



News Release

City of Reno

Reno Police Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“Operation Cross Country” Targeting Commercial Sexual Exploitation/Sex
Trafficking of Juveniles, results in recovery of 14 year old victim**

Reno, NV—

On July 26 and July 27, 2013, detectives from the Regional Street Enforcement Team (SET) participated in a nationwide initiative designed to recover juvenile victims of commercial sexual exploitation/sex trafficking. The SET team and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are partners in the Reno Innocence Lost Task Force, a collaborative effort to recover juvenile victims and identify/arrest the individuals who are commercially sexually exploiting them.

In addition to SET and the FBI, attorneys and investigators from the Nevada Attorney General’s office and enforcement agents from the Nevada Gaming Control Board participated with this initiative.

The two day operation focused on the 4th Street corridor in downtown Reno and individuals conducting sex trafficking/sexual exploitation using Internet websites to arrange prostitution transactions.

Undercover detectives also utilized rooms in a downtown Reno hotel for this operation.

On July 26, 2013 at approximately 11:30 p.m. a 14 year old female Sacramento, California resident was recovered. The recovery resulted from an operation targeting an Internet website posting for prostitution.

The 14 year old child was immediately provided resources by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's victim advocate who also participated and was on scene during the operation.

In addition to the recovery of the 14 year old, two subjects were identified as sexually exploiting/trafficking the child. One of the subjects was in possession of pornographic photographs of the 14 year old child. Those subjects were arrested and are identified as:

Shanequa Charles, Carmichael, Ca. resident, charged with; Sex Trafficking of a Child, Conspiracy to Commit Sex Trafficking of a Child, and Use, Permit, or Produce Pornography of a Child. The listed charges resulted in a "no bail" hold on Ms. Charles.

Jamourian Charles, Carmichael, Ca. resident, charged with; Sex Trafficking of a Child, and Conspiracy to Commit Sex Trafficking of a Child. Mr. Charles' bail is set at \$22,500.00.

(There is a biological relationship between both defendants, but they are not husband and wife.)

An additional twelve adults were cited or arrested for solicitation for prostitution. Each of those twelve adults were met with, and provided resources (to include clothing, food, and referrals) by the FBI's victim advocate and an advocate from Awaken, Inc.

It is the goal of the participating agencies to provide those contacted with resources and avenues to exit the world of sexual exploitation, and therefore, the names of those arrested or cited are not included in this release.

Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto provided the following statement regarding the Nevada Attorney General's involvement in this operation:

"I am pleased to partner with the Reno Police Department and FBI to execute a formidable strategy to arrest those who force, often times with violence, victim(s) into sex trafficking. We are proud to stand with and support our law enforcement partners to combat this horrendous crime."

The Regional Street Enforcement team is comprised of Detectives from the Reno Police Department, Sparks Police Department, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, and the University of Nevada Police Department.

Anyone having information relating to this crime or the suspect(s) should contact the Reno Police Department at 334-2115, Secret Witness at 322-4900, www.secretwitness.com, or text the tip to 847411 (TIP 411) keyword - SW

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