



SHERIFF LAURIE SMITH

For Immediate Release- Media

Office of the Sheriff

55 West Younger Avenue
San Jose, CA 95110

Deputy Michael Low

michael.low@shf.sccgov.org

Deputy Jessica Gabaldon

jessica.gabaldon@shf.sccgov.org

408-808-4905

@SCCoSheriff

TYPE OF INCIDENT: Human Trafficking Arrest

LOCATION: Gilroy, CA

CASE NUMBER: 19-212-0215G

DETAILS:

A 32-year old Watsonville man has been arrested for sex trafficking a young woman from Gilroy, California for over five years. The young woman had been severely beaten countless times and even hospitalized throughout the relationship due to the abuse. The many years of exploitation came to a head when the abuser threatened physical harm to the victim as well as her father, which was reported to Sheriff's Office detectives assigned to the Santa Clara County Law Enforcement to Investigate Human Trafficking (LEIHT). Sheriff's Office detectives were able to develop information and gather enough evidence to arrest the abuser.

On Thursday 8/1/2019, Sheriff's Detectives arrested Andre William Furtado in Gilroy, California. Furtado faces numerous felonies including human trafficking, pimping, pandering and kidnapping charges. If convicted, Furtado faces incarceration in prison. Furtado is currently on parole and a registered sex offender.

In 2014, the victim began a dating relationship with Furtado, who persuaded the victim into turning to prostitution as an income source. Furtado quickly showed the victim how to post ads soliciting prostitution online, educated her about the life of prostitution, and instructed her on the prices she should charge for each sex act performed by her to a customer. The victim soon began engaging in acts of prostitution under the direction and guidance of Furtado. Within one month of working for Furtado, Furtado began physically abusing her with force. Furtado would instruct the victim to engage in acts of prostitution and then become upset with her due to the fact that he believed she was enjoying her acts of prostitution.

Just prior to Sheriff's Detectives rescuing the victim, Furtado physically abused her again, resulting in scratches to her chest, neck, leg, and foot, as well as bruising to her chest, foot, and back, as a result of Furtado's physical abuse. The victim showed current injuries on her body, which were documented by taking digital photographs of the injuries. The victim was able to corroborate much of her statement by providing detectives with dozens of photographs of her injuries at the hands of Furtado throughout their relationship. The victim also provided numerous text and Instagram messages that Furtado had sent to her depicting the threats of abuse and type of injuries he intended to inflict. Furthermore, in a live phone call with the victim, Detectives witnessed Furtado admitting to physically abusing the victim in the past,

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apologizing to the victim for physically abusing her, and negotiating with the victim as to what days she would have to engage in prostitution if she was to come back to him.

Made up of Sheriff's Office Detectives and members of the District Attorney Investigators, LEIHT prioritizes the investigation, arrest and prosecution of suspected pimps/abusers and more importantly, rescues and reintegrates victims of human trafficking.

Anyone with information on this case is asked to contact the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office at (408) 808-4500. Alternatively, you can contact the Sheriff's Office Investigative Services anonymous tip line at (408) 808-4431.



Andre William Furtado

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