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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**YOLO COUNTY'S OWN "TO CATCH A PREDATOR" RESULTED IN THE
CONVICTION OF A SEXUAL PREDATOR**

Woodland, CA – August 14, 2008 - On August 11, 2008, a Yolo County jury convicted Todd Robert Dixon, 40, of Elk Grove, of pandering, for his actions on December 27, 2007 when he solicited a seventeen year-old girl in West Sacramento to have sex with him in exchange for money.

On December 27, 2007, Dixon called his friend's seventeen year-old stepdaughter on her cellular telephone. Dixon repeatedly asked the seventeen year-old girl if she wanted to make a "quick, easy \$200." The seventeen year-old girl quickly became concerned Dixon was soliciting her to have sex with him in exchange for money. When she ended the telephone conversation with Dixon, Dixon sent a text message to the seventeen year-old girl's cell phone. The text message read, "U with me 1 Night 200 or More." The seventeen year-old girl immediately notified her parents about Dixon's solicitation in the telephone conversation and text message. Her stepfather notified the West Sacramento Police Department.

The West Sacramento Police Department Community Response Team immediately became involved in the investigation. The Community Response Team is comprised of several officers from the West Sacramento Police Department to address crimes like this one. Sergeant Jason Winger, the supervisor of the team, created a game plan to catch Dixon. Very much like the NBC television show, "To Catch a Predator," Sergeant Winger directed an undercover officer to use the seventeen year-old girl's cell phone to respond to the text message Dixon sent to the seventeen year-old's cell phone. Dixon, believing he was corresponding with the seventeen year-old girl, stated he would get a room at a Motel 6 in West Sacramento. Throughout the evening, Dixon continued to correspond through text messaging with the undercover officer, believing she was the teenage girl. He sent a text message to the girl's cell phone once he checked into the Motel 6.

When the Community Response Team was in position at the Motel 6, the undercover officer, posing as the seventeen year-old girl, sent the final text message informing Dixon she had arrived. Much to Dixon's surprise, when he opened the door to the motel room he saw police officers, not his friend's seventeen year-old stepdaughter who he planned to meet and pay money to have sex with. The Community Response Team arrested Dixon. The officers found \$262 in cash in Dixon's pocket.

Ironically, when the officers went inside the motel room they saw Dixon had been watching the NBC television show "To Catch a Predator." Officers also found beer and sexual lubricant inside the motel room.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Tiffany Susz who works in the Special Victims Unit prosecuting child sexual assaults at the Yolo County District Attorney's Office. According to Deputy District Attorney Susz, "Fortunately, law enforcement caught Dixon before he victimized this seventeen year-old girl or another child. We commend the seventeen year-old girl for coming forward and the West Sacramento Police Department Community Response Team for its immediate response in catching this predator."

Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig commented, "Cases like this should remind us all that sexual predators like we see on television shows are here in our communities too. Parents, kids and communities need to be aware that technology like the internet and cell phones sometimes become the tools of these types of criminals. Thankfully, the victim in this case did exactly what she was supposed to do when she received the inappropriate text message - she told her parents."

Dixon faces a maximum sentence of 6 years in state prison. The Honorable Thomas Warriner will sentence Dixon on September 22, 2008.

For more information, contact District Attorney's Office 530-666-8356.

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