



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

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**PRESS RELEASE**

8/10/17

**HANFORD HUMAN TRAFFICKER SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS**

On August 10, 2017, in the Visalia Division of the Tulare County Superior Court, Judge Kathryn Montejano sentenced Bryan Walker, age 21, of Hanford, to 20 years in state prison for sex trafficking. Walker previously pleaded no contest on June 26, 2017, to five felony counts of human trafficking of a minor and one count of felony pimping of a minor. He also admitted a special allegation that the trafficking was done for the benefit of a criminal street gang.

Walker was one of seven defendants who were charged with offenses related to a human trafficking ring that spanned across Tulare and Kings counties. Six of the defendants were charged in Tulare County and one was prosecuted by Kings County. With Walker's sentencing, three of the defendants have now completed the court process and been sentenced. Andre Stitt was previously sentenced to two years and eight months in state prison and Jelinajiane Almario was sentenced in Kings County in July to thirteen years in state prison.

On May 12th, 2016, Walker was arrested by Porterville Police Department for trafficking a 17-year-old minor in the city of Porterville. He had posted advertisements with her photographs on the internet for the purpose of prostituting the minor. Following Walker's arrest, investigators from the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Tulare County District Attorney's Bureau of Investigations, and the Hanford Police Department conducted numerous interviews and wrote over a dozen search warrants and discovered that Walker was working in conjunction with several other members and associates of a gang out of the city of Hanford. The human trafficking ring transported girls from Hanford to Visalia and trafficked them across motels in Tulare County from April 2016 through May 2016. As a result of the investigation the seven defendants were charged and a total of eight minor victims and one adult victim were identified.

In addition to his sentence, Walker must register as a sex offender for life.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Stacy Plantier of the Crimes against Children Division and investigated by Porterville Police Detective Anthony White, Hanford Police Detective Jason Gustin, Kings County Gang Taskforce Officer Nate Estrada, Federal Bureau of Investigation Agent Josh Ratzlaff, and Tulare County District Attorney Investigator Martha Rodriguez.

*Media inquiries can be directed to the Office of the District Attorney, County of Tulare  
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