



**SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT**

155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**DATE/TIME:** June 10, 2011 8:30 P.M.

**LOCATION:** Torch Lite Inn 500 Riverside Ave, Santa Cruz

**TOPIC:** Juvenile Prostitution Arrest

**CASE NUMBER:** 11S-04675

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**SUSPECTS:**

1. Juvenile Female – 16 Years, from Sacramento, CA

Charges: Soliciting Prostitution and a warrant

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**INFORMATION:**

The Santa Cruz Police Department Street Crimes Unit, working in conjunction with the FBI task force, “Innocence Lost”, received a tip of a 16 year old female advertising/soliciting for prostitution in Santa Cruz, on a Website. Included in this advertisement posting were nude pictures of the 16 year old. The 16 year old was out of the Sacramento area and currently on probation in that County. There was also an outstanding warrant for her arrest out of Sacramento County.

Street Crimes Officers posed as a customer and arranged a date with the 16 year old. She directed them to a room at the Torch Lite Inn, in Santa Cruz where she was conducting her business. Officers met the juvenile at the room and arrested her on the outstanding warrant and for a new charge of soliciting for prostitution. She was booked into Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall.

In follow up investigation, Officers learned the room was rented by a different (older) female. In booking the room, the motel failed to follow the guidelines of Santa Cruz Municipal Code Section 5.12.020(b) which requires verified identification be taken and kept on file with the reservation. As a result, Officers have yet to determine who actually rented the room for the 16 year old juvenile. The motel staff was cited for violating the Municipal Code Ordinance.

The Santa Cruz Police Department Street Crimes team has been addressing an increased problem of prostitution originating from out of the area and coming to Santa Cruz to conduct business. Intelligence information indicates that many Central Valley and Sacramento area gangs are using prostitution as a means for support, and are responsible for this latest trend. Oftentimes the gangs use underage females as the prostitutes as well as Websites to advertise and post their solicitations. The Santa Cruz Police Department Street Crimes Unit will continue to target crimes involving the exploitation of juveniles for this purpose.

For additional information, contact: Deputy Chief Steve Clark

Phone: (831) 420-5815

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To Leave ANONYMOUS information regarding this incident, please call our TIP LINE (831) 420-5995