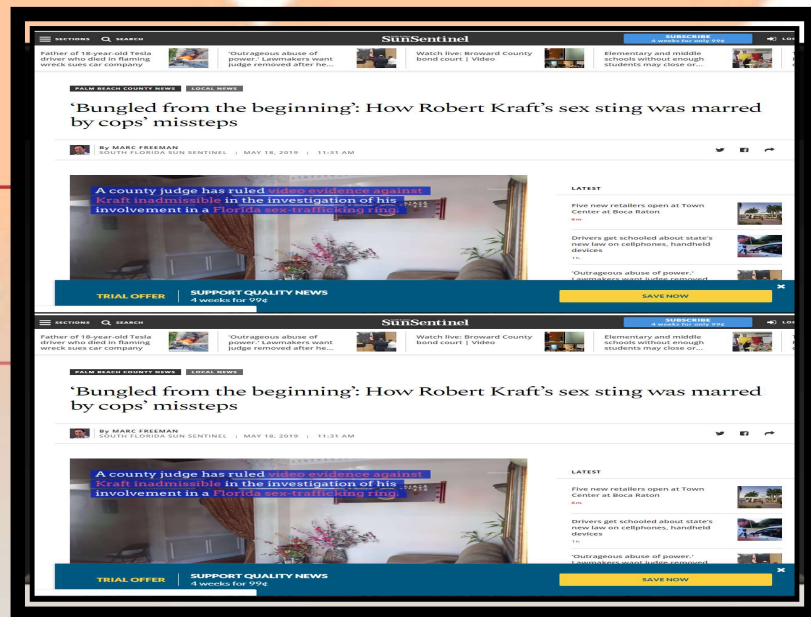
We have met with the Virginia Sex Trafficking Response Coordinator (COV section 9.1-116.4) and will continue to assist her in formulating statewide strategy

We will also ensure that the additional fees contemplated for violations of 18.2-346 and other code sections are court ordered

MOVING FORWARD



MOVING FORWARD



GOING FORWARD

With that said, massage parlors are a nationwide problem managed by organized crime, forcing a network of women sent here from China to work in servitude

Because the definition of prostitution in COV section 18.2-346 does not include manual stimulation, we cannot prosecute the operators of these massage parlors for sex trafficking, which is what they are.

Securing cooperation of victims in these cases is extremely difficult due to cultural fears

MOVING FORWARD

My other suggestion for 2020 would be to consider establishing an under advisement provision to 18.2-346(B) akin to the domestic violence code section

Such a provision could require a 2 year period of time, mandated john school, mandated payment of fees into the Sex Trafficking Fund, and a ban from contact with escorts, masseuses, any association with prostitution, and hotels, as we do in Henrico County

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