

PROSTITUTION IMPACT PANEL



NEIGHBORHOOD PROSECUTION AND COLLABORATIVE COURTS UNIT CRIMINAL DIVISION

PS&LN Presentation

- Introduction and Background
- Neighborhood Prosecutors
- Collaborative Courts, Alternative Sentencing Programs and Partnerships
- Prostitution Impact Panel
- Survivor of the Streets
- Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts

Criminal Division

- Approximately 18,000 cases reviewed and 13,000 cases issued in 2014
- Overall conviction rate of 88.6% for cases that went to trial from the General Trial Unit in 2014
- Overall conviction rate of 96.1% for the DV and Sex Crimes Unit in 2014



Neighborhood Prosecutors

- Neighborhood Prosecutors staff SDPD Divisions
- Approximately 600 cases reviewed each month
- Liaison with SDPD and other law enforcement
- Community outreach and engagement



Collaborative Courts, Alternative Sentencing Programs & Partnerships

- Community Justice Initiative
- Homeless Court & Stand Down
- Behavioral Health Court
- Veteran's Treatment Court
- Beach Area Community Court
- SIP/HOT
- Hate Crimes Coalition
- Prostitution Impact Panel
- Survivor of the Streets
- San Diego County CSEC and Human Trafficking Advisory Council
- San Diego Human Trafficking Task Force
- VICE

Prostitution Impact Panel



Prostitution Impact Panel

- PIP is an alternative sentencing option for first-time consumer side (johns) prostitution offenders
- Eligible misdemeanor defendants who choose to participate in PIP plead guilty to their original offense and are sentenced
- If the defendant completes PIP and the HIV/AIDS education and testing, he can withdraw his plea and reenter a guilty plea to a reduced charge

Prostitution Impact Panel

The Prostitution Impact Panel (PIP) is a community prosecution approach to:

- Reduce prostitution
- Improve the quality of life for residents
- Reduce recidivism through education
- Empower former sex workers and sex buyers to choose a better life



Prostitution Impact Panel

- In 2002, the first PIP program was held in Mid-City
- Panels are held quarterly as an alternative to punishment
- A response to chronic neighborhood public safety concerns that diminish the quality of life in the community
- Educates offenders about the far-reaching detrimental impacts and harsh realities of prostitution on San Diego communities
- Empowers the community by giving them a *voice* in the criminal justice system

Prostitution Impact Panel

- Offenders are asked to consider whether prostitution is a victimless crime
- Defendants appear before a series of panelists including:
 - Community Members,
 - Former Prostitutes,
 - Former “johns” from Sex Addicts Anonymous,
 - Health Care Worker,
 - Social Service Worker, and
 - SDPD Vice Detective.



Prostitution Impact Panel

- PIP is organizationally stable and sustainable
- PIP is effective in reducing recidivism among men arrested for soliciting prostitutes and other related offenses
- Approximately:
 - 97 percent of participants do not reoffend
 - 1,376 participants since 2002
 - 38 offenders reoffended



Participant Feedback

“Now I understand how [prostitution] is not a victimless crime and it can affect someone’s life until they die.”

“I never thought much about the impact on the persons who sell themselves for money out of desperation.”

“PIP made me more aware of the victims involved.”

“It could be anyone[’s] daughter.”

Survivor of the Streets

- SOS is an alternative sentencing option for first-time seller side prostitution offenders
- Eligible misdemeanor defendants who choose to participate in SOS plead guilty to their original offense and are sentenced
- If the defendant completes 7 SOS meetings, or alternatively, 7 hours of counseling, and the HIV/AIDS education and testing, she/he can withdraw her/his plea and reenter a guilty plea to a reduced charge

Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts

- San Diego Regional Human Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Advisory Council
- San Diego Human Trafficking Task Force
- Training provided to City Departments



QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS