



MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Watch Commander, 805-339-4416
Release Prepared by: Sergeant Terry Medina
VENTURA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Incident: Human Trafficking, Loaded Firearm Arrests

Location: 5800 Valentine Rd, Ventura

Date/Time Occurred: 3/25/17 @ 1030 hours

Officer(s) Involved: VPD Patrol, Street Crimes Unit Detectives, Major Crimes Detectives, Ventura County Human Trafficking Enforcement Team

Victim(s): 17 year old female, name withheld

Suspect(s): 1-Brian Kattrel Lewis, 21 years, Fresno resident
2-Dashawn Marquese Jackson, 18 years, Fresno resident
3-Dameon Rasheed Howard, 20 years, Fresno resident

Report #: 17-03956

Narrative:

On 3/25/17 at 0530 hrs the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a call from the National Human Trafficking Center hotline re a female juvenile who indicated she just fled from a potential human trafficking situation and was hiding in the area of Victoria Ave and Valentine Rd.

Patrol officers were immediately dispatched to the area and located the 17-year-old victim who was then transported to the station.

The victim told officers she has been in the company of three adult males for the last three days and that she was forced to commit acts of prostitution in San Diego County until they arrived in Ventura early this morning and ended up in a room at the La Quinta Inn on Valentine Rd.

The victim was told she was not free to leave and was threatened with physical harm if she did not comply.

The victim provided descriptions of the suspects, their vehicle, and a possible room where they were staying.

Street Crimes Unit and Major Crimes Detectives were called in as well as members of the Ventura County Human Trafficking Enforcement Team.

The Major Crimes Detectives and Human Trafficking Enforcement Team interviewed the victim, coordinated medical care, and safe housing while Street Crimes Unit Detectives responded to the La

The complete press release, including suspect description, can be viewed online at www.venturapd.org

If you have any information about this crime, you can make an anonymous call to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

If your information leads to an arrest, you could receive a cash reward of up to \$1,000.

Quinta and located the suspects' vehicle. They also observed three males matching the suspects' description enter a room. The detectives kept the vehicle and room under surveillance while patrol units stood by in the area.

At approximately 1030 the suspects exited the room and left in their vehicle at which time the patrol officers enacted a high-risk enforcement stop due to the information received that one of the suspects may be armed with a handgun.

All three suspects were detained and later identified by the victim as the ones who had kept her captive. A loaded handgun was located during the search of the suspects' vehicle. The suspects were arrested and transported to VPD for interrogation and their vehicle was impounded.

Street Crimes Unit Detectives then made contact with two adult females in the suspects' room. Ricki Carrillo, 21 years, and Rashelle Tatum, 19 years both Fresno residents denied any involvement in criminal activity.

Not able to establish their involvement in the human trafficking crimes at this time they were interviewed and released at the scene.

The three male suspects, identified as Brian Lewis, Dashawn Jackson, and Dameon Howard, were interrogated and later transported the Ventura County Main Jail where they were booked on felony Human Trafficking and Conspiracy charges. Brian Lewis was additionally charged with carrying a loaded firearm in a vehicle, a felony.

This investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information about this crime please contact the Ventura Police Major Crimes Unit at 339-4465. An anonymous tip can be made by calling Crime Stoppers at (800) 222-TIPS.

If you know of anyone who may be a victim of human trafficking please contact the National Human Trafficking Center hotline at 888-373-7888.

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