

# **Traffick Jam 2024**

## **Fight for Freedom: United Against Human Trafficking**

### **Law Enforcement Speaker Biographies**

#### **Vincent Zagorin**

Mr. Zagorin is a lead investigator with the Georgia Secretary of State's Office. Vincent's investigative portfolio is multifaceted: election fraud, securities complaints, charity complaints, and cemetery fraud.

Mr. Zagorin began his law enforcement career with the DeKalb County Police Department where he quickly moved up to detective. Vincent was the lead detective for the Crimes Against Property division and specialized in Motor Vehicle Thefts.

Mr. Zagorin has been the sole investigator and/or contributed to countless cases involving illicit massage businesses. His dedicated efforts have assisted in facilitating the closing of multiple illegal massage businesses.

Mr. Zagorin has worked with many local law enforcement agencies, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the FBI on taskforce cases with the goal of holding the right people accountable for the growing human trafficking epidemic.

#### **Jose Ramirez**

With 19 years of experience investigating and studying gangs, Mr. Ramirez serves as President of the Georgia Gang Investigators Association.

Mr. Ramirez was the Chief Investigator of Paulding County Judicial Circuit Instructor for Georgia Public Safety Training Center (Coordinator of Gang Courses) from 2019 to 2022. He is the former Commander of Operations and Interim Chief of Police for the Rincon Police Department. He has 23 years of law enforcement experience that includes working with the Savannah Chatham Metro Police, Chatham County DA's Office, Rincon Police Department, Georgia Department of Public Safety, Paulding District Attorney's Office.

Mr. Ramirez is a former Criminal Investigator for the Savannah Police Department / SCMPD (Robbery, Homicide, Gang Unit). He has served as an expert witness regarding Gang Identification, Investigations, and Prosecution. He currently serves as a gang instructor and consultant across the State of Georgia. He has several Georgia POST Instructor Certifications that includes the General Instructor First Aid /CPR Instructor, Below 100 Instructor, Defensive Tactics Instructor, CIT Instructor, Gang Resistance Education And Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Instructor Driving, and Use of Force Instructor.

Mr. Ramirez is member of the National Alliance of Gang Investigators Association, International Outlaw Gang Investigators Association, South Carolina Gang Investigators Association, and International Latino Gang Investigators Association.

#### **Lindsay Gardner**

Lindsay Gardner is a Senior Managing Attorney at the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI). She serves as the Prosecutorial Liaison to the GBI's Gang Task Force. She instructs on gang investigation/prosecution

and the GBI's Georgia Criminal Street Gang Database. Ms. Gardner possesses statewide authority to be sworn in as Special Prosecutor in complex gang prosecutions.

Ms. Gardner's legal career began as an intern in the Hardcore Gang Unit in the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office. Following law school in Los Angeles, she moved home to Georgia and served as an Assistant District Attorney (ADA) in the Gwinnett County District Attorney's Office. Later, Ms. Gardner served as an ADA in the Cobb County District Attorney's Office Special Victims Unit (SVU). After her work in SVU, she was promoted to a Senior ADA in Cobb County.

Ms. Gardner is a member of the Georgia Gang Investigator's Association and the International Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Investigators Association.

## **Tiffany Shayne Simpson**

Tiffany Simpson is a survivor of human trafficking. She was trafficked in her community by a violent man, a known criminal. Without her parents to raise her, the miniscule love that the trafficker offered her felt like kindness.

Ms. Simpson was physically and emotionally abused by her trafficker. She was wrongly prosecuted by the State of Georgia for trafficking one of her juvenile friends who was sold for commercial sex to some of the same men to whom Tiffany had been sold. In 2022, Georgia changed its vacatur law, allowing survivors convicted for crimes committed as a result of being trafficked, to file to vacate their conviction. She was released from her 30-year sentence in November 2022, after serving almost 11 years.

Ms. Simpson's case was featured in the Washington Post, showing the challenges experienced by human trafficking survivors who are prosecuted for crimes their trafficker forced them to commit. She attends the Wellspring Living Women's Academy and consults with Shared Hope International in its work educating criminal justice stakeholders in identifying trafficking victimization and offending conduct.