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Cops raid alleged brothel in Gloucester County

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Written by
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GLASSBORO — A raid at a borough home resulted in the arrest of five people on prostitution charges, with three suspects facing deportation.

Investigators also seized about \$950 when they searched an alleged brothel in the first block of Warrick Avenue around 12:30 p.m. Thursday, according to Glassboro police.

Three residents of the home — Felix Rivera, 68, Edgard Hernandez-Perez, 30 and Francisco Vargas-Montelongo, whose age was not available — were charged with promoting prostitution and conspiring to promote prostitution.

Two women — Elizabeth Salas, age unknown, of the Warrick Avenue address, and Olga Francois, 42, of Tampa, Fla. — were charged with prostitution.

Although bail was set for each suspect, authorities said two of the men and one woman will be held for deportation proceedings. They did not identify those suspects by name.

An investigation continues in an effort to determine how the alleged prostitutes came to Glassboro, authorities said.

They noted illegal immigrants often are forced into criminal activity in order to repay debts to those who smuggle them into this country.

“Running a prostitution ring or brothel is a common tactic used by human trafficking organizations,” said Andrew McLees, acting special agent in charge for ICE’s Homeland Security Investigations unit in Newark.

At the same time, he said, authorities currently have no evidence of human-trafficking activity.

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