

LaSalle County Sheriff's Office

Press Release

May 10th, 2019

LaSalle County Sheriff Tom Templeton released information today regarding a joint undercover investigation by the LaSalle County Sheriff's Office and the TRIDENT Drug Task Force into prostitution in the LaSalle County area with the assistance of the Ottawa Police Department and the Peru Police Department. The investigation was conducted on three separate dates, starting back in December 2016. This first investigation targeted the prostitutes. As a result of the first portion three females were arrested for prostitution (previously issued press release- 12/15/16)

The second portion of this investigation took place on March 14th, 2019 and April 4th, 2019 at locations in Ottawa and Peru. This portion targeted the people soliciting the sex acts, also called "Johns". The subjects were interviewed and released on these dates. Upon completion of the investigation, reports were prepared and forwarded to the LaSalle County State's Attorney's Office for review. As a result of the second part of the investigation, 8 people were charged with Solicitation of a Sexual Act (Class a Misdemeanor), and one person was charged with Solicitation of a Sexual Act, Attempted Solicitation of a Sexual Act (Class B Misdemeanor) and Battery (Class A Misdemeanor).

All subjects were issued (mailed) a Notice to Appear with a court date of May 31st, 2019 at 9:00am.

The following people were charged:

Richard A. Olson DOB 01/01/53, Sandwich, IL. Solicitation of a Sexual Act

Raul Barajas DOB 12/21/78, Peru, IL. Solicitation of a Sexual Act

Dustin A. Meredith DOB 07/04/89 Streator, IL. Solicitation of a Sexual Act

Joseph P. Hanley DOB 02/17/62 Earlville, IL. Solicitation of a Sexual Act

Wiley M. Sawyer DOB 02/27/01 Waterman, IL Solicitation of a Sexual Act

James G. Schaefer DOB 06/25/65 Peru, IL. Solicitation of a Sexual Act

Richard Peradotti DOB 05/13/63 Peru, IL. Solicitation of a Sexual Act

Alphonso T. Thompson DOB 10/05/85, Streator, IL Solicitation of a Sexual Act

Roger C. Bolin DOB 05/11/54 Buda, IL Solicitation of a Sexual Act

Attempted Solicitation of a Sexual Act

Battery

This investigation was initiated after receiving complaints from Illinois Valley citizens regarding prostitution. This investigation was aimed at deterring both parties involved in prostitution and highlight the dangers prostitutes and "Johns" face when they engage in such activity. This undercover investigation focused on the link between prostitution and the use of illegal drugs in this area and the crimes that are directly related to it such as robbery, battery, homicide, etc...

Before this operation, Agents spoke with several self-admitted drug addicted women during recent drug investigations and learned that the Illinois Valley's problem with prostitution is very closely tied to the growing drug addiction crisis.

Some of the females in the Illinois Valley are not working in the sex trade by choice, but rather because they struggle with substance abuse and addiction and are attempting to fuel a devastating drug habit. Many of these women are stuck in a cycle of drug addiction that is an on-going crisis in our community. Our goal is improve the safety and quality of life in the community and hopefully deter people from engaging in this type of activity and push them to get help for their addictions.

Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.... And further investigations are possible