



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## San Diego Police Make Felony Arrest in Suspected Prostitution Investigation

**San Diego** – Working to address illegal prostitution and human trafficking in the City of San Diego, the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) arrested a 19-year-old man last night for the suspected prostitution of a woman on Dalbergia St. in Barrio Logan.

SDPD's VICE Unit, along with Southeastern Division officers, were conducting an undercover counter-prostitution operation last night when they witnessed a vehicle drop off a woman in the 3500 block of Dalbergia St.

Based on the detective's training, experience, and observation, they initially believed the woman may be a minor as well as in the area for the specific purposes of prostitution. Officers were able to gain additional information that then led them to conduct a traffic stop on the man, identified as 19-year-old Makiyah Hunter of San Diego.

Officers conducted a traffic stop on Hunter and arrested him for pimping and pandering (PC 266(h)a and 266(i)a) for his alleged role in recruiting, managing, encouraging and financially benefitting from prostitution.

The woman, later determined not to be a minor, was offered resources and a ride home to ensure her safety. The investigation into this case is ongoing.

In addition to large-scale, joint-agency operations, like <u>Operation Better Pathways</u>, to combat human trafficking and prostitution, SDPD has continual operations to address pimping and illegal sex buying activities and guide victims toward resources.

The burden of proof required to arrest for certain sex work-related crimes creates an additional challenge for law enforcement. If residents have information related to these activities in their neighborhoods, please contact SDPD at (619) 531-2000.