HAWTHORNE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE

Issued March 7, 2011 *Suitable For Public Dissemination*

Prostitution Enforcement

Beginning the week of February 21, 2011, officers from the Hawthorne Police Department's Special Operations Bureau and Patrol Bureau have focused enforcement efforts on a prostitution problem identified within the City. This effort comes as a result of recently voiced complaints voiced by members of the community.

Since February 21st, the Department has arrested a total of 11 prostitutes and one pimp. Stay away orders, making it unlawful for prostitutes to return to areas in which they were arrested, are being sought against all 11. To date, the judicial system has granted stay away orders on four of the suspected prostitutes. The other cases are still actively being processed in the court system.

On Friday, March 4, 2011, officers from the Hawthorne Police Department, working under the direction of the Department's Special Operations Bureau, conducted a "John" sting near the intersection of Hawthorne Blvd. and Imperial Highway. The operation was conducted between 11:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. During that time, 13 men were arrested on suspicion of solicitation of prostitution.

Undercover female police officers posing as prostitutes, walked the sidewalks in areas where the Department had received complaints about prostitution. After passing motorists propositioned the undercover officers, an arrest team nearby would make contact with the "John" and place him under arrest. One of the men arrested offered drugs in exchange for sex (although no narcotics were found on his person). Of the 13 men placed under arrest, six are believed to be Hawthorne residents.

The Hawthorne Police Department will continue with these enforcement efforts at various times throughout the year. Anyone with information on prostitution related activity is asked to contact the Hawthorne Police Department at (310) 349-2700.

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