



CITY OF
FORT LAUDERDALE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE

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FORMER COACH
ARRESTED

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department Special Investigations Division received information in reference to a former teacher who was believed to be recruiting hundreds of adult and juvenile females for Sex Trafficking.

This suspect was identified as James Sylvester Ross, W/M, 02/22/51, last known to be a resident of the City of West Park.

Detectives learned that Ross would primarily contact students while he was a coach at Broward Christian School. Broward Christian School is located at 1101 Southwest 49th Avenue in the City of Plantation. Detectives also learned that Ross was last employed by Broward Christian School in 2001.

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department Human Trafficking Unit conducted an undercover operation where an undercover female detective posed as a sixteen-year-old who had been exploited for commercial sex acts. During the course of multiple phone calls and text messages, Ross engaged in sexually explicit conversations with this undercover detective.

Ross then arranged for another undercover detective, who was posing as a potential prostitution client, to meet the female juvenile (undercover detective) and her friend. Ross told the potential client (undercover detective) that he could have sex with the juveniles in exchange for money, and that he would make arrangements for the three to meet.

Ross arranged for the group to meet at the Dunkin Donuts located at 3280 Davie Boulevard in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Ross was taken into custody and charged with the following;

- ✓ One Count of Procuring a Minor for Prostitution
- ✓ One Count of Unlawful Use of a Two-Way Communication Device

A preliminary examination of the defendant's property revealed that he had over three hundred (300) index cards each listing a different female's first name, descriptive characteristics of the female, a contact telephone number and the individual's hobbies or interests.

Detectives are initiating contact with the individuals listed on these cards, in an effort to identify possible additional victims.

If anyone has any information regarding similar incidents they are encouraged to contact Detective John Gaul at 954-828-6692 or Broward County Crime Stoppers at 954-493-TIPS.



James ("Coach") Sylvester Ross
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