

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Sex Workers, Harm Reduction Groups Educate About Super Bowl Sex Raids

News agencies should beware false claims made by law enforcement during prostitution raids

"We may have had certain precincts that were going gangbusters looking for prostitutes, but they were picking up your everyday street prostitutes. They didn't notice any sort of glitch in the number of prostitution arrests leading up to the Super Bowl." — Phoenix police Sergeant Tommy Thompson, following the 2008 Bowl, quoted in the [Phoenix New Times](#)

PHOENIX — Super Bowl LVII is coming back to Arizona, and Phoenix police are again using myths of forced labor in the sex trade as cover for harassment and arrest of sex workers. The Stop the Raids Committee 2023 calls for the halt of harmful prostitution arrests and street sweeps under the guise of stopping sex trafficking, and advises the news media to beware the claims made by law enforcement to justify them.

Every year, police departments use [long debunked claims](#) of sex trafficking at the Super Bowl to justify mass arrests of sex workers and clients. During these periods, police often use entrapment (even posing as children), or use misleading titles like "Human Trafficking Operation" to hide the fact that few if any arrests involve trafficking, in an effort to secure positive press coverage and more funding.

These raids are violent and dangerous. Sex workers in Arizona and elsewhere suffer assault, harassment, and abuse at the hands of law enforcement. We demand these dangerous and damaging raids by law enforcement be stopped! Adults should have the right to not have their private, consensual sexual activities criminalized.

The Stop the Raids Committee will be educating the public about the truth behind the Superbowl, including outside the Footprint Center on Feb 6. We welcome the chance to talk with the public and media about the truth behind the raids.

WHAT: Public and Media Education Action at Super Bowl LVII Opening Night

WHO: Stop the Raids Committee

WHEN: 5pm to 8pm, February 6, 2023

WHERE: The Footprint Center at 201 E Jefferson St, Phoenix, AZ 85004 – We will be located on the NW corner 1st St & Taurus Way. (Across the street from Fry's Food Store)



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