



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 1, 2017

Contact: Maxine Doogan (415)-233-2680 sextraffickingalaska@gmail.com

Community United for Safety and Protection Media Advisory Announcing New Survey Results Shows Alaskans' Priorities Regarding Sex Work and Sex Trafficking

a

Community United For Safety And Protection (CUSP) makes available new survey results that shows priorities for law enforcement and wasting scarce public funds

Juneau, AK - The Community United For Safety And Protection (CUSP) announces the release of a new survey showing the definitive priorities of Alaskans regarding prostitution and sex trafficking. The survey includes responses from 904 Alaskans from all spectrums of political affiliation and was conducted December of 2016.

Highlights of the survey include 44.9% of Alaskans think that Investigating cases of murdered or missing sex workers is a priority while processing Alaska's backlog of rape kits coming in a close second at 37% with Arresting adults for prostitution was in the single digits. 58% said that spending resources on prostitution arrests in Alaska should stop.

One of the larger numbers showed that 92% respondents were unaware that police officers were able to have sexual contact or intercourse with women before arresting them for prostitution, with 90% agreeing that activity should be against the law.

A 2013 bill made it illegal for police to have sex with those in their custody, but there is a loophole where police are able to have sex with those they are investigating for prostitution under the guise of rescuing them as sex trafficked victims.

“The survey results leave no question that sexual assault by law enforcement as an investigative tool has to stop, said Maxine Doogan of CUSP. “We must legislate to make clear the public’s priorities when it comes to public safety, that sexual contact with vulnerable women should be a criminal act under Alaska Statutes.”

Last year’s passing of SB 91 included model legislation that said Alaskans can no longer be charged with sex trafficking themselves, but more importantly sex workers can now report violent crimes when they’ve been victims or witnesses without the fear of being charged with prostitution.

The fact is that sex workers have been telling their stories about their encounters with bad apple law enforcement agents and many of those first hand accounts are available for the public on CUSP’s website <http://sextraffickingalaska.com/category/listen-to-us/>

A former sex worker told her story on KTVA’s news show on January 31, 2017:
<http://www.ktva.com/legal-loophole-lets-undercover-officers-sex-prostitutes-group-alleges-365/>

With the state’s crisis budget issues looming, the survey found that a solid majority of Alaskans don’t want state resources being wasted arresting consenting adults for prostitution. “The misuse of funds should be stop” said Terra Burns of CUSP “we are just trying to do our part to help lawmakers understand that there are options to reduce spending in one area to better focus on catching actual sex traffickers.”

*Report on Survey

Community United For Safety And Protection (CUSP) is a group of current and former sex workers, sex trafficking victims, and our allies, working towards safety and protection for all people in Alaska’s sex industry.

###