



Minneapolis' strategy for fighting prostitution in the city

Prostitution is a crime that diminishes a community's sense of safety and impacts a neighborhood's livability. The City of Minneapolis Police Department and City Attorney's office are collaborating on several new initiatives to more effectively address prostitution in Minneapolis.

More undercover details

Minneapolis Police community response teams are increasing the number of undercover details in targeted precincts as part of the Police's Project Safe Summer strategy. Community response teams will conduct undercover details every few weeks, with a focus on prostitution "patrons." Police will continue to seize vehicles of those arrested for soliciting prostitution.

Tough prosecutions

Whenever a person is arrested for prostitution in a public place, a school zone or a park zone, the police will book the person into jail on a probable cause gross misdemeanor prostitution charge, rather than a "tagging" them or issuing a citation for a misdemeanor (the maximum penalty for a gross misdemeanor is: 1 year in jail and/or a \$3,000 fine; the maximum penalty for a misdemeanor is: 90 days in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine). Absent any mitigating or aggravating circumstances, the City Attorney's Office will seek a guilty plea to a gross misdemeanor prostitution charge. If the defendant qualifies and voluntarily participates in a diversion program, the City Attorney's Office will agree that the court could stay adjudication of that guilty plea for two years on the condition that the defendant commits no (same or similar) offenses and the defendant completes the diversion program.

Posting photos on the Web

A photograph, along with bio information, will be posted on the City's Web site of anyone convicted of soliciting a prostitute since March 15, 2004. These photographs will be posted on the City's Police Department Web site and will remain posted for six months after the conviction.

Collaboration with the Community

- Minneapolis Police are working with PRIDE (from Prostitution to Independence, Dignity and Equality), a program that works to help women and teenagers get out and stay out of prostitution. Minneapolis Police in the 3rd Precinct set up a referral process, so that whenever a prostitute is arrested, PRIDE is notified so they can make contact with the prostitutes to try to help them get off the streets.
- Minneapolis Police are working with NAG (Neighborhood Action Group), a group of women who are concerned about prostitution in the area and are doing patrols and providing information to the police.