



Tigard Police Department Media Release

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Prostitution Crackdown in Tigard

On Tuesday, May 26th, the Tigard Police Commercial Crimes Unit conducted an operation to target and arrest prostitution customers or “johns.” As a result, nine men were taken into custody and charged with Patronizing a Prostitute for Services.

The operation took place throughout the afternoon and evening at a Tigard area hotel where several Tigard Police detectives set-up. Investigators from the Lake Oswego and Tualatin Police Departments assisted with the operation. Frequently, police are contacted by businesses expressing frustration and concerns about suspected prostitution operating out of their business outlet. In response to their needs, Tigard Police began to place focus on the crimes of prostitution which now operates significantly through use of technology, along with many other criminal ventures.

The criminal acts of prostitution are mostly arranged beforehand using websites such as Backpage.com or TNABoard.com. In the past, Tigard investigators have conducted probes into such advertising which resulted in numerous arrests. Another key driving force behind the operation is reinforcing the fact that prostitution is not a victimless crime. The numbers are staggering regarding victims compelled into prostitution; now more likely to be connected to human trafficking. Maintaining a zero tolerance policy in Tigard is one way to help draw attention to this criminal venture and possibly prevent the vulnerable from entering into this enterprise. Tigard Police plan to conduct additional operations in the future.