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NEWS RELEASE



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Florida Man Charged in Sex Trafficking Case

VENTURA, Calif. - On April 20, 2023, Arayveion Edwards (DOB 05/13/97), from Florida, pled not guilty at arraignment in the Ventura County Superior Court. Edwards is charged with six felony counts, including human trafficking, pimping and possession of an unregistered loaded firearm and high-capacity magazines.

On April 18, 2023, officers with the Ventura Police Department contacted Edwards regarding an alleged stolen vehicle. During that contact, a female with Edwards pleaded with officers for help. Edwards is accused of bringing the victim from Florida to California and forcing the victim to engage in commercial sex work by using violence and psychological coercion. He is also charged with being in possession of a loaded unregistered firearm and high-capacity magazines at the time of his arrest.

Deputy District Attorney Rikole Kelly, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation Unit, is the prosecutor handling the case.

An early disposition conference is scheduled for May 1, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 12 of the Ventura County Superior Court. Edwards is being held in the Ventura County Jail on \$250,000 bail.

Case 2023009471

Defendant Information:

Arayveion Edwards (DOB 05/13/97)
Transient from Florida

Charges:

- PC 236.1(b) - Human trafficking
- PC 266h(a) - Pimping
- PC 266i(a) - Pandering
- PC 25850(c)(6) - Possession of a loaded, unregistered firearm
- PC 32310(a) - Possession of a high-capacity magazine
- VC 10851(a) - Unlawful taking and driving a vehicle