

Interactions with The San Diego Union-Tribune

“San Diego may increase penalties for buying sex, expand program that aims to educate ‘johns’”

Feb. 24, 2023

Question:

I watched last week’s committee hearing on changes to the program. I’m writing a story and my editor wanted me to add one detail that wasn’t covered at committee (unless I missed it.)

This will only be a small footnote in the story, but she wanted me to ask what happens to prostitutes who get arrested. Is there a similar education program for them? What size fine do they pay? Do they serve jail time?

Response:

Yes. An individual charged with Penal Code section 647(b)(1), may be offered pre-plea diversion where the individual completes 10 hours of counseling sessions on topics intended to prevent recidivism in exchange for a dismissal of the case. We would not charge an individual whom we believe is the victim of sex trafficking or was otherwise coerced. In addition, the City Attorney operates Your Safe Place, which provides trafficking victims and their families with the services and resources necessary for rehabilitation and a new beginning.
