



Riverside County District Attorney

CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE

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JURY CONVICTS MORENO VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER ON 23 OF 26 FELONIES

RIVERSIDE – Today, Feb. 8, 2013, a Riverside County jury found a Moreno Valley Unified School Board member guilty on 23 of the 26 felonies he faced, including pimping and pandering.

Mike Luis Rios, DOB: 4-1-70, of Moreno Valley, was charged in this case with 26 felonies including rape and pimping and pandering involving six victims – including two underage girls. The number of counts dropped from 35 to 26 when, at the conclusion of the trial, Superior Court Judge Gary Tranbarger dismissed nine of the pandering counts leaving just one pandering count connected to each of the six victims. Pandering is the attempt to get someone to work as a prostitute while pimping is deriving proceeds from someone working as a prostitute. In this case, three adult women worked for Rios as prostitutes. One other adult woman and the two juvenile girls did not. Other counts charged involve Rios filing false insurance claims following a car vehicle accident.

The jury found Rios guilty of 12 counts of pimping, six counts of insurance fraud, and five of the six pandering counts. The jury found him not guilty of one of the rapes and hung on the second rape count. They also hung on one of the pandering counts related to one of the underage girls. Jurors deliberated about a day before reaching their verdicts.

Judge Tranbarger remanded Rios into custody immediately following the reading of the verdicts on Friday. Rios is scheduled to be sentenced on March 8, 2013, in Dept. 61 at the Hall of Justice in Riverside.

An investigation by the Riverside County District Attorney's Office revealed that Rios used a variety of means to try to get the four women and two girls to work as prostitutes for him. He told at least one woman that he was a member of the Moreno Valley school board and asked her if she needed a job. Another woman answered an Internet advertisement for a job. Rios offered one of the juvenile girls the use of his Hummer vehicle if she would work for him. He met the other juvenile through an Internet ad she had placed for prostitution and Rios offered her the use of his vehicle and his house if she would work for him as a prostitute.

Rios also has another pending case, RIF1201429, in which he is charged with two counts of attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon and influencing testimony by bribe. That case is pending trial and the next court date is for a trial readiness conference on April 12, 2013, in Dept. 64.

Both cases are being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Michael Brusselback of the DA's Professional Standards Unit of the Special Prosecutions Section.