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D.A. BROWN: "CRAIG'S LIST" PIMP AND PROSTITUTE CONVICTED
OF PROSTITUTING 18-YEAR-OLD NORTH CAROLINA COED

Face Up to 7 - 15 Years in State Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a pimp and a female accomplice have been convicted of promoting the prostitution of a North Carolina college student – in part by uploading her photo onto the “Craig’s List” website – in January 2006.

District Attorney Brown said, “The defendants have been found guilty of luring their young victim from her home in North Carolina with promises of the easy life and introducing her to rap celebrities. Instead, her dream quickly disintegrated into a nightmare as she was assaulted, threatened with death and put to ‘work’ in the sex trade. As too many young girls learn too late, prostitution is not a victimless crime but a terrifying and despicable offense against society practiced by callous jackals who enslave young women without hope and victimize them one day at a time.”

The District Attorney identified the defendants as Carlton “Privilege” Simons, 25, of 227-33 113 Drive in Queens, and Shernett “Divine” Reevey, 24, of 5821 Sunset Chase in Charlotte, North Carolina. Following a seven-day jury trial in Queens County Supreme Court in Kew Gardens, Simons was convicted of second-degree promoting prostitution and Reevey was convicted of third-degree promoting prostitution. Acting Supreme Court Justice Barry Kron, who presided at trial, set sentencing for October 25, 2007, at which time Simons faces up to fifteen years in prison and Reevey faces up to seven years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to trial testimony, on January 10, 2006, Simons befriended the teenage victim at her school, a local community college in Charlotte, North Carolina, and later introduced her to Reevey, who he reportedly said made \$200 an hour by going on dates with men. Simons then told the victim that he was an agent who worked with escorts and porn stars and that if she accompanied him and Reevey to New York, he would take care of her and her infant son, buy her clothes and introduce her to rap celebrities – such as L’il Jon, the East Side Boyz, Trick Daddy and Diddy. Instead, once in New York on January 20th, the victim was physically and verbally abused, forced to pose for provocative photographs (which were uploaded onto Craig’s List) and to prostitute herself. On one occasion, Simons showed her a purported “pimp rule book,” which stated that she “needed to obey her daddy (a/k/a pimp).”

The defendants then, according to testimony at trial, forced the 18-year-old victim to work for them as a prostitute between January 22-24, 2006 at the Holiday Inn Express, located at 153-70 South Conduit Avenue in Jamaica, Queens, and at a “track” (a known prostitution location frequented by prostitutes and their customers) that extended from Lexington Avenue to Park Avenue on 48th Street in Manhattan and to give Simons all the money she earned prostituting herself. On January 25, 2006, Simons told the victim that a customer had made an appointment (through Craig’s List) to see her at the Holiday Inn Express. That afternoon, an undercover police officer posing as a customer went to the hotel and met with the victim, who informed him that one hour of sexual intercourse would cost \$200.

The two defendants were immediately arrested and search warrants were obtained for the hotel room, Simons’ car and the computer that was used to upload the victim’s photo onto Craig’s List. Execution of the search warrant on Simon’s car resulted in the seizure of the “Pimp’s Rule Book.” At the time of his arrest, Simons was wearing a belt buckle which spelled out “PIMP.”

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The case is part of a recent enforcement initiative by the City – Operation Guardian – that targets pimps who lure children into prostitution and sexually exploit them. Operation Guardian has three components:

- A team in the District Attorney’s office dedicated to attacking child prostitution using tough enforcement techniques that have been used successfully against other criminal enterprises;
- A new partnership with Mount Sinai Hospital’s Sexual Assault Victims Intervention (SAVI) program to provide around-the-clock support to sexually exploited children who cooperate with prosecutions and send day or night SAVI counselors to child victims at hospitals or police stations; and
- A new residential placement facility outside the City to provide care, protection and rehabilitation for victims of child prostitution and ensure a safe haven with a multiple social services under one roof.

The investigation was conducted by Detectives Anthony DiCarlo and Frank Rizzo, of the Queens Vice Enforcement Squad, under the supervision of Sergeant Peter Auerback and Captain Michael E. Amari and the overall supervision of Inspector James P. O’Neil, Vice Enforcement Division, in conjunction with the District Attorney’s Special Proceedings Bureau.

Assistant District Attorney Stephen M. Dixon-Gordon and Jennifer S. Michael of the District Attorney’s Special Proceedings Bureau prosecuted the case, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Anthony M. Communiello, Chief, and Oscar W. Ruiz, Deputy Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Linda M. Cantoni.

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Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted on www.queensda.org