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## **NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release  
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Janesville, WI – The Rock County District Attorney's Office announced that Ieem Currie, age 41, was found guilty earlier this week after a two day jury trial on charges of human trafficking, keeping a place of prostitution, maintaining a drug trafficking place, possession of cocaine with intent to deliver and child neglect. Currie was found not guilty of one count of human trafficking. Evidence at the trial showed that Currie exploited vulnerable young women by enticing them with free food, shelter, and drugs and then coerced them into giving him the money they received from acts of prostitution both inside and outside his home in Beloit. The evidence also showed that Currie exposed his young daughter to the drug and prostitution activities in his residence and allowed individuals to drive his young daughter to school while under the influence of drugs.

We would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Beloit Police Department in conducting the initial investigation into Mr. Currie's activities, particularly Amber Davies who was the lead investigator on the case. Our office would also like to recognize the assistance provided by the Town of Beloit Police Department, the Rock County Sheriff's Office as well as the Wisconsin Department of Justice, particularly Special Agent Jeffrey Berkley. Project Respect based in Madison, Wisconsin provided services to one of the human trafficking survivors and Andrea Ehret, the Victim Witness Coordinator for our office provided assistance to both the victims and witnesses in this case.

Mr. Currie, who was on parole and lifetime GPS monitoring as a result of a previous conviction for first degree sexual assault of a child at the time he committed these offenses, faces a combined maximum penalty of over 75 years in prison. His sentencing is scheduled for February 10, 2023. This was the first time in Rock County that a human trafficking case was tried before a jury. Our office believes that the case highlights the often unreported and misunderstood issues of human trafficking in our communities. Assistant District Attorneys Emmeline Lee and Gerald Urbik prosecuted the case.