



CONDUCTING OFFENDER FOCUSED
STING OPERATIONS TO RECOVER
TRAFFICKING VICTIMS





CURRENT TRENDS AND OPERATIONS:

- Are they working?
- Is the status quo identifying victims?
- Is it "saving" victims?
- Are we compelling victims, or attempting to in order to further our cases?
- Are we penalizing victims for their victimization?
- What are the current crimes in which a victim has to prove victimization, and cooperate in order to not arrested?





WHY CONDUCT STING OPERATIONS?

- Proactive investigations are what finds these victims.
- Most victims do not self report
- Criminal charges can be brought against traffickers
- Money and assets can be seized



WHY DO PROSTITUTION STINGS NOT WORK?

- By arresting the victims, we are re-victimizing them
- Some estimates show 80%-90% are being trafficked
- There is nothing the trafficker loses
- Victims have ZERO incentive to work with law enforcement
- Most importantly, this is the only crime that the VICTIM goes to jail more often than the perpetrator.



HOW ARE STINGS GENERALLY CONDUCTED?

- Hotel room undercover
 - Why?
 - Does this work?
 - Do we have to do it?
 - Why shouldn't we do undercover?



CONDUCTING OPERATIONS



BUT WE DON'T HAVE THE MANPOWER
OR FUNDING....

- What tools are needed?
- Surveillance units?
- Take down units?
- Tech tools?
 - Thorn
 - TRAC
 - Collective Liberty



TARGET ADS, NOT VICTIMS

- Why target ads?
- Why not target potential victims?
- What kind of ads are we looking for?
 - Current photos
 - Historical photos
 - Travel
 - OSINT



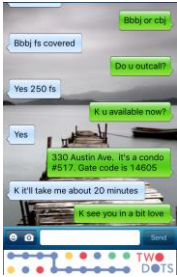
TEXTS





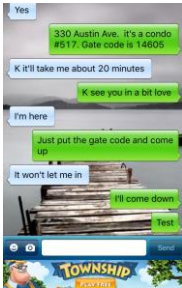


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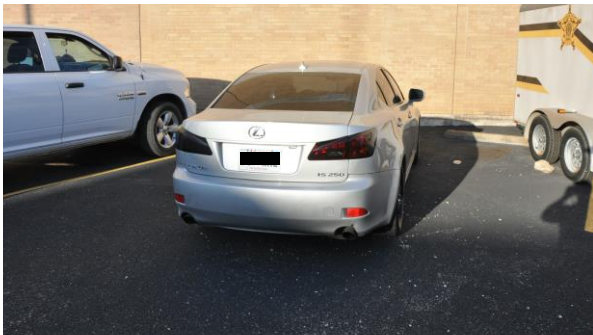
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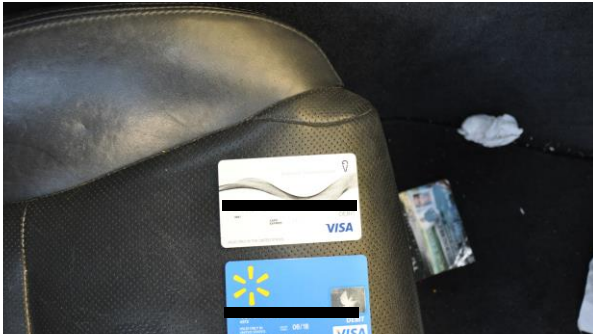
WHEN TRAFFICKERS AND VICTIMS SHOW UP....

- What do we search in the vehicle?
- Should we interview?
- How do we interview?
- What's next?





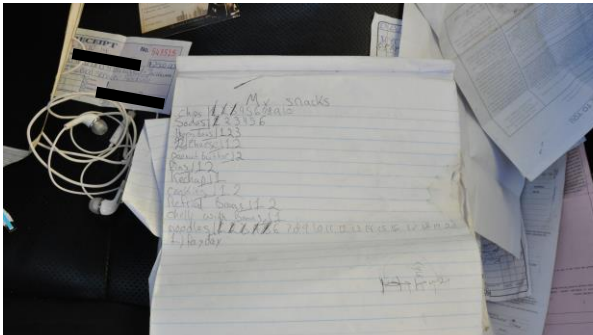
















USING A VICTIM CENTERED
APPROACH WITH VICTIMS

What does this mean?
Should law enforcement be victim centered?





METHODS USED TO CONTROL
VICTIMS

FORCE, FRAUD AND COERCION are methods used by traffickers to press victims into lives of servitude and abuse.
Per statutes, we have to have this to prove trafficking.
- Just because we can't prove it, doesn't mean it doesn't exist.



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ALLIE BRADEN

Prevention Specialist & Survivor Leader



FTS VALUES

- Dignity
- Hope Over Fear
- Never Re-Exploit
- Do Not Sensationalize
- Quality over Quantity
- PARTNERSHIP!



PARTNERSHIP

To collaborate together to see justice and develop a full continuum of care for victims.




MY STORY

- Raised in Nevada- had a "normal" childhood
- Vulnerabilities- low self esteem, strained relationship with family, kicked out of the home, drug use.
- Experienced homelessness in Reno, NV for several months
- Basic needs not met
- Recruitment
- Interaction with Law Enforcement- never offered services
- Pimp Control



PIMP TACTICS

Why does talking about pimps and their tactics matter when we talk about engaging and serving victims?




FOR THE SILENT

PIMP TACTICS

Pimps look for the most vulnerable and easily manipulated. The sex industry is predatory and violent in nature, and pimps look for individuals with lack of choices

Who is most vulnerable?

- MINORS
- RUNAWAYS
- THE HOMELESS
- DRUG ADDICTS
- JUVENILE JUSTICE




FOR THE SILENT

PIMP CONTROL

Pimps are master manipulators and use small acts of affection/kindness along with control and abuse (Stockholm Syndrome) to gain power and control over their victims.

- RECRUITMENT
- GROOMING
- "TURNING OUT"
- POWER AND CONTROL



FOR THE SILENT

PIMP CONTROL

Four Recruitment Tactics



- FORCE
- COERCION
- BEFRIENDING
- SEDUCTION "the most effective tactic"



PIMP CONTROL

ROMEO PIMPS - THE SEDUCTION TACTIC


- Simulates a relationship with a victim. Once he has seasoned her, he withholds the affection that was initially there in the beginning, leaving her working to win back the love that she experienced in the beginning that was never really there.
- He creates a blurred line between boyfriend and exploiter.
- This is why she may tell you that he is her "boyfriend," she believes it and doesn't see her own exploitation





PIMP CONTROL


Once a pimp has established power and control



- **They create the illusion of choice: "I only want girls who want to be here.... You can leave anytime you want!"**
- CIRCUMSTANCES ARE STRATEGICALLY PLACED TO MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR A GIRL TO LEAVE
- At the same time they use threats, violence, emotional abuse, and humiliation to psychologically break a victim down ("breaking") - and then become the very person to build her back up, making her self worth and self esteem based on how he sees her.



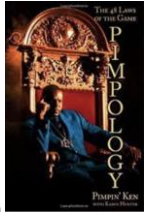


PIMP TACTICS





PIMP TACTICS



"The first thing you need to do is get the bitch to fall in love with you. The second thing you need the bitch to do is depend on you- financially, emotionally, psychologically ect. Once you've done the first two steps, it's pimp or die. You tell that bitch how it's going to be. She might push back, but if your game is tight you talk your way through it.

At the end of the day if a bitch both loves you and NEEDS you, she will gladly give you 100% of your money rather than lose you."- Pimpin' Ken



PIMP CONTROL

Pimps lay down the law up front about encounters with law enforcement - "don't drop my name, I'm the one bailing you out."

Pimps want to be a phantom figure in their own operation to the outside world while victims pick up charges and take the heat








PIMP CONTROL



Pimps create a new world for victims




They create a sense of omnipotence: "Everyone is in his back pocket"

This leaves a victim feeling as if there is no one to help them and that everyone is a part of the game and against her.



VICTIMS

Psychological effects from pimp control negatively affect interaction/cooperation with service providers... that is **NORMAL!**




VICTIMS

Why identifying and working with victims is difficult

- Not self identifying due to lack of knowledge or normalization of exploitation
- Loyalty to Pimp
- Fear/ threat of violence
- Dependency on Pimp
- Distrust of Law Enforcement or other service providers
- Self blame due to brainwashing from pimp
- Mental health issues including PTSD equivalent to war veterans/ needs equivalent to 10 DV victims

VICTIMS


Victim Advocacy: How to Engage



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WORKING WITH VICTIMS


- Build rapport/trust. Ask question like "what do you need?"
- Never make promises you aren't 100% sure you can keep!
- Humanize them and "get on their level".
- Avoid victim blaming, "should" statements, and patronizing
- EXPECT recanting and changed stories - pimps give girls scripted stories to regurgitate so that might come out first



FOR THE SILENT

WORKING WITH VICTIMS

- Be on the lookout for threats - other people in the life whose control she is under (her "fam")
- Separate her from others (she is likely to feel safer to outcry if she is alone)
- Don't bad mouth the pimp/use her language
- Inquire about "boyfriend" using motivational interviewing tactics
- Be familiar with street terms



FOR THE SILENT



VICTIM INTERVIEW CONSIDERATIONS

- Look for comfortable space with no physical barriers
- Depending on policy, do not videotape or audiotape initial conversation
- Prepare questions prior to your interview
- Use informal conversation
- Use NGO offices if possible, or "soft rooms"

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING
COALITION

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HAMBURGERS OR HOT DOGS?

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SECRETS



- YOUR ROLE AS LAW ENFORCEMENT
- How do we measure success?
 - Take a VICTIM CENTERED APPROACH
 - Take a closer look and look beneath the surface.
 - Help build and prosecute crimes at state and federal levels.
 - Know and Use existing Federal and State laws to interdict Human Trafficking
 - Begin building partnerships
 - Look "Beneath the Surface"
 - Most importantly – Check your ego at the door

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MOVING FORWARD...

- Do not take a stance that you are investigating prostitution crimes, you are investigating Human Trafficking.
- Understand that the victims will seldom cooperate, or self identify. IT DOES NOT MAKE THEM CRIMINALS.



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