In regards to multiple social media posts that have been reported that indicate that there is an increase in human trafficking in the area, the Western Carolina University Police Department wanted to share some information with our campus community.  UPD has reached out to our external partners regarding the information that has been circulating about local Walmart locations and suspicious activity.  No official reports have been filed and no alerts have been issued by either of those agencies.  We also had our department liaison with the NC Information Sharing and Analysis Center reach out to their point of contact to see if any activity has been seen in the region.  So far those results have been negative as well.  We understand that this is a concern for members of our community.  In addition to the steps that we have taken above we also wanted to provide some basic safety information that may help prevent anything from taking place should there be a threat in the area.

 If you witness any unusual behavior, report it immediately

 Avoid walking alone or appearing distracted by wearing headphones or talking on your cell phone.

 When you go out, let someone know where you are going and when you plan to be back.

 Wherever you are, stay alert to your surroundings and the actions of people around you.

 At night try to walk or run in well-lit, regularly traveled pathways.

 Should you have any concerns about your safety please contact the police department immediately at (828) 227-8911.

 Public Safety