



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

Prison sentence for Boston man who admits Pimping woman on “Backpage” in Brookline

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Sharp eyes and a good memory on the part of Brookline Police officers has led to a 2-year prison sentence for a man who admitted to deriving support from prostitution and assault and battery on the same victim in Norfolk Superior Court on Monday.

Robert Lewis, 52, of Boston, pled guilty at his Norfolk Superior Court arraignment after indictment on Monday, Dec. 5, 2016, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey.

Norfolk Superior Court Judge Thomas Connors sentenced Lewis to 2 years on the indictment of deriving support from prostitution, followed by 1 year of probation on the conviction of assault and battery on the victim, with probation condition that he must attend a certified batterers program.

“Without the work of the Brookline Police Department, this case does not come together and the victim would not have been extricated from this violent, exploitive relationship,” Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey said after the defendant was sentenced.

On July 3, 2016, Brookline officers responded to a 911 call that had been placed then disconnected from an apartment on Park Street. They were met by a woman who said she had placed the call in the midst of an argument with her “boyfriend,” but that her boyfriend had left. Her statements at the time did not include accusations of criminality.

In early August, Brookline officers recognized the woman in photos posted in an advertisement on the website “Backpage,” which is known to law enforcement as a site used for advertising prostitution services. On August 4, Brookline officers secreted in locations on Park Street observed the woman outside the building, and then enter. They approached two men seen leaving the building and developed evidence supporting prostitution at that location.

When officers took the woman into custody and interviewed her, they learned that Lewis, whom she considered her “boyfriend” had paid for and published the “Backpage” advertisement, gave her the cell phone to answer when men called, and then took from her the money that men gave in exchange for sexual acts. She also revealed that, although she did not disclose it at the time, the July 3 call she placed to 911 followed the defendant punching her in the face.

Lewis admitted to both crimes in his plea on Monday.

The matter was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Anne Yas.