



# **HAWTHORNE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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Suitable For Public Dissemination

*Hawthorne Police arrest 10 people on an undercover operation targeting street prostitution.*

On Friday June 26, 2009, HPD Officers conducted a reverse "John sting" on Imperial Highway targeting "customers" looking to pick-up prostitutes. The sting resulted in the arrest of 10 people for soliciting acts of prostitution to undercover female officers posing as prostitutes.

This operation, along with an increased uniform presence along Imperial Highway is part of an ongoing fight to eliminate street prostitution in the area.

On a related arrest the same evening (not part of the 10), a person was arrested when he attempted to extort money and sexual favors from a female who the suspect called after finding her dog in the area.

The female's dog had gotten away from her home and was loose in the area when she received a phone call from a male who claimed to have the dog. He apparently got her number that was on the dog tag.

He first demanded cash. When she told the suspect she didn't have enough money at the moment, he instead demanded sexual favors from her in exchange for the dog.

He arranged to meet her at the McDonalds parking lot located at Imperial Highway and Hawthorne Blvd. He was there with the dog, but the victim's father and police met the suspect. He was arrested and the dog was returned to the owner.

Prior to his arrest, the suspect was loitering near our above mentioned John sting. It appeared he was trying to contact our undercover officer but the undercover officer at the time was speaking with a "customer" and there was another customer also waiting "in line."

The arrested suspect is a registered sex offender and is currently on parole.



ALFREDO DEMPKEY  
27 yrs old, from Lancaster