

MEDIA ADVISORY

What: Attorneys for Jane Doe/ Celeste Guap filed a federal civil rights law suit against the City of Richmond and its police officers, including the Chief of Police.

Where: United States Northern District Court –San Francisco California Case No.: 3:17-cv-04804

When: August 17, 2017

Who: Attorney John L. Burris, Law Offices of John L. Burris and Attorney Charles Bonner, Law Offices of Bonner and Bonner

PRESS STATEMENT

Attorney John Burris and Co counsel Charles Bonner filed a federal lawsuit against Richmond City Police officers, including the chief of police and other supervisors, alleging that members of the Department victimized and exploited a teenage sex worker. Burris said that supervisors and other ranking officials turned a "blind eye" to police officers who were sexually active with the victim. Burris believes that the Richmond officers were part of a cabal of officers from at least 5 departments who all engaged with impunity in various sex acts with Jane Doe while she was a minor and beyond, sometimes on duty and always acting in their capacity as police officers.

All the officer knew or should have known that Jane Doe was a severely emotionally damaged sex worker and instead of providing assistance to the minor, she was passed around amongst the officers as if she were a "slave" and available at their beck and call. Most egregious was that the Richmond officers all knew she was a sex worker yet they received sexual benefits from her in exchange for street protection, especially in the area known as the "blade". Most of these officers were married with children. Yet they acted like "immoral frat boys" out to have a good time at the expense of the young woman who needed help not, further victimization.

Additionally, the Department attempted to cover for the officers' misdeeds and their lack of supervision by sending Jane Doe against her wishes to Florida ostensibly for drug abuse treatment.

The complaint sets forth the conduct of each officer's sexual interaction with Jane Doe, listed as follows:

Police Chiefs, Chris Magnus and Allwyn were the Chiefs of Richmond Police during the time the City's Officers sexually exploited and abused her. They failed to discipline or hold their officers accountable until after media attention was trained on the department.

Lt. Brian Dickerson was the head of the Richmond Police Department's Internal Affairs Division. He was responsible for disciplining officers for violations of policy and the law. Despite the officers' open and notorious conduct Chiefs Magnus and Allwyn and Lt. Dickerson failed to discipline the officers until the officers' exploits were reported in the media.

Lt. Andre Hill met Jane Doe when she was in high school. He would drive by Jane Doe's home and tell her to flash him while she was standing in the front picture window of her home.

Richmond Police Officer Terrance Jackson befriended Plaintiff when she was a high school student at the high school he was assigned to patrol. Despite being aware that she was being sexually exploited he failed to offer any assistance. Instead, he asked to come visit her at her home. He arrived in full police uniform on duty. While at her home he told her to show him her breasts. When she did, he groped her breasts.

Officer Armando Moreno met Jane Doe while he was on duty. Shortly after meeting Jane Doe he feigned interest in connecting her with resources to help her escape the sex trade. Instead, he gained her confidence and then began exploiting Jane Doe for his own personal pleasure. To that end, he had sex with her multiple times in the Church parking lot down the street from her home in exchange for protection and confidential police information.

Officer Mike Rood knew Jane Doe was being sex trafficked. Nevertheless, he took advantage of Jane Doe by coercing her to engage in sexual relationships with him. Officer Rood fed his sexual appetite by having Jane Doe participate in his foot fetish in exchange for protection.

Officer Jerred Tong met Plaintiff online. While he did not initially reveal he was a police officer he later told Jane Doe he was a school resource officer at the very same high school Jane Doe attended. He visited Jane Doe at her home while on duty. He repeatedly exploited Jane Doe by exchanging oral sex with her on multiple occasions in cars in front of her house.

Burris said the officers' conduct is so reprehensible that all of them have forfeited their moral authority as police officers and should be terminated.

All questions should be directed to John Burris, 510 928 5392