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The Justice Coalition's


Victims' Advocate

A free newspaper supporting victim's rights published monthly by The Justice Coalition. The opinions of contributing writers are not necessarily those of the Justice Coalition's Victims' Advocate or the Justice Coalition. The Justice Coalition's Victims' Advocate welcomes both editorial and photographic submission, but they cannot be returned. Please allow six weeks for a response to submitted works. Calendar information is welcome but must be submitted one month in advance of the event.

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Attempting to 'break the chain'



From the Director

by Ann Dugger

When Sheriff John Rutherford asked the Justice Coalition to partner with him in promoting Operation Showdown by publishing pictures of individuals arrested for prostitution and solicitation of prostitution, we knew it would be controversial and create tremendous consternation for those involved. **The Sheriff hopes this action will break the chain of supply and demand.**

The publicity surrounding the March issue of the Victims' Advocate far surpassed the amount of coverage our 35,000 copies would have given. We've received numerous calls from citizens giving feedback on both sides of the issue, but even more from those wanting to know where they can get a copy of the paper.

Some of the calls have been heartbreaking, such as a mother who pleaded with Ted Hires not to publish her son's picture. One woman wanted to "be there" for a friend if her husband's picture was included. An angry caller insisted that the policewomen are actually prostitutes who literally "grabbed" the men and pulled them out of their cars. A woman, who said she is a professional entertainer, came into our office, cursed our volunteer, threatened to sue us and accused the policemen of being drunk and pawing her to entrap her for the offense.

We understand these reactions but, as we've explained repeatedly to those who will listen, there is an even greater problem than someone being embarrassed. The sex trade destroys the fabric of our civilization. It kills – morally and physically. Men and women who break their marriage vows destroy their families. Sexually transmitted diseases (including AIDS)

passed from one to another eventually find their way to the unknowing wives and unborn babies and perhaps other children at home.

Prostitutes ply their trade because men want their services and the women need the money (for the most part) for drugs. They work in areas where drug dealers abound and so do other forms of crime – robberies and murders. Legitimate businesses suffer because most people don't want to frequent high-crime areas.

We urge the citizens of Jacksonville to support the Sheriff's Operation Showdown as his officers seek to curtail the sex trade in our city and make it a safer place to live. **And we ask you to give us your opinion** – should sex trade solicitors be publicized? Write us at the Justice Coalition, 6304 San Juan Avenue, Jacksonville 32210, fax us at 904/783-4172, or email us at justice@justicecoalition.org. We welcome your response.

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