


DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT VICE ENFORCEMENT



James E. Craig
Chief of Police



What is Vice

- Vice is currently composed of 2 Sergeants and 10 Officers.
 - The primary duties of the Vice unit are the enforcement of morality and liquor laws in the city of Detroit.
 - Recently much more emphasis has been placed on **human trafficking**. We presently have three officers assigned to SEMTEC (South East Michigan Trafficking and Exploitation Crimes) which is a Federal task force that specifically focuses on the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking offenses.
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WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS

modern day slavery.

exploiting a person through force, fraud, or coercion.

sex trafficking, forced labor, and domestic servitude.

happening everywhere, even in the United States, and victims can be U.S. Citizens or of any nationality, age, socioeconomic status, or gender.

any person under the age of 18 involved in a commercial sex act.

Where is Human Trafficking Commonly Encountered?

Human trafficking victims can show up anywhere, anytime. It is up to the first responding officer to distinguish the signs of a person being trafficked, and take appropriate action to intervene.

1. Hotel/Motels (DV or assault calls, complaints, overdoses)
2. Hospitals (overdoses, CSC victims)
3. Shelters (DV victims, homeless)
4. Schools
5. Mass Transit (stranded travelers, people being forced)
6. On the street (sex workers)
7. Businesses (forced labor)

Who are the victims of domestic minor sex trafficking?

- Youth of any ethnicity, race, or religion
- Youth of any socio-economic class
- Female, male, and transgender youth
- Youth of all ages, including teenagers
- Vulnerable youth (homeless, runaway or “throwaway” youth or youth within the foster care system)
- The higher the vulnerability, the higher the chance of victimization



Signs of Sex Trafficking:

- Numerous hotel room keys
 - Pre-pay money cards
 - False ID's / Lying about age
 - Large amounts of money
 - Frequent runaway, disappearing for long periods of time
 - Tattooing, brandings, black eyes, marks on wrists or ankles
 - Inconsistencies in stories
 - Lack of Knowledge of area
 - Cell phones not in parents name
 - Teens with much older males
 - Fear, restricted communication
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HOW DPD VICE WORKS TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Vice responds to tips received by Police Officers/citizens/Crime Stoppers. Vice will determine if human trafficking is present and follow up on the investigation where human trafficking is an issue.
- Vice conducts operations such as: online solicitations, offer to engage operations, accosting and soliciting operations, which are all specific to sex offense crimes. Often times victims and offenders of human trafficking will be exposed through such operations.
- Vice works in conjunction with SEMTEC (South East Michigan Trafficking and Exploitation Crimes) on certain operations specific to human trafficking. Vice currently has three officers assigned to SEMTEC working as Taskforce Officers for the Detroit Police Department and our Federal partners.

■ **ALL VICE OPERATIONS ARE CONCLUDED WITH INTERVIEWS WITH VICTIMS/SUSPECTS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE IF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS OCCURRING.**

VICE Enforcement

Investigations

Human Trafficking Investigations in 2020

- Vice Enforcement and SEMTEC have conducted or closed 94 investigations in 2020, which were related to Human Trafficking or Exploitation of Children. This includes:
 - 7 recoveries of missing persons.
 - 29 placements (shelters/programs) effected for victims of human trafficking.
 - 34 arrests have been made for Human Trafficking related offenses.

Questions

