**MEN BOOKED ON SEX CHARGES**

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Three undercover Gretna police officers, posing as prostitutes, assisted in the arrests of more than 40 men, mostly on charges of soliciting prostitutes and attempted crimes against nature during four recent sweeps.

The undercover work, along the West Bank Expressway, began Oct. 6 and ended Oct. 26, Gretna Deputy Police Chief Arthur Lawson said.

Police, who previously had targeted prostitutes, decided this time to go after customers, Lawson said.

During the sweeps, undercover officers were wired with audio monitoring devices.

Other officers videotaped the transactions. Soliciting for prostitutes is a misdemeanor, while attempted crime against nature is a felony.

According to police, the following suspects were booked Oct. 6 with soliciting for prostitution: James Meredith, 48, Hot Springs, Ark.; Makki Mohamad, 30, 714 West Bank Expressway, and Jihad Abdullrazzaq, 45, 1801 Hector Court, both of Gretna; Antoine Stewart, 24, 1855 Whitney Ave., Apt. 2F, Carlos Villegas, 23, 3803 Texas Drive, and Carlos Moncada, 22, 172 West Park Court, all of New Orleans; Edgar Arguello, 39, 12 Acadia St., Kenner; and Anthony Espinosa, 27, North Hollywood, Calif.

Troy Ansari, 20, 2120 Nicosia Drive, St. Bernard; Damosthenis Madriaga, 19, 5436 Alpaca Drive, and Paul Arellano, 18, 5084 Lyons Court, both of Marrero, were booked with attempted crime against nature.

Calvin Stevens, 33, 2719 New York St., New Orleans, was booked with possession with intent to distribute about .10 grams of crack.

The following suspects were booked Oct. 11 with soliciting for prostitution: Juan Quintan, 35, 518 S. Solomon St., New Orleans; Walter Zalewski, 22, 2209 Broadway St., Harvey; Bobby Logan, 33, and Rodney Logan, 28, both of 423 12 Lafayette St., Reyna Antoine Jr., 33, 600 Willowbrook Drive, and Sy Do, 35, 49 Fifth St., all of Gretna.

These suspects were booked with attempted crime against nature: James Ferrera, 31, 5113 Oak Bayou, Marrero; Michael Balders, 43, 500 Wall Blvd., and Kelly Patton, 27, 901 Gretna Blvd., both of Gretna; and Ronald Thibodeaux, 27, Lafayette. Ferrera also was booked with possession of marijuana.

Kevin George, 31, address unavailable, was booked Oct. 23 with soliciting for prostitution twice in the same night. He also was booked with possession of marijuana, attempted crime against nature and in a previous theft in Jefferson Parish.

The following suspects were booked Oct. 23 with soliciting for prostitution: Donald Foster, 37, Wagener, S.C.; James Riley, 38, 1125 San Maria Drive, Marrero; and Geno Gallo, 22, 1161 Orange Blossom Lane, Harvey. Gallo was also booked with attempted crime against nature.

On Oct. 26, the following suspects were booked with soliciting for prostitution: Donald McDonald, 37, 1804 Weyer St., Johnnie Fuller, 30, 3109 Huey P. Long Ave., and Reinaldo Estrada, 30, 609 Amelia St., all of Gretna; Donald Thompson, 24, 1541 Jordan St., Marrero; James Anderson, 24, address unknown; Robert Conklin, 22, Bourg; Chad Trahan, 21, Virgil Dardar, 26, and Delvin Dardar, 33, all of Montegut; Jeffery Shafer, 35, Mulvane, Kan.; Eric Tiser, 31, Boothville.

Those booked with attempted crimes against nature were: Giovanni Pineda, 24, 284 E. Shannon Lane, Harahan; Michael Costello, 30, Hewitt, N.J.; Justin Hoff, 21, 2785 Mt. Laurel Drive, and Robert Szymanski, 24, 2789 Mt. Laurel Drive, both of the Gretna area. Hoff and Szymanski also were booked with soliciting for prostitution.

Virgil Dardar also was booked with five counts of simple battery on officers and resisting arrest.

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