

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SEASIDE MAN CONVICTED OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 13, 2017

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced that yesterday a jury of five women and seven men found Jerry Nickens Stringer, Jr., 28, of Seaside, guilty of two counts of human trafficking, two counts of pandering, two counts of possession of child pornography, one count of using a minor to perform commercial sex acts and two counts of sexual exploitation of a child.

In their testimony, the victims described events occurring June 9, 2015 through June 11, 2015. The two seventeen year old girls, then in Sacramento, accepted a ride from Stringer, "a friend of a friend," to go to the beach on the Monterey Peninsula and visit friends. However, Stringer instead drove the girls to East Market Street and Kern Avenue in Salinas and coerced them to walk the streets and offer sex for money. Stringer also transported the girls to his mother's apartment in Seaside where he posed and photographed the victims in sexual positions. Stringer then used these photographs to create advertisements soliciting for sex on a website called Backpage. Stringer then rented a local Seaside motel room for the victims to exchange sex for money from persons responding to the ad.

Both victims, now 19 years old, told the jury how one young man answering the advertisement responded by buying them food and offering to help them get away. The following day, when Stringer transported the girls back to East Market Street area for further prostitution, the girls took the opportunity to call the young man. He advised them to walk to Hartnell College to hide among the student body until they could get help. Once at Hartnell College, a family friend accepted their call and agreed to pick them up.

The victims did not report to law enforcement until one of the girls confided to a counselor at Planned Parenthood one week later. Stringer was arrested by the Seaside Police Department on August 16, 2015. Pornographic photos of both girls were discovered on his cell phone.

After the jury's verdicts, Judge Julie R. Culver in a court trial found the defendant had a prior conviction for robbery committed on May 14, 2009, which constitutes a felony strike prior under the three strikes law.

Stringer is next scheduled to appear before Judge Culver on August 3, 2017, when the defendant faces a maximum sentence of 40 years 8 months in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The case was investigated by Det. Michael Rivera of the Salinas Police Department and Det. Eduardo Enriquez of the Seaside Police Department.