HARLINGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

2017-0128



COURAGE

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PROSTITUTION STING RESULTS IN 16 ARRESTS

The Harlingen Police Department's Organized Crime Unit conducted a large scale sex trade sting resulting in a total of 16 arrests over two days. The operation ran from Friday, July 21st thru Saturday, July 22nd and was concentrated near "C" Street, "D" Street and Van Buren (Gutierrez Park area). Undercover police officers were approached by the suspects and solicited or agreed to engage in a sex act for compensation. All 16 suspects were arrested immediately after the solicitation and transported to the Harlingen Police Department for processing. <u>All transactions were audio and video recorded for courtroom purposes.</u>

This operation was made possible by funding of a Texas Border Star grant that assists law enforcement agencies in battling issues such as organized crime, human trafficking of women, men, children, and immigrants who many times are forced into the sex trade, or sex slave trade by force, fear, intimidation, or drugs. According to estimates, approximately 2.5 million people are being trafficked around the world. Approximately 80 percent are women and children. This operation focused on those who by their participation as customers perpetuate this crime, its victims, the families of the victims, and the families of the suspects who they return to.

The Harlingen Police Department would also like to recognize the law enforcement partners involved in the success of the operation, namely, the State of Texas, the Cameron County District Attorney's Office, Combes Police Department, and the City of Harlingen Municipal Court.

The Harlingen Police Department reminds citizens to report any suspicious activity to their local police department. In Harlingen, you can contact us for Emergencies at (911) or the Police Communications Center at (956)216-5940, the H.P.D. Front Desk Supervisor at (956)216-5401, or the Harlingen Area Crime Stoppers at (956)425-TIPS (8477).



Harlingen Police Department 1018 Fair Park Boulevard Harlingen, Texas 78550 956.216.5401 – www.myharlingen.us



Chief of Police Jeffry Adickes

Assistant Chief Michael Kester

Executive Staff

Deputy Chief Hector Leal

Deputy Chief Daniel Villarreal

Deputy Chief Miryam Anderson

Deputy Administrator Diane Sanchez

Executive Staff PIO Commander David Osborne

Public Information PIO Staff

> Commander John Parrish

Sergeant Larry Moore

Officer Orlando Gonzales



Magistrated by: Judge Arturo Saenz Arrestees are innocent until proven guilty in a Court of Law



MAURU PADILLA 39 YRS OLD HARLINGEN \$750.00 PR Bond



JOEL RODRIGUEZ 26 YRS OLD SAN BENITO \$750.00 Bond - Prostitution \$20,000 Bond - Cocaine



USBALDO GARZA 41 YRS OLD HARLINGEN \$750.00 Bond



LEONEL JIMENEZ 50 YRS OLD HARLINGEN \$750.00 Bond



ARMANDO RODRIGUEZ JR 22 YRS OLD HARLINGEN \$750.00 Bond



JAIME GAONA 41 YRS OLD HARLINGEN \$750.00 Bond



JOSE GARZA 74 YRS OLD SEBASTIAN \$1,000.00 PR Bond – Prostitution with Prev . Conv.



MIGUEL CASAREZ 71 YRS OLD HARLINGEN \$750.00 PR Bond



CARLOS MARTINEZ 24 YRS OLD HARLINGEN \$750.00 Bond



JAY DWIGHT 60 YRS OLD HARLINGEN \$750.00 Bond



JOSE HERNANDEZ 19 YRS OLD HARLINGEN \$750.00 Bond



WILLIAM FLOWERS 58 YEARS OLD HARLINGEN \$750.00 Bond



EDGAR HERNANEZ 29 YRS OLD SEBASTIAN \$750.00 Bond



JOSE ALVARADO 50 YRS OLD LA FERIA \$750.00 Bond



JUAN GALVAN 28 YRS OLD HARLINGEN \$750.00 Bond



TERESA FLORES 43 YEARS OLD HARLINGEN \$750.00 PR Bond



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