



City of
OAKLAND
California

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News from: **Oakland Police Department**



For Immediate Release

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Oakland PD Participates in “Operation Cross Country VIII”

Oakland, CA – Operation Cross Country is a national enforcement action that is coordinated through the Innocence Lost National Initiative, which is a partnership between the FBI, local law enforcement partners, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

The FBI reports that six juveniles, who were being victimized through prostitution, were rescued throughout the Bay Area during Operation Cross Country, a three-day nationwide operation targeting commercial child sex trafficking. One juvenile was rescued in the Oakland portion of the operation.

The San Francisco division of the FBI and multiple local and state law enforcement participated in the operation from June 19 through June 21 in several Bay Area cities and counties, running a total of 14 local operations.

Oakland Police Chief Sean Whent said, “Human trafficking is one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises in the world. We often think of trafficking happening in other parts of the world. The sad truth is that it is happening here in U.S. cities every day. The Oakland Police Department is committed to combatting trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation through prevention, enforcement, community education and partnerships.”

As part of our ongoing effort to identify victims and arrest criminal offenders of human sex trafficking and child exploitation the Oakland Police Department rescued 20 trafficking victims last Saturday.

The OPD TIP LINE for the Child Exploitation Unit is (510) 238-2373.

To learn more about Operation Cross Country and the Innocence Lost National Initiative, visit www.fbi.gov, www.justice.gov, or www.ncmec.org. The U.S. Department of Justice press release for Operation Cross Country VIII is available at <http://oaklandnet.oakland.local/oak/groups/police/documents/webcontent/oak047767.pdf>.

Nixle Tip Watch allows ANONYMOUS tipsters to send OPD a tip three ways:

1. Text TIP OAKLANDPD to 888777 from your cell phone followed by your tip
2. Call our toll-free tip hotline at 855-TIPS-247 (855-847-7247)
3. Submit a tip by web form - see the option at the bottom of OPD's Nixle messages or visit <http://nixle.us/tip/oakland-police-department-ca/> to complete and send.

Anonymous Tipping allows residents to proactively connect with the Oakland Police Department by submitting anonymous tips via web form and text message. Additionally, with the issuance of a tipping passcode to tipsters, we can initiate a two-way, anonymous communication to help gather more information.

For more information, please contact the Media Relations Office at 510-238-7230 or opdmedia@oaklandnet.com.

Visit Nixle.com to receive Oakland Police Department alerts, advisories and community messages, or follow OPD on Twitter, @oaklandpoliceca.

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