



# PRESS RELEASE

CITY OF MURRIETA  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

[www.murrietapolice.org](http://www.murrietapolice.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DATE: February 1, 2024

## Prostitution and Anti-Human Trafficking Operation

**Murrieta, CA** – On Wednesday, January 24, 2024, the Murrieta Police Department, in partnership with the Riverside County Anti-Human Trafficking Taskforce (RCAHT), conducted a proactive enforcement operation that targeted online prostitution and those whose demand for these unlawful activities fuels an illicit underground economy, both locally and across the State of California. Dubbed Operation Rebuild & Reclaim, this multi-agency statewide initiative focused on rescuing victims of sexual slavery and human trafficking, identifying and arresting their captors, and disrupting demand for these vulnerable victims. Operation Rebuild & Reclaim is timed to coincide with National Human Trafficking Awareness Month (January) and serves as a reminder that human trafficking will not be tolerated in our City, County or State.

During the Murrieta operation, five males were arrested for solicitation of prostitution. Prostitution is not a “victimless” crime. Human trafficking is the second largest criminal enterprise in the world. Ninety-five percent of sex trafficking victims are women or children. Those victimized by commercial sexual exploitation frequently have long histories of emotional, physical, and/or sexual abuse or trauma in their backgrounds. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimates one in six endangered runaways reported are likely victims of sex trafficking. Sex trafficking victims are often subjected not only to severe forms of emotional, physical, and sexual abuse at the hands of their trafficker but are also frequently physically and sexually assaulted by those that solicit them for prostitution.

Our partners at the Riverside County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force seek to disrupt and dismantle sex trafficking rings operating within Riverside County and will aggressively identify, pursue, and apprehend those who seek to exploit those who are most vulnerable. Through proactive enforcement operations such as Reclaim and Rebuild, RCAHT and the Murrieta Police Department are working hard to reduce future demand for sex trafficking by identifying and arresting sex buyers.

Anyone with questions about this operation can contact Sergeant Jay Elliott or Corporal Jason Jones at (951) 696-3615.

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