

MEDIA RELEASE

Human Trafficking Investigation Leads to Two Arrests

March 10, 2020

Over the past several months, detectives from the Washington County Sheriff's Office have been investigating a sex trafficking case involving multiple victims, including a 17-year-old girl. Detectives from the Violent Crimes Unit learned 21-year-old Devanne Branderhorst met the victim online and knew she was a minor. Mr. Branderhorst then coordinated having the victim meet adult men who paid for sexual acts or sexually explicit content.

Mr. Branderhorst, of Sandy, also tried to traffick an 18-year-old woman who knew the 17-year-old victim. Detectives learned he sexually assaulted the 18-year-old woman in December 2019.

Detectives arrested Mr. Branderhorst on March 3. On March 9, a Washington County grand jury indicted him on the following charges:

- Compelling prostitution (four counts)
- Promoting prostitution (three counts)
- Unlawful sexual penetration in the first degree
- Sexual abuse in the first degree
- Sexual abuse in the second degree (two counts)

Detectives identified 74-year-old Robert Sunamoto, of Portland, as one of the men who met the underage girl via the website Seeking Arrangement (www.seeking.com). Mr. Sunamoto was arrested on March 4 on the following charges:

- Commercial sexual solicitation
- Providing liquor to a person under 21

Mr. Sunamoto was released the same day on his own recognizance pending a future court date. Mr. Branderhorst remains jailed, and his bail is set at \$750,000.

Detectives believe there are additional victims and would like to speak with anyone who has more information about Mr. Branderhorst or Mr. Sunamoto. If you have information, please call the Washington County Sheriff's Office at 503-846-2700.

The Sheriff's Office wishes to thank the advocates of [Safety Compass](#), which exists to offer support for survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and sex-trafficking. If you or someone know is a sex trafficking victim in need of assistance, you can call the Safety Compass 24-7 confidential support line at 971-235-0021 and be connected to an advocate.



SHERIFF
WASHINGTON COUNTY

MEDIA CONTACT: 503-209-5613

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