

Operation Showdown is Underway

JSO Vice Squad seeks to curtail sex trade

By Shirley Shaw

Following at a discreet distance, maybe a block or two away, we listened intently as undercover detective Thomas pulled up beside a woman on the street and asked, "You want a ride?"

Getting into the van, which was wired so the other officers could hear and tape conversations, she immediately questioned if he was a cop. He said, "no," and asked if she was. She offered to prove she wasn't wired and requested he do the same. Adroitly avoiding this issue, he continued the conversation and within a

minute or two had struck a deal with the woman – oral sex for \$25.

Transmitting verbal cues to his team, Thomas discussed a location with the woman to perform the "trick," and four other detectives (wearing masks to conceal their faces) in two more covert vehicles quickly

converged to make the arrest. The woman was distraught, denied making a deal for sex and pleaded with the officers to let her go. The men treated her kindly and chided her for being back out on the street. They had seen her before.

This scenario was repeated several more times that evening

as the detectives trolled known areas favored by street prostitutes and hustlers (men who will provide sexual favors for either gender). One arrested that night was a good-looking young man with a wife and children at home. One woman said she had been thrown out of her home after fighting with her husband. Another said her purse was stolen and she needed money for her methadone treatment the next day. Some were almost hysterical while others stood quietly, resigned to being arrested. All were seeking to earn a few quick dollars.

Getting firsthand information

I was riding that night with Sergeant John Anderson, head of the JSO Vice Squad, and five other detectives on his team, observing their ongoing efforts to at least curtail the sex trade in Jacksonville. It's quite a challenge. The men point out there's a reason prostitution is known as the world's oldest profession: supply and demand, pure and simple.

When the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office asked the Justice Coalition to publish in the *Victims' Advocate* pictures of sexual offenders arrested during Operation Showdown – the Sheriff's initiative against guns, drugs and prostitution – I began researching the impact of prostitution on our city. In addition to reading the informative 2000 Sex Trade Report* on the Jacksonville Community Council's website, I wanted to interview people directly involved with this "business."

JSO Director George Lueders asked Sgt. Anderson to call me, and it was soon apparent that he could provide any information and resources I needed. I was delighted when he unexpectedly invited me to ride along with his team one evening, so there I was. That night I saw a segment of life I'd only heard or read about, and I came away filled with a mixture of sadness for those involved in this sordid industry and admiration for the officers who seek to stem the flood of crime the business entails.

Most women solicit sex because of the need for drugs – Anderson says at least 99.9 percent. I spoke with a

Sex trade in Jacksonville, Page 11

Shame, Shame, Shame

DISCLAIMER—The persons shown below were arrested for the crimes listed. At the time of publication of this issue, they have NOT been convicted of the crime for which they were arrested. This information does not in any way imply or infer guilt or any actions or activities other than their arrest.

PROSTITUTES



Name: Alana D. Joiner
Offense: Offering for Prostitution
Date of Arrest: 01/26/04
Location of Arrest: 3800 W. 30th St.



Name: Maribelle Colom
Offense: Soliciting for Prostitution
Date of Arrest: 01/28/04
Location of Arrest: 6900 Lenior Ave.



Name: Amanda G. Johnson
Offense: Offering for Prostitution
Date of Arrest: 01/26/04
Location of Arrest: 1100 Liberty St.



Name: Jamal Williams
Offense: Procuring for Prostitution
Date of Arrest: 01/26/04
Location of Arrest: 1100 Liberty St.



Name: Bridgette Eads
Offense: Soliciting for Prostitution
Date of Arrest: 01/28/04
Location of Arrest: 6900 Lenior Ave.



Name: Donalyn Sherman
Offense: Soliciting for Prostitution
Date of Arrest: 01/28/04
Location of Arrest: 6900 Lenior Ave.



Name: Janice Tolliver
Offense: Offering for Prostitution
Date of Arrest: 01/26/04
Location of Arrest: 1100 Liberty St.



Name: Annette Salas
Offense: Offering for Prostitution
Date of Arrest: 01/26/04
Location of Arrest: 1100 Liberty St.

JOHNS



Name: Larry A. Crossley
Offense: Soliciting for Prostitution
Date of Arrest: 02/12/04
Location of Arrest: 3300 N. Main St.



Name: Joseph W. Atmore III
Offense: Soliciting for Prostitution
Date of Arrest: 02/14/04
Location of Arrest: 3300 N. Main St.



Name: Marvin Hearman
Offense: Soliciting for Prostitution
Date of Arrest: 02/14/04
Location of Arrest: 3300 N. Main St.



Name: Alfonso D. Wilson
Offense: Soliciting for Prostitution
Date of Arrest: 02/12/04
Location of Arrest: 3300 N. Main St.



Name: Denoris Stills
Offense: Soliciting for Prostitution
Date of Arrest: 02/14/04
Location of Arrest: 3300 N. Main St.



Name: Brian J. Styles
Offense: Soliciting for Prostitution
Date of Arrest: 02/14/04
Location of Arrest: 3300 N. Main St.



Name: Wayne W. Caudill
Offense: Soliciting for Prostitution
Date of Arrest: 02/12/04
Location of Arrest: 3300 N. Main St.



Name: Jeffery S. Mattox
Offense: Soliciting for Prostitution
Date of Arrest: 02/14/04
Location of Arrest: 3300 N. Main St.



Name: Randall E. Smith
Offense: Soliciting for Prostitution
Date of Arrest: 02/14/04
Location of Arrest: 3300 N. Main St.



Name: Joseph C. Kayal
Offense: Soliciting for Prostitution
Date of Arrest: 01/21/04
Location of Arrest: 7300 N. Main St.



Name: Reginald V. Overstreet
Offense: Soliciting for Prostitution
Date of Arrest: 01/21/04
Location of Arrest: 7300 N. Main St.



Name: Michael L. Scott
Offense: Soliciting for Prostitution
Date of Arrest: 01/21/04
Location of Arrest: 7300 N. Main St.



Name: Carlos Bailey
Offense: Soliciting for Prostitution
Date of Arrest: 02/14/04
Location of Arrest: 3300 N. Main St.



Name: Robert J. Kalina
Offense: Soliciting for Prostitution
Date of Arrest: 01/21/04
Location of Arrest: 7300 N. Main St.

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