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BRONX MAN SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR IN JAIL FOR PAYING 13-YEAR-OLD GIRL FOR SEX

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx man has been sentenced to one year in jail for paying a 13-year-old girl for sex.

District Attorney Clark said, "It's rare that someone who patronizes a prostitute gets jail time. This sentence shows we will not stand for this type of degradation of a minor. The defendant paid the victim, who was 13-years-old at the time, for sex. For his actions, the defendant will spend one year in jail."

District Attorney Clark said Steven Valdez, 29, of 3550 Bivona Street, pleaded guilty to Endangering the Welfare of a Child on June 27, 2018. He was sentenced today to one year in jail by Bronx Criminal Court Judge Bahaati Pitt.

According to the investigation, the defendant paid the 13-year-old sex trafficking victim for sex and also engaged in sexually graphic conversations, including talks about pricing for services. The connection between the defendant and the victim was confirmed by the complainant, as well as communications records obtained by the Bronx District Attorney's Office. The case derives from a November 2017 sentencing of a defendant who pimped young girls, including the 13-year-old victim who was paid for sex by Valdez.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Julia Gordon, under the supervision of Denise Kodjo, Deputy Chief of the Criminal Enterprise Bureau, and James Goward, Chief of the Criminal Enterprise Bureau, and the overall supervision of Stuart Levy, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division and Jean T. Walsh, Chief of the Investigations Division. District Attorney Clark thanked Detective George Munoz of the NYPD/FBI Joint Taskforce on Human Trafficking and Hubert Olszewski, Digital Forensic Examiner of the Bronx District Attorney's Office, for their assistance in the case.

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