

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

March 13, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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John Spencer Convicted of 22 Counts Involving Sex Trafficking

Rochester, NY- Tuesday, March 13, 2018, a Monroe County Jury convicted 43-year-old John Spencer of eight counts of Sex Trafficking, three counts of Promoting Prostitution in the 2nd Degree, one count of Promoting Prostitution in the 3rd Degree, two counts of Assault in the 2nd Degree, three counts of Assault in the 3rd Degree, two counts of Robbery in the 2nd Degree, one count of Unlawful Imprisonment in the Second Degree, one count of Menacing in the Second Degree and one count of Permitting Prostitution.

From April 2015 through October 2016, John Spencer, also known as, Smurf, forced three different victims to sell themselves for his monetary profit. Spencer preyed upon these vulnerable victims, convincing them they needed his support for food and shelter while supplying them with illegal narcotics. After an in-depth investigation conducted by the New York State Police Special Investigations Unit, in which multiple victims were identified, John Spencer was arrested on August 25, 2017.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Elizabeth Buckley, Chief of the Sex Crimes Bureau.

“John Spencer is truly a monster who groomed his victims to believe that he not only cared about their well-being but convinced them that they required his protection to stay alive,” said Assistant District Attorney Elizabeth Buckley. “Sex trafficking is not just an international or big city problem, it happens right here in Monroe County. Sex trafficking also goes hand in hand with drug addiction. Victims are exploited by the dealers who feed that powerful addiction. These traffickers seek vulnerable victims with little support systems and use manipulation and physical assault to force them to engage in acts of prostitution. Thanks to the courage and resilience of the victims in addition to the outstanding work done by the New York State Police Special Investigations Unit, John Spencer will no longer prey on the vulnerable in our community. It is not easy for victims to break the cycle of abuse, but there are community organizations available to these individuals. If you or someone you know is a victim of sex trafficking, the Monroe County District Attorney's Office urges you to reach out to law enforcement as soon as possible.”

John Spencer will be sentenced in front of State Supreme Court Justice Alex Renzi on April 18, 2018, at 9:30AM.

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