



GREGORY D. TOTTE
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Andrea Haney
Title: Senior Deputy District Attorney
Telephone: 805-654-3087
E-mail: Andrea.haney@ventura.org

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Human Trafficking Investigation Results in Conviction

VENTURA, California - District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that Anthony Wilfred Diaz (DOB 06/23/81), of Las Vegas, Nevada, was sentenced following a guilty plea to charges of attempted human trafficking, pimping, and possession of a firearm by a felon. Two victims were alleged in the complaint.

In the last week of January 2020, law enforcement officers from around the State of California participated in a joint investigation known as “*Operation Reclaim and Rebuild*.” The goal of this operation was to identify crimes of human trafficking, pimping, and pandering within Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura counties, and to rescue and provide resources to the victims. Law enforcement officers from the Ventura County Sheriff’s Office Ventura Police Department, Santa Paula Police Department, Oxnard Police Department, San Luis Obispo Sheriff’s Office, Santa Barbara Sheriff’s Office, California Highway Patrol, and the Ventura County District Attorney Bureau of Investigation participated.

The charges against Diaz stemmed from incidents which took place on January 31, 2020, in the City of Newbury Park. During a surveillance operation, Ventura County Sheriff’s Deputies observed Diaz engaged in conduct consistent with pimping. An adult female was rescued from the hotel room and provided with resources. A search of the room uncovered a loaded firearm with a high capacity magazine. While in custody, Diaz attempted to traffic a second victim by threatening her to have her infant taken from her if she refused to engage in prostitution to provide money for Diaz’s bail and attorney.

Judge Michelle Castillo sentenced the defendant to a total term of 8 years in prison for the crimes he committed. Diaz will be required to register as a sex offender under Penal Code section 290. .

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 280 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and other professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.

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