



Clearwater/Tampa Bay Taskforce on Human Trafficking

Learn, Look & Report - End 21st Century Slavery

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 31, 2011

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FEDERAL FUGITIVE ARRESTED

TAMPA, Fla. - Eric Antwan Bell, a federal fugitive in a Clearwater Area Human Trafficking Task Force (CAHTTF) investigation, was arrested without incident today at approximately 3 p.m. by special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) in Parsippany, N.J. He had been living in Jersey City, N.J.

On June 11, Bell was featured on the television program "America's Most Wanted" with John Walsh during the show's "Be On the Look Out" (BOLO) segment. Bell was also featured on the ClearChannel Outdoor Digital Billboard network throughout the Tampa Bay area and on ICE website as one of the agency's most wanted criminals.

On Jan.3, a federal criminal complaint was filed in the Middle District of Florida which alleged that Bell was involved in the production of child pornography, unlawfully possessed a firearm, and engaged in sex trafficking of a minor.

The Task Force agencies include: the Clearwater Police Department, Tampa Police Department, St. Petersburg Police Department, Largo Police Department, Pinellas Park Police Department, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Pasco County Sheriff's Office, Regional Community Policing Institute, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida, Office of the State Attorney for the Sixth Judicial Circuit, FBI and ICE HSI. Non-government partners include: the Florida Department of Health, Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General, World Relief, the Haven Spouse Abuse Shelter, Gulf Coast Legal Services, Inc., Salvation Army, and Clearwater Hispanic Outreach Center.

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