



LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Walt McNeil, Sheriff

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www.leoncountysos.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Date: February 26, 2025

Operation Resolution: Leon County Sheriff's Office Arrests 19 Individuals

As part of its ongoing commitment to combat sex trafficking and exploitation, the Leon County Sheriff's Office spearheaded a multi-agency operation over two days in January. Operation Resolution aimed to deter the purchase of potential human trafficking victims. As a result, the Capital City Human Trafficking Task Force, comprised of LCSO, Homeland Security Investigations, and Florida Department of Law Enforcement, was responsible for the arrests of 19 individuals, 49 contacts for solicitation, 80 contacts for human trafficking of juvenile victims, and multiple ongoing investigations.

"This operation sends a clear message to those involved in the illegal sex trade: we are committed to protecting our community from exploitation. Our Special Investigations Unit (SIU) is to be commended for identifying, recovering, and stabilizing the victims of human trafficking and bringing predators to justice, making our communities safer," said Sheriff McNeil.

Of the 19 individuals arrested in connection with Operation Resolution:

- A suspect, an oncology surgeon and college professor, has been charged with soliciting or procuring another to commit prostitution.
- A suspect, an undocumented male, currently held by ICE, has been charged with soliciting or procuring another to commit prostitution.
- A suspect, a guardian at a local elementary school, has been charged with soliciting or procuring another to commit prostitution.
- A suspect, a volunteer firefighter from a neighboring county, has been arrested for soliciting or procuring another to commit prostitution.
- Two suspects, who traveled from Louisiana for work, have been arrested for soliciting or procuring another to commit prostitution.

If you believe you or someone you know is or may be a victim of human trafficking, contact the Leon County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Unit at (850) 606-3300.



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