



Riverside County District Attorney

CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE

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MORENO VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER SENTENCED IN PIMPING, PANDERING CASE

RIVERSIDE – Today, March 8, 2013, a Riverside County Superior Court judge sentenced a Moreno Valley Unified School District board member to 14 years, four months for pimping, pandering and insurance fraud.

Mike Luis Rios, DOB: 4-1-70, was convicted by a jury on Feb. 8, 2013, on 23 felonies: 12 counts of pimping, six counts of insurance fraud, and five pandering counts. Pandering is the attempt to get someone to work as a prostitute while pimping is deriving proceeds from someone working as a prostitute. Three adult women worked for Rios as prostitutes. One other adult woman and two juvenile girls who Rios tried to have work for him as prostitutes did not. The insurance fraud counts involve Rios filing false insurance claims following a vehicle accident.

An investigation by the Riverside County District Attorney's Office revealed that Rios used a variety of means to try and get the victims 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 was sentenced by Judge Gary Tranbarger, who presided over the trial.

Rios has a 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.