

## OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Michael T. Dougherty, District Attorney

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## **Press Release**

Following an intensive investigation by the Longmont Police Department and the District Attorney's Office, the District Attorney's Office today announced the indictment of three (3) adults for providing drugs to public school students in exchange for money and sexual acts. The investigation included the use of records and evidence obtained from social media, bank, and phone companies through the use of search warrants. Through these records and witness interviews, investigators uncovered a wide-ranging drug dealing operation by Mario Moreno, Angelo Torres, and Aldair Garcia Rodriguez. Specifically, these individuals would sell drugs, namely cocaine, MDMA, marijuana and marijuana concentrate, to students attending various public schools throughout the St. Vrain Valley School District. Further investigation revealed that Mario Moreno, Angelo Torres, and Aldair Garcia Rodriguez coerced underage women to perform sexual acts in exchange for drugs

The District Attorney's Office presented the case to the Grand Jury. On January 12, 2023, the Grand Jury returned indictments on Moreno, Torres, and Garcia Rodriguez. All three men are now in custody.

Mario Moreno was indicted on fifty-nine (59) charges, including: one count of an indeterminate F4 Sex Assault on a Child; four counts of F2 Human Trafficking of a Minor for Sexual Servitude; three counts of DF1 Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance; one count DM1 Possession of a Controlled Substance; two counts of DF3 Possession of a Controlled Substance with intent to Distribute; twenty-two counts of DF1 Distribution of a Controlled Substance to a Minor; seven counts of M3 Child Abuse; nine counts of F4 Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor; four counts of DF1 Special Offender; four counts of F4 Tampering with a Witness; one count F6 Possession of a Weapon by a Previous Offender; one count F3 Money Laundering; and one count F5 Tax Evasion. Mario Moreno is currently being held on a two million dollar bond. Based on the various charges, he faces a wide sentencing range to include a possible prison sentence of between six years and the rest of his natural life on the sexual assault on a child count, up to a forty-eight-year prison sentence on

each of the Human Trafficking of a Minor for Sexual Servitude counts, and varying prison sentences on the other felony charges of between 6 months and 32 years.

Angelo Torres was indicted on three charges, including: one count of F2 Human Trafficking of a Minor for Sexual Servitude; one count of F4 Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor; and one count DF1 Distribution of a Controlled Substance to a Minor. Angelo Torres is currently being held in custody on a bond of two hundred thousand dollars. He faces a sentence of up to forty-eight years in prison on the Human Trafficking of a Minor for Sexual Servitude charges, and prison sentences on the other felony charges of between 2 and 32 years.

Aldair Garcia Rodriguez was indicted on five charges, including: three counts of F2 Human Trafficking of a Minor for Sexual Servitude; and two counts of DF1 Distribution of a Controlled Substance to a Minor. Aldair Garcia Rodriguez is being held on a one million dollar bond. He faces a sentence of up to forty-eight years in prison on each of the Human Trafficking of a Minor for Sexual Servitude charges, and prison sentences on the other felony charges of between 8 and 32 years.

Longmont Police Department and District Attorney's Office are seeking additional victims. We encourage victims to contact Longmont Police Detective Daniel Kilian at 303-774-3693 or District Attorney Senior Investigator Edna Munoz at 303-441-1355. DA Senior Investigator Munoz specializes in human trafficking cases.

Longmont Police Chief Jeff Satur stated, "Longmont Detectives in the Special Investigations Unit undertook this investigation into adults selling multiple drugs to school-aged children that included hundreds of hours of surveillance, over fifty search warrants, and combing through thousands of lines of conversation in social media files. This investigation also uncovered the human trafficking of minors that was investigated by the Boulder County District Attorney's Office. The Longmont Police Department appreciates all our partners who helped with this investigation and our partnership with the Boulder County D.A.'s Office and their investigators. This was a significant and labor-intensive investigation. We are proud of our team. Their commitment to our community's well-being, the safety of the school–aged children, and the community's safety is second to none."

District Attorney Michael Dougherty stated, "With this drug distribution operation, these men targeted and preyed upon students. As illustrated by the charges of human trafficking and sex crimes, these men used narcotics to victimize young people. These indictments are the direct result of rigorous efforts by the Longmont Police Department and the outstanding teamwork between the investigators and prosecutors. Our office will continue to support the victims and our team is committed to fighting for the right result."

As in every criminal case, these charges are merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent unless or until proven guilty.