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**BRONX MAN SENTENCED TO 2 1/3 TO 7 YEARS IN PRISON FOR PROMOTING
PROSTITUTION OF A TEEN AND A YOUNG WOMAN**
Defendant Will Register As Sex Offender

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx man has been sentenced to prison after pleading guilty to promoting prostitution of two females, including one minor.

District Attorney Clark said, "This defendant is behind bars after a 17-month investigation that uncovered voluminous evidence showing the defendant preying on vulnerable females. The defendant's plea assured that the victims would not have to testify but would gain justice, and hopefully allows them to reclaim their lives. We will continue to go after anyone who thinks they can use individuals as sex slaves."

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Vinod Patel, 52, of Paulding Avenue, was sentenced today to two-and-a-third to seven years in prison by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Alvin M. Yearwood. The defendant pleaded guilty to third-degree Promoting Prostitution on March 29, 2018. He must also register as a Sex Offender.

According to the investigation, which began in October 2016, the defendant promoted prostitution from his home for over a year. He pleaded guilty to promoting a 20-year-old woman and a 16-year-old girl and advertising them on Backpage.com.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Lauren Di Chiara, Jeffrey Kiok and Jennifer Seeba of the Criminal Enterprise Bureau under the supervision of James Goward, Chief of the Criminal Enterprise Bureau and the overall supervision of Stuart Levy, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division and Jean T. Walsh, Chief of the Investigations Division.

District Attorney Clark thanked Detective Gloria Chavez of the NYPD Vice Human Trafficking Team for her hard work on the case.