



NEWS RELEASE

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A CONVICTED FELON WAS ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH HUMAN TRAFFICKING AFTER INVESTIGATORS LOCATED & RECOVERED A MISSING MINOR

ANAHEIM, Calif. (May 5, 2025) – A 23-year-old Hawthorne man has been arrested by Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force (OCHTTF) Investigators and charged by the Orange County District Attorney's Office for human trafficking after OCHTTF Investigators recovered a 17-year-old girl who was reported missing from Orange County.

On April 28, 2025, OCHTTF Investigators received information from the Irvine Police Department regarding a 17-year-old girl who was reported missing from her Irvine residence and was possibly being exploited for purposes of commercialized sex. The OCHTTF assumed the case, immediately launched a human trafficking investigation, and began searching for the missing girl.

On April 29, 2025, OCHTTF Investigators located the missing girl and her trafficker, 23-year-old Alex Polidore of Hawthorne, together in Los Angeles. OCHTTF Investigators arrested Polidore and ultimately booked him into Anaheim Police Department's Detention Facility for a parole violation and several human-trafficking-related offenses.

On May 1, 2025, prosecutors from the Orange County District Attorney's Office HEAT (Human Exploitation and Trafficking) Unit charged Polidore with PC 236.1(c) – Human Trafficking of a Minor. Polidore remains in custody and is being held in lieu of \$1,000,000.

This investigation illustrates the commitment of the OCHTTF and its partnering agencies in locating and identifying victims of pimping or human trafficking. The Anaheim Police Department and Waymakers co-chair the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force. The lead agencies for the

ORANGE COUNTY HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

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Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force also include the California Highway Patrol, Garden Grove Police Department, Irvine Police Department, Santa Ana Police Department, Orange County District Attorney's Office, Orange County Probation Department, Orange County Social Services Agency, The Salvation Army, U.S. Attorney's Office, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security. For more information about the OCHTTF, visit <https://www.ochumantrafficking.com>.

A critical component of the OCHTTF is the OCDA's HEAT Unit, which targets perpetrators who sexually exploit and traffic women and underage girls for financial gain, including pimps, panderers, and human traffickers. The HEAT Unit uses a tactical plan called PERP: **P**rosecution, to bring justice for victims of human trafficking and hold perpetrators responsible using Prop 35; **E**ducation, to provide law enforcement training to properly handle human trafficking and pandering cases; **R**esources from public-private partnerships to raise public awareness about human trafficking and provide assistance to the victims; and **P**ublicity, to inform the public and send a message to human traffickers that this crime cannot be perpetrated without suffering severe consequences.

Under the law, human trafficking is described as depriving or violating the personal liberty of another person with the intent to affect a violation of pimping or pandering. Pimping is described as knowingly deriving financial support in whole or in part from the proceeds of prostitution. Pandering is the act of persuading or procuring an individual to become a prostitute or procuring and/or arranging for a person to work in a house of prostitution.

If you, or anyone you know has been a victim of human trafficking, you can contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline at (888) 373-7888 or contact your local law enforcement department.



Alex Matthew Polidore

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