

Media Release

Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

Scott Mascher – Sheriff

255 E. Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301

Dwight D'Evelyn - Media Coordinator

928-777-7441



January 4, 2017 – UPDATE – DEFENDANT SENTENCED

Update from Prostitution Sting in November of 2014 in which 9 Suspects were arrested seeking Minors/Adult Woman for Sex-

(The original media release text follows). On December 15, 2016, 43-year-old Buren Jarrett Burgess was transferred to the Arizona Department of Corrections after being sentenced to 15.75 years each on 2 counts of Child Prostitution with one Historical Prior Felony Conviction. The sentences will run consecutive, meaning he will serve a total of 31.5 years in the Arizona Department of Corrections. Burgess was currently on lifetime probation due to prior child abuse related convictions.



Burgess

The case was delayed due to an Arizona Supreme Court case settled mid-year 2016 affirming that a 'minor' as defined in ARS 13-3212 (D) and (G) means a person who is fifteen, sixteen, or seventeen years of age, **a peace officer posing as a minor aged fifteen to seventeen years**, or someone assisting a peace officer by posing as a minor aged fifteen to seventeen years.

Originally issued November 21, 2014 – “Prostitution Sting nets 9 Suspects seeking Minors/Adult Woman for Sex- 3 of the Suspects Are Probationers.”

On November 18th and 19th, 2014, the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office again joined with several area law enforcement agencies to combat Human Trafficking/Prostitution in Yavapai County. YCSO along with Prescott PD, Cottonwood PD, Chino Valley PD, the Gang Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission task force (GITEM - DPS), FBI, Partners Against Narcotics Trafficking (PANT) and the Department of Homeland Security conducted an operation to target the buyers of child and adult prostitutes.

It is important to understand that Human Trafficking is the second most prolific crime in the world, second only to narcotics trafficking in terms of revenue generated. The victims of human trafficking are often teenaged girls who, for various reasons, are forced to engage in repeated sexual assaults for the profit of a “pimp” soliciting customers for prostitutes. *In an effort to eliminate the demand for prostitutes, this operation targeted buyers who would otherwise willingly hire underage and/or adult prostitutes for*

sexual gratification. After the suspects initiated contact in response to a notice from an internet publication, they made arrangements to meet the “prostitutes,” actually undercover law enforcement officers, in a specified Yavapai County motel room. Over the course of the two days, the team of combined law enforcement officers apprehended these men who, even with knowledge some of the “prostitutes” were legally considered children, still intended to exploit them anyway through paid sex acts.

A total of 9 adult men were arrested following their request for sex acts and an offer or presentation of payment in the hotel room. Names, details, and booking information follow:

(Story edited to reflect only details on the original arrest of Burgess) ...



November 19, 2014 – Buren “Jarrett” Burgess, age 41, from Prescott, arrested for 2 counts of Engaging in Child Prostitution, after soliciting persons he believed were Underage prostitutes for sex. He remains in-custody on a \$40,000 bond. Burgess is currently on lifetime probation due to prior child abuse related convictions.

“I will continue to make these types of operations a priority for the Yavapai County Sheriff’s Office because the goal of protecting our children from sexual predators must continue. I would like to thank all the assisting agencies for their support and participation in the investigation. On behalf of my fellow law enforcement partners, it is my hope these arrests send a message that preying on our children will not be tolerated in this County.”

Sheriff Scott Mascher

Citizens can contact the Yavapai County Sheriff’s Office with information or questions at 928-771-3260 or the YCSO website:

www.ycsoaz.gov