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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **A CONVICTED FELON ARMED WITH A FIREARM WAS ARRESTED AND CHARGED AFTER HE TRIED TO RECRUIT AN UNDERCOVER POLICE OFFICER TO WORK FOR HIM AS A PROSTITUTE**

**ANAHEIM, Calif.** (December 16, 2024) – A 35-year-old Stockton man has been arrested by Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force (OCHTTF) Investigators and charged by the Orange County District Attorney's Office after he tried to recruit an undercover police officer on social media to work for him as a prostitute.

During November and December of 2024, OCHTTF Investigators, working in an undercover capacity, communicated with a man, later identified as 35-year-old Lawrence Henderson, via social media. During the communications, Henderson attempted to recruit the undercover officer, who was posing as a woman, into working for him as a prostitute.

On December 11, 2024, Henderson agreed to meet the decoy victim in Orange County and drove from the San Francisco Bay area. When Henderson arrived at the pre-arranged location, he was arrested by OCHTTF Investigators. Henderson was in possession of a loaded firearm that was equipped with a high-capacity magazine. An additional loaded 50-round drum magazine was found in Henderson's vehicle.

Henderson was booked at the Anaheim Police Department's Detention Facility for attempted pimping, pandering, possession of a firearm by a felon, possession of ammunition by a prohibited person, and a parole violation.

## ORANGE COUNTY HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

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On December 13, 2024, the Orange County District Attorney's (OCDA) Office charged Henderson with PC 266i(a) – Pandering, PC 664(a)/266h(a) – Attempted Pimping, PC 29800(a)(1) – Possession of a Firearm by a Felon, PC 25850(a) – Carrying a Loaded Firearm in Public, PC 30305(a)(1) – Possession of Ammo by a Prohibited Person, PC 32310(c) – Possession of a High-Cap Magazine, and PC 148(a)(1) – Resist/Obstruct a Police Officer. Henderson remains in custody and is being held in lieu of \$500,000.

This investigation illustrates the commitment of the OCHTTF and partnering agencies in combatting human trafficking in Orange County. The OCHTTF is co-chaired by the Anaheim Police Department and Waymakers. The lead agencies for the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force also include the California Highway Patrol, Garden Grove Police Department, Irvine Police Department, Santa Ana Police Department, Orange County District Attorney's Office, Orange County Probation Department, Orange County Social Services Agency, The Salvation Army, U.S. Attorney's Office, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

For more information about the OCHTTF, visit <https://www.ochumantrafficking.com>.

A critical component of the OCHTTF is the OCDA's HEAT Unit, which targets perpetrators who sexually exploit and traffic victims for financial gain, including pimps, panders, and human traffickers. The HEAT Unit uses a tactical plan called PERP: **P**rosecution, to bring justice for victims of human trafficking and hold perpetrators responsible using Prop 35; **E**ducation, to provide law enforcement training to properly handle human trafficking and pandering cases; **R**esources from public-private partnerships to raise public awareness about human trafficking and assist the victims; and **P**ublicity, to inform the public and send a message to human traffickers that this crime cannot be perpetrated without suffering severe consequences.

Under the law, human trafficking is described as depriving or violating the personal liberty of another person with the intent to affect a violation of pimping or pandering. Pimping is described as knowingly deriving financial support in whole or in part from the proceeds of prostitution. Pandering is the act of persuading or procuring an individual to become a prostitute or procuring and/or arranging for a person to work in a house of prostitution.

If you or anyone you know has been a victim of human trafficking, you can contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline at (888) 373-7888 or contact your local law enforcement department.

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Lawrence Henderson

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