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Man receives prison sentence for the commercial sexual exploitation, assault of woman

Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that on October 26, 2018, Tamir Smith, 22, received an eight year prison sentence following a human sex trafficking investigation that was conducted by the Portland Police Bureau.

"This sentence demonstrates the commitment we have towards aggressively prosecuting those who traffic victims to sex buyers, reducing demand for exploitation in all forms to include a dedicated focus on a reduction of sex buyers and ensuring adequate protection and support for victims of human trafficking," said Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Botthof, who prosecuted this case and who is assigned to the Human Trafficking Team within the District Attorney's Office. "The trauma, both physical and emotional, Tamir Smith inflicted upon this victim will be forever lasting. Unfortunately, the severe violence along with the manipulation we saw in this case is all too common in the human sex trafficking industry."

On September 7, 2018, Smith appeared before Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Jerry B. Hodson and pleaded guilty to one count of assault in the second degree, one count of tampering with a witness and two counts of promoting prostitution.

This investigation began on February 3, 2018 when patrol officers assigned to the Portland Police Bureau responded to a residence near Rocky Butte Park on the reports of a disturbance. During this investigation, law enforcement learned the victim had been forced into human sex trafficking. The investigation revealed that Smith had the victim working at multiple strip clubs to find individuals who would pay for sex. Law enforcement also learned Smith assaulted the victim on multiple occasions. One of the most serious assault occurred the day Smith was arrested.

Court documents state that Smith used a rock to hit the victim in the head approximately seven times and called her derogatory names while she fell to the ground. Witnesses who spoke with police reported Smith then began slamming her head into the street where he punched the victim repeatedly.

The investigation also revealed that Smith took the victim to California in November of 2017 for her birthday. While there, Smith began to support and facilitate commercial sex acts. Law enforcement learned Smith posted advertisements on Backpage.com. In one instance, the victim made several thousands of dollars after performing sex acts at the direction of Smith. Law enforcement learned Smith received all of the money. Upon returning to Oregon, the victim was directed by Smith to continue to engage in acts of human sex trafficking. Smith posted additional advertisements on Backpage.com and continued to have the victim work as a dancer at several strip clubs.

In early December 2017, Smith became upset with the victim because she reportedly did not make enough money and was unwilling to wait for additional sex buyers. The investigation revealed Smith stopped the vehicle he and the victim were traveling in, threatened to kill her, and choked her for about seven seconds. During this time, the victim was unable to breathe.

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office Human Trafficking Team recognizes sex trafficking is not isolated to one socioeconomic group. The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office Human Trafficking Team includes two attorneys, an investigator and a victim advocate. Additionally, an attorney assigned to the MCDA gang unit is available to help prosecute cases and support the team as trafficking routinely intersects with gang violence. The MCDA Human Trafficking Team works closely with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Portland Police Bureau's Sex Trafficking Unit and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

If you are, or know of a child or an adult, involved in sex trafficking in immediate danger, please call 9-1-1.

#MCDA#

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