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Man Arrested During Multi-Agency Undercover Operation Has Been Found Guilty of Pimping and Pandering

People v. Willie Donte Brown: Kern County Superior Court Case BF189948A

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant human trafficking conviction. In a case presented by Deputy District Attorney Brad Taconi, a Kern County jury found Willie Donte Brown guilty of one count of Pimping and one count of Pandering.

Between April 20 and April 23, 2022, the Kern County District Attorney’s Office alongside a joint task force comprising Special Agents from Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Secret Service, and detectives from the Bakersfield Police Department (BPD) and Kern County Sheriff’s Office conducted an undercover operation targeting human trafficking, pimping, pandering, and commercial sexual exploitation.

In this case, officers were able to observe the interactions between the commercial sex worker victim and the defendant, Brown, who acted as her pimp. A marked patrol unit from the BPD located and detained Brown as he waited for the victim to complete the transaction. Contact with Brown revealed that he possessed the victim’s identifying and important documentation.

Further investigation revealed that Brown had been encouraging, assisting, and providing direct support and protection for the victim in exchange for monetary benefits. A review of text messages sent between the victim and the defendant showed that the money she made would be turned over to Brown and used for him to fund his lifestyle.

It was also found true after trial that the defendant has previously suffered a strike conviction, that his prior convictions as an adult are numerous or of increasing seriousness, that he has previously served a prior term in prison, and that his prior performance on probation or parole was unsatisfactory.

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; “Pimps prey on vulnerable individuals, employing various tactics to force them into performing sexual acts for their own personal gain. This horrifying cycle leads to false promises, violence, and tragic endings. I am proud of law enforcements’

joint efforts in protecting our community.”

Sentencing is set for December 6, 2023, in the Kern County Superior Court before the Honorable Judge Marcus Cuper. Brown faces a sentence of up to 12 years in prison.

Willie Donte Brown:

