

HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT VICE DIVISION

HUMANTRAFFICKING UNIT

DETECTIVE CYNTHIA GARCIA

VICE DIVISION: INVESTIGATIONS

TOBACCO

LIQUOR

CLUBS

GAMBLING

PROSTITUTION

SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESSES

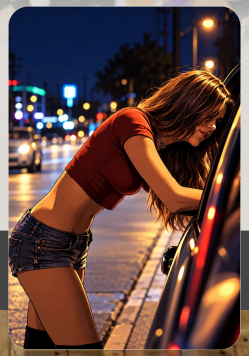
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND HUMAN SMUGGLING













CRIMES VICE DIVISION TARGETS

- Tobacco
- T.E.P – Tobacco enforcement program
- Liquor (TABC)
- Selling to minors, after hours, no permit etc.
- Clubs
- After hours clubs, bikini bars, cantinas
- S.O.B. (Sexually Oriented Businesses)
- Strip clubs, book stores, massage parlors
- Gambling
- Convenience stores, game rooms, poker clubs
- Prostitution
- Street, hotels, internet, massage parlors, strip clubs

TOBACCO OPERATIONS

As part of the state's Tobacco Enforcement Program (TEP), the Texas School Safety Center at Texas State University (TxSSC) utilizes local law enforcement agencies to conduct controlled buy/stings and follow-up controlled buy/stings of tobacco permitted and e-cigarette retail outlets statewide

LIQUOR OPERATIONS

AFTER HOURS CLUBS, CANTINAS ETC













SEXUALLY-ORIENTED BUSINESSES

STRIP CLUBS









SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESSES

MASSAGE PARLORS

GAMBLING OPERATIONS

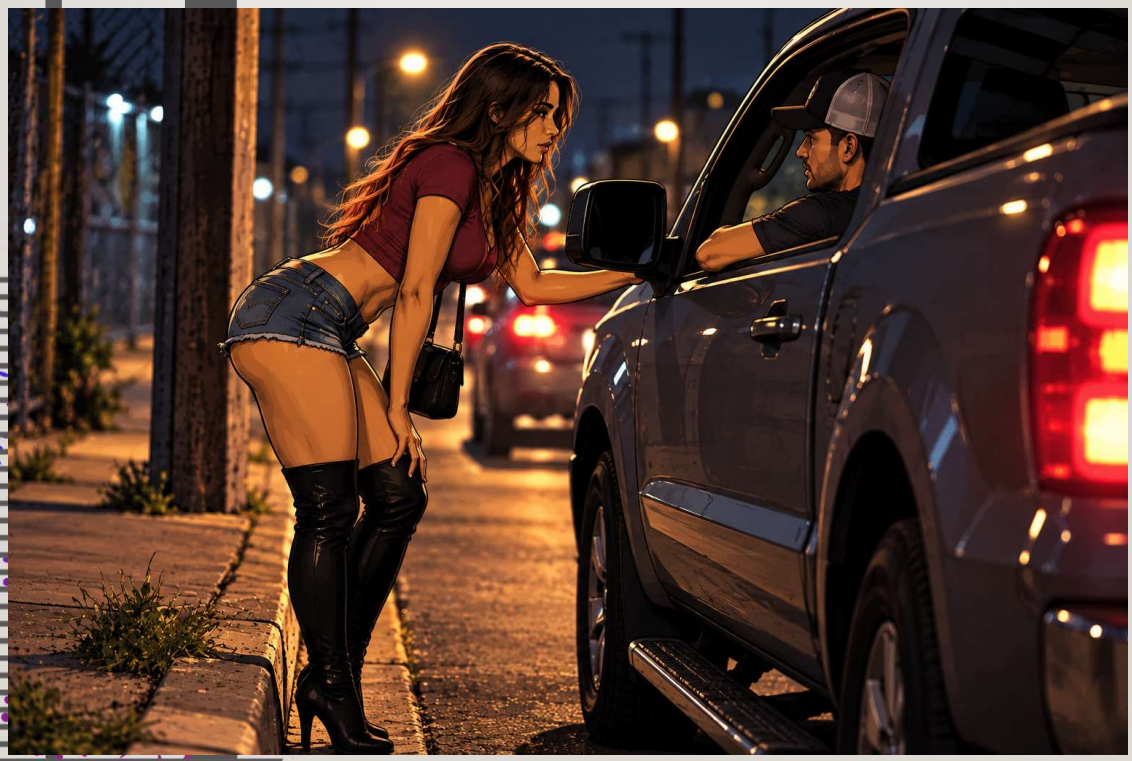








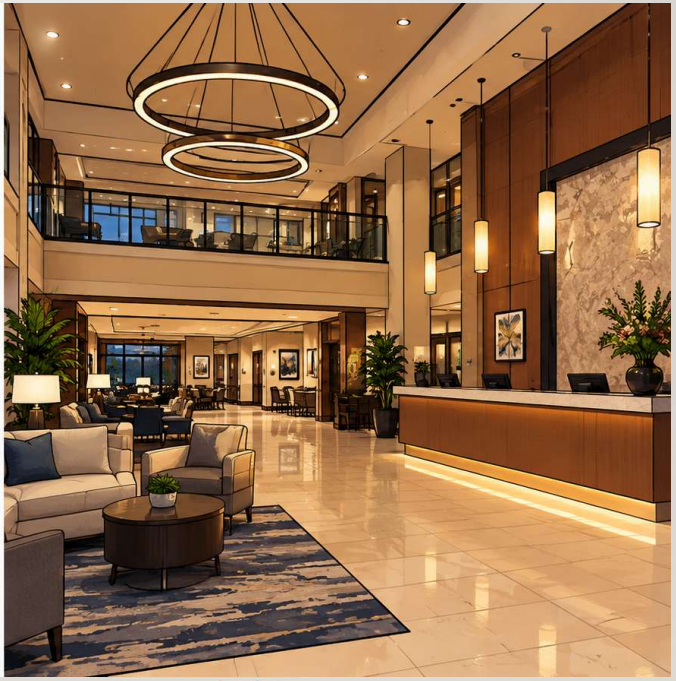
STREET OPERATIONS



Prostitution operations where Vice Division utilizes UC officers to make cases on street level prostitutes.

HOTEL OPERATIONS
IN-CALL / OUT-CALL





Internet based Prostitution

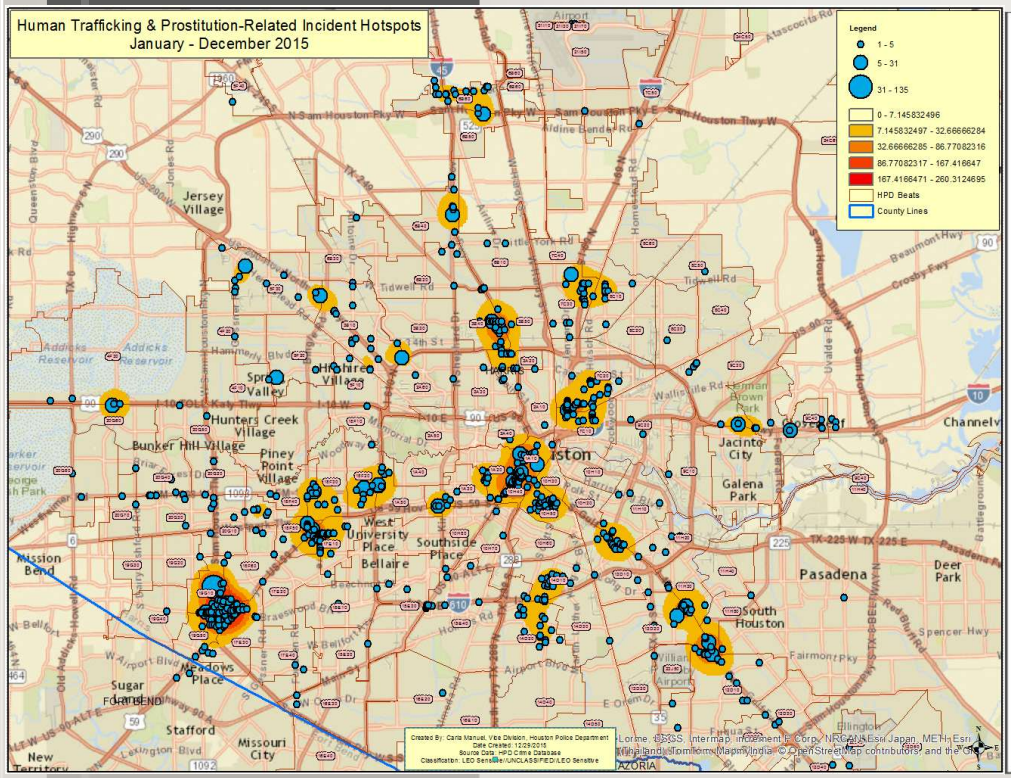
DEMAND SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS "JOHN REVERSALS"

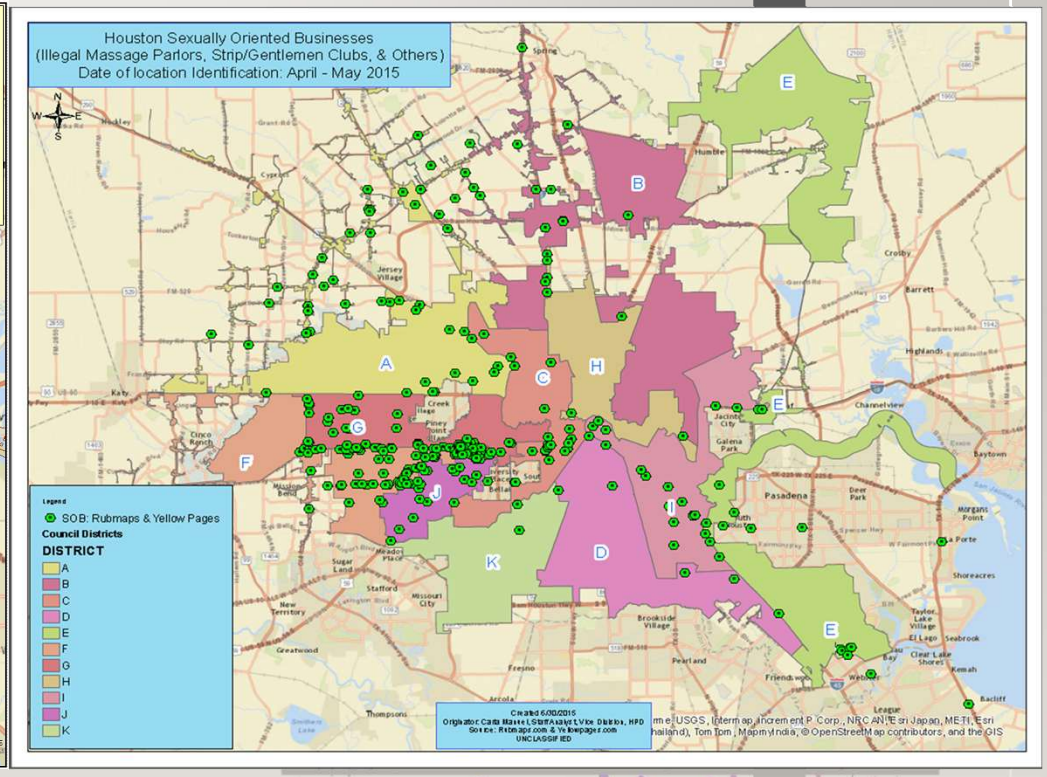


HOW WE FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN HOUSTON

- Community Outreach and Awareness
- Trainings for LE/Medical/Providers/Dispatchers/Businesses
- Proactive "John" Buyer Stings (Demand)
- Proactive Covert Trafficking Operations
- Shaming (Demand)
- Diversion Program (HCDAO)
- State vs. Federal Prosecution
- Increased Criminal Penalties
- Enhanced LE Technology
- Victim Services
- Code Enforcement
- Nuisance Abatement- DRT
- Holding business owners liable
- Local, State, and Federal LE Collaborative Effort







STEP 1: IDENTIFY AREA & TARGET LOCATIONS

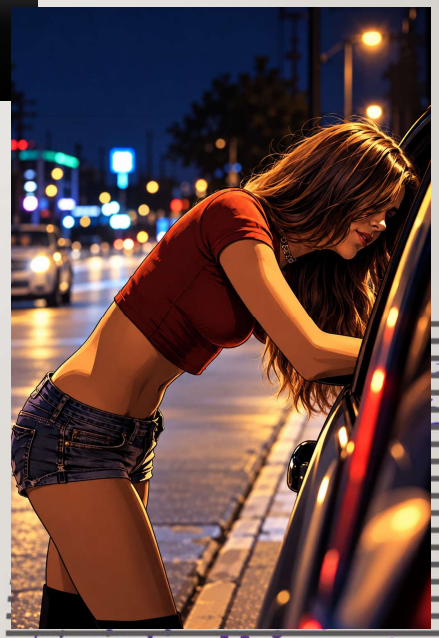
STEP 2:
CONDUCT COVERT & OVERT OPERATIONS

Covert Operations – Vice Division

- **Street Sweeps**
- **Hotel Operations**
- **Club Operations**
- **Massage Parlors**
- **Decoy Operations**
- **Human Trafficking**

Overt Operations (Uniform Operations)

- **Differential Response Team (DRT)- Vice Squad 1**
  - **Code Enforcement**
  - **Uniform Support**
  - **Vice related media significant events**





STEP 3 :
PROCESS VICTIMS & NON-VICTIMS



Harris County Jail

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Determine Victim Status

Drop Charges & Release



Pretrial Diversion



Serve Time



VICTIM- CENTERED RESPONSE

- Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) provide crisis, transitional, and long term service for victims.
- Maintain an ongoing relationship with the victims
- These NGOs will be crucial in locating the victim when a court date arrives so it is essential to maintain a working relationship with NGOs.





COLLABORATION OF RESOURCES

A collaboration of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies working together with area social service organizations to **identify** and **assist the victims** of human trafficking and to effectively **identify, apprehend and prosecute those engaged in trafficking offenses.**

Houston Police Department | Vice Division

HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT

January 1 - December 31, 2025

PERSONNEL:

- 1 Lieutenant
- 3 Sergeants
- 17 Detectives
- 1 Staff Analyst

OPERATIONAL STATS:

- 36 Callouts
- 35 Proactive Operations

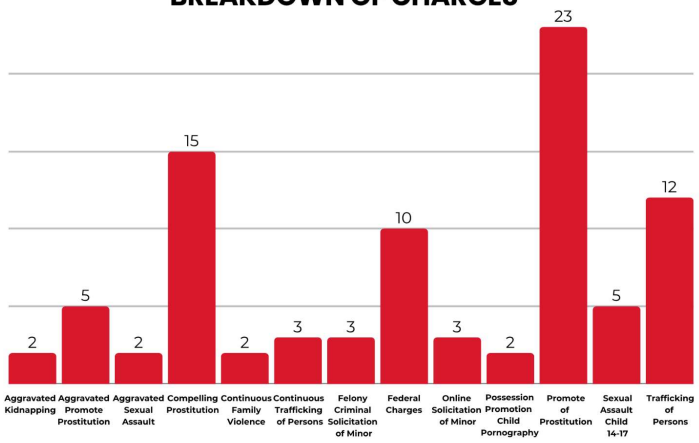
VICTIM RECOVERIES:

- 44 Juvenile
- 42 Adults

49 Suspects Arrested

87 Charges Filed

BREAKDOWN OF CHARGES

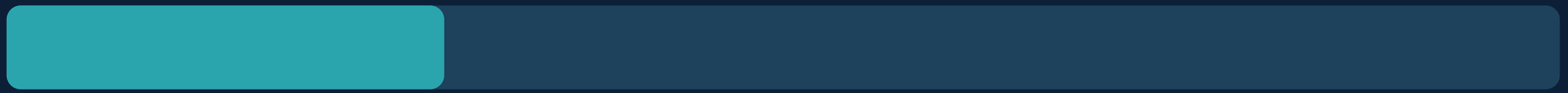


2026 ENFORCEMENT & RECOVERY SUMMARY

January 1 – October 13, 2026

28	35	71
SUSPECTS ARRESTED	CRIMINAL CHARGES	RESCUES / RECOVERIES

Individuals Rescued / Recovered



20 JUVENILES

51 ADULTS

2026 CRIMINAL CHARGES BREAKDOWN

35 total charges | January 1 – October 13, 2026



Total: 35 charges across 10 offense categories

VICE DRT | OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Enforcement activity • Investigations • Victim identification

2,894
CITATIONS ISSUED
City Code Violations

208
DRT INSPECTIONS

11
CRIME STOPPERS TIPS /
OFFENSE REPORTS

11
CHAPTER 125 LOCATIONS
Multi-agency coordination

11
BUSINESS CLOSURES

6
INSPECTION SEARCH WARRANTS

3
ADULT HT VICTIMS IDENTIFIED

PRIMARY INVESTIGATION & INSPECTION LOCATIONS

- Illicit massage businesses
- Unpermitted game rooms (>5 machines)
- Bars, cantinas & after-hours clubs
- Convenience stores (gambling machines; <5)

Chapter 125 partners: Narcotics FAST Unit • City Legal • County Attorney • Attorney General's Office

This news release will go out externally in 15 minutes.

BOISE POLICE DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: BPD Media Line | 208-570-6180 |
bpdmedialine@cityofboise.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 15, 2024

BOISE POLICE LOCATE MISSING TEEN IN HOUSTON; SUSPECT IN CUSTODY

Boise Police detectives, in collaboration with other law enforcement agencies, located a missing 16-year-old girl from Boise in Houston, Texas. An alleged suspect is also in custody in Houston, TX, on an Ada County warrant.

Suspect: Ruben D. Visquerra Aguilar, 24, Houston, TX
Warrant: First Degree Kidnapping (F), Human Sex Trafficking a Child (F)

On October 10, 2024, Boise Police received a report of a missing teen. Initial information indicated she had packed a bag, left a note, and run away from home. Boise Police School Resource Officers (SROs) and detectives from the Boise Police Special Victim's Unit (SVU) began an investigation that showed the teen had been communicating with a stranger online. Through their investigation, detectives gathered information showing the teen had traveled through eastern Idaho, to Utah, and eventually to Texas.

Boise Police SVU detectives partnered with the Houston Police Department's Human Trafficking Unit to continue to search for the teen victim. On October 14, 2024, she was located at a residence in Houston along with a 24-year-old suspect, Ruben D. Visquerra Aguilar. Detectives worked with the Ada County Prosecutor's office to obtain a warrant and Visquerra Aguilar was taken into custody.

Following further investigation, evidence showed that another unknown individual assisted in transporting the victim to Houston. That investigation remains ongoing.

The Boise Police Department is also continuing to work with the US Attorney's Office for the District of Idaho on this investigation and additional federal charges are possible. The suspect is considered innocent until proven guilty. Extradition will be decided by the courts.

The victim is receiving support services in Houston, TX and they are working with her family to bring her home.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) assisted in the investigation, using social media and other resources to assist in tracking down information that led to locating the teen. Their organization has numerous resources about online enticement and what parents should watch out for. https://www.missingkids.org/theissues/onlineenticement

"Boise Police officers and Special Victim's Unit detectives worked diligently with the victim's friends and family to investigate all leads and coordinate with law enforcement in multiple states to track down information leading to the safe recovery of the teen victim," said Special Victim's Unit Lieutenant Josiah Ransom. "We are grateful for the many partners who participated in this investigation and thank them for their assistance."

BPD reminds parents and caregivers to talk with children about safety online and what to do if they receive messages from online strangers.

"Kidnapping and human trafficking are some of the most concerning dangers when it comes to online predators," said Lt. Ransom. "Child enticement online is something we see far too often, and we encourage anyone who has been a victim to seek support and report it to law enforcement."

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More charges filed on Houston man accused of kidnapping Idaho teen after girl found to be pregnant



Ruben Dario Visquerra Aguilar (Ada County Jail)

HOUSTON – Additional charges have been filed against a Houston man accused of paying someone to drive a 16-year-old **Idaho** teenager to Houston to meet up with him.

Ruben Dario Visquerra Aguilar, 24 was originally taken into custody and charged with harboring a runaway in Harris County back in October. He also faced charges in **Idaho** for first-degree kidnapping and human sex **trafficking** of a child.

- HPD Dispatcher
- (713) 884-3131

- HPD Vice Division
  - (713) 308-8600

- National Human Trafficking Resource Center
  - (888) 373-7888
  - Text: "BeFree" (233733)
  - Email: nhtrc@polarisproject.org



Vice Divison

713-308-8600

Non-Emergency Number

713-884-3131