



CITY OF RICHLAND HILLS, TEXAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Kimberly L. Sylvester
Chief of Police

**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: December 23, 2021**

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RICHLAND HILLS POLICE LOCATE VICTIMS OF LABOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Richland Hills Police Department recently conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle occupied with multiple undocumented passengers. After a thorough investigation, two arrests for labor human trafficking were made and three victims of labor human trafficking were identified.

On Sunday, December 19, 2021, at approximately 12:40am, a Richland Hills Police Officer was on routine patrol in the 3400 block of Booth Calloway Road in Richland Hills, TX when he conducted a traffic stop for a minor traffic violation. The vehicle was occupied by the driver and four passengers, none of which had identification or spoke English. The three rear passengers all appeared to be young adult males and exhibited signs of unusual nervousness during the encounter which led the officer to continue his investigation out of concern for their welfare.

Upon further investigation and with the assistance of a Spanish-speaking Richland Hills Police Officer, the rear passengers were found to be victims of labor human trafficking.

The front passenger, Jose Leonel Flores, a 45 year old Hispanic male, was arrested on Trafficking of Persons Under 18 Prostitution/Forced Labor a 1st Degree Felony, Trafficking of Persons a 2nd Degree Felony, and Fail to ID Fugitive a Class A Misdemeanor. The driver, Jorge Martinez Jimenez, a 34 year old Hispanic male, was arrested on Trafficking of Persons Under 18 Prostitution/Forced Labor a 1st Degree Felony, Trafficking of Persons a 2nd Degree Felony, and POSS CS PG 1 >=1G<4G a 3rd Degree Felony.

These suspects were transported and booked into the North Richland Hills Joint Detention Center and later transferred to the Tarrant County Detention Center.

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The three victims, 17, 18, and 19 year old Guatemalans, were initially transported to the Richland Hills Police Department where they were provided food and victim services. They were later taken to a local victim advocacy center for further assistance and services.

The Tarrant County Sheriff's Office Human Trafficking Unit was also contacted for assistance on this investigation. This case is an ongoing investigation, therefore no further information will be released at this time.

The Richland Hills Police Department is committed to serving and protecting the rights of all individuals. There is no doubt that without the trained and observant officers that initially handled this investigation, these victims would not have been found.

The Richland Hills Police Department greatly appreciates the support from the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office in providing their assistance and ultimately taking over the remaining investigation on the Human Trafficking case.

If you are a victim or you know someone who may be a victim of human trafficking, please contact 1-888-373-7888, text 233733, or visit humantraffickinghotline.org. Those wishing to remain anonymous may contact Crime Stoppers of Tarrant County at 817-469-TIPS (8477) or 469tips.com

Question concerning this news release can be directed to Captain Sheena McEachran, 817-616-3784 or smceachran@richlandhills.com