



**MAT HECK, JR.**  
**PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**  
Montgomery County, Ohio  
(937) 225-5757  
info@mcpo.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Pair Indicted for Human Sex Trafficking**

*State v. Iesha Heard & Jermar White, 2016-CR-1517*

**DAYTON, OH (5/20/2016)** – Prosecutor Mat Heck, Jr. announced that 20-year-old **Iesha Chae Heard**, and 31-year-old **Jermar William White**, of Dayton, have been indicted for human trafficking and other felony counts involving two minor females.

On Tuesday, May 10, 2016, a 15-year-old female disclosed to a school counselor that the defendants had forced her and another 15-year-old female to perform sex acts, as well as pose for explicit photos. The victims reported being recruited by the defendants to become escorts, and perform sex acts for hire.

Dayton Police Officers were contacted and they launched an investigation. The officers conducted interviews and found forensic and physical evidence that corroborated the teens' account.

Today, the defendants were indicted by the Montgomery County Grand Jury.

Defendant Heard was indicted on:

- Two counts Trafficking in Persons
- Two counts Compelling Prostitution
- Two counts Complicity to Commit Unlawful Sexual Conduct With a Minor
- One count of Pandering Obscenity Involving a Minor

Defendant White was indicted on:

- Two counts Trafficking in Persons
- One count Rape
- One count Pandering Obscenity Involving a Minor
- Two counts Unlawful Sexual Conduct With a Minor
- Two counts Compelling Prostitution

All of the Compelling Prostitution counts have Human Trafficking Specifications, which carries a mandatory 3-year incarceration.

Both defendants are currently in custody. Defendant Heard is being held on a \$25,000 bond; defendant White is being held on a \$100,000 bond. They will be arraigned on May 24, 2016 at 8:30 a.m.

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