



SHERIFF LAURIE SMITH

For Immediate Release- Media

Office of the Sheriff

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TYPE OF INCIDENT: Human Trafficking
LOCATION: Wildwood Avenue, Sunnyvale
CASE NUMBER: 20-030-0284I

DETAILS:

In conjunction with Human Trafficking Awareness Month, the Santa Clara County Law Enforcement to Investigate Human Trafficking (LEIHT) Task Force conducted several enforcement operations. The enforcement was part of "Operation Reclaim and Rebuild", a state wide effort aimed at combatting human trafficking which took place January 26, 2020, through February 1, 2020.

For three days, the LEIHT Task Force teamed up with local partners including; Milpitas Police, San Jose Police and Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety. The different operations targeted sex buyers (AKA "Johns"), sex registrants with a nexus to human trafficking and the recovery of human trafficking victims and the arrest of their exploiters.

During the three day operation, LEIHT arrested 16 buyers for solicitation of prostitution, recovered 5 victims and arrested an exploiter, Issac Lee, for human trafficking. They also identified four sex offenders in violation of their registration requirements.

Subject Lee, 36, trafficked the victim from out of state and brought her to the Bay Area for purposes of prostitution. The victim thought Lee was going to help her get back to her family. During the investigation, two other women were identified and contacted with ties to Lee. Investigators believe the victims were targeted based on their narcotics dependency and that it was used as a method of control. LEIHT with assistance from their advocate partners (Community Solutions and YWCA) was able to return the victim back with her family safety.

The Santa Clara County LEIHT Task Force is responsible for the recovery and reintegration of victims of human trafficking and prosecution of suspected pimps and abusers. The LEIHT task force consists of investigators from the Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office and a prosecuting Deputy District Attorney. Understanding the trauma one can experience as a victim of Human Trafficking, LEIHT maintains a working partnership with both Community Solutions and the YWCA in providing victim counseling, assistance, and resources.

Prepared By: Deputy Jessica Gabaldon
Approved By: Undersheriff Rick Sung

Date / Time Prepared: 02/04/2020 @0900
Date / Time Approved: 02/04/2020 @0930

Anyone with information or tips regarding Human Trafficking cases are urged to contact the Human Trafficking Task Force at 408-918-4960 or humantrafficking@shf.sccgov.org. YWCA Rape Hotline 408-287-3000 and Community Solutions 877-363-7283



Issac Lee

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