

# ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Prosecuting Human Trafficking Cases



# Limited Jurisdiction

- ▣ **State Grand Jury**
  - **Limited Jurisdiction**
  - **Powers and Duties → A.R.S. § 21-422**
    - ▣ **Organized Crime, Fraud and Terrorism**
      - **Title 13, Chapter 23**
        - **Illegal Control of an Enterprise A.R.S. § 13-2310**
        - **Money Laundering A.R.S. § 13-2317**
  - **Prostitution + Occurs in more than one County or affects the residents of another county**
  - **Sexual Exploitation of Children (Chapter 35.1) + Occurs in more than one County or affects the residents of another county**
- ▣ **We need jurisdictional hook!**

# Categories of Trafficking Cases

- (1) Traffickers
- (2) “Customers/ Johns” Seeking Minors
- (3) Illicit Massage Business (IMB)

## INDICTMENT

### CHARGING VIOLATIONS OF:

**COUNT 1: CONSPIRACY.** a Class 3 Felonv. in violation of A.R.S. § 13-1003

**COUNT 2: ILLEGALLY CONDUCTING AN ENTERPRISE.** a Class 3 Felonv. in violation of A.R.S. § 13-2312

**COUNT 3: MONEY LAUNDERING IN THE SECOND DEGREE.** a Class 3 Felonv. in violation of A.R.S. § 13-2317

**COUNT 4: OPERATING A HOUSE OF PROSTITUTION.** a Class 5 Felonv. in violation of A.R.S. § 13-3208

# Prosecuting a Trafficking Criminal Enterprise

- ▣ Conspiracy =
  - Individuals + w/intention to promote offense + agree + overt act
  - Class 3 Felony
- ▣ Illegal Control of an Enterprise
  - Two Types
    - ▣ Control over an illegal enterprise - OR -
    - ▣ Employed/associated with an illegal enterprise + conducts the illegal enterprises affairs through racketeering - OR -
    - ▣ Participates directly or indirectly knowing the enterprise is engaging in racketeering



# Prosecuting a Trafficking Criminal Enterprise

- ❑ Money Laundering, in the Second Degree
  - Acquires or maintains an interest in, transacts, transfers, transports, receives or conceals the existence or nature of racketeering proceeds knowing or having reason to know that they are proceeds of an offense.



## Proving a Criminal Enterprise & Conspiracy

- Social Media Searches
- Trash Pulls
- SW on Phones
- Surveillance
- Flipping co-defendants



9:30 and on for the day - Various people coming and going from studio [REDACTED]

10:43 P [REDACTED] arrives back at studio, now in business attire

11:52 P [REDACTED] leaves studio, BM in all white with Blu car (poss Chev) stays, been there earlier also

12:00 F [REDACTED] returns to studio

12:07 He finally exits vehicle and goes inside studio

12:16 S [REDACTED] out at 27 Ave/Montebello w/another girl

Gray Ford (T [REDACTED]) vehicle observed to be parked at house, backed in

12:18 P [REDACTED] looking out studio door and stands out front for a bit

12:21 Both girls contacted a lone male driver of a truck, then walked away

12:22 Both " [REDACTED] and wiggling it" at vehicles going by (per [REDACTED])

12:26 Whi BMW AZ/ [REDACTED] [REDACTED] approached both girls, they went N/B on E/S in front of studio and came back S/B after he left

12:36 Blu car w/driver BM all white clothing leaves

12:54 Gry Maserati [REDACTED] (rental) arrives at studio, BM driver in suit, BF passenger

13:24 Maserati leaves, goes to Red Roof Inn or Super 8 @ ISR

13:38 S [REDACTED] and other girl back at Montebello, P [REDACTED] looking that direction from studio door

Another 101 walking N/B, P [REDACTED] steps out to sidewalk, appears to try talking to her

Unk 101 w/S [REDACTED] left in Whi Prius, poss taxi

13:41 S [REDACTED] still out there, P [REDACTED] still looking out door

# Child Sex Trafficking

- ▣ **Sting Operations**
  - Defendant believes he is talking to a child and arranging to pay for a sexual encounter
  - Defendant believes he is speaking to a parent willing to sell a sexual encounter with a child



# Illicit Massage Business (IMB)

- ▣ What is an IMB
  - The appearance of legitimate massage business
  - In reality, offering sexual services in exchange for money
- ▣ Fueling commercial sex buying
- ▣ Potential for labor trafficking
- ▣ Likely involved in a larger, expansive criminal network

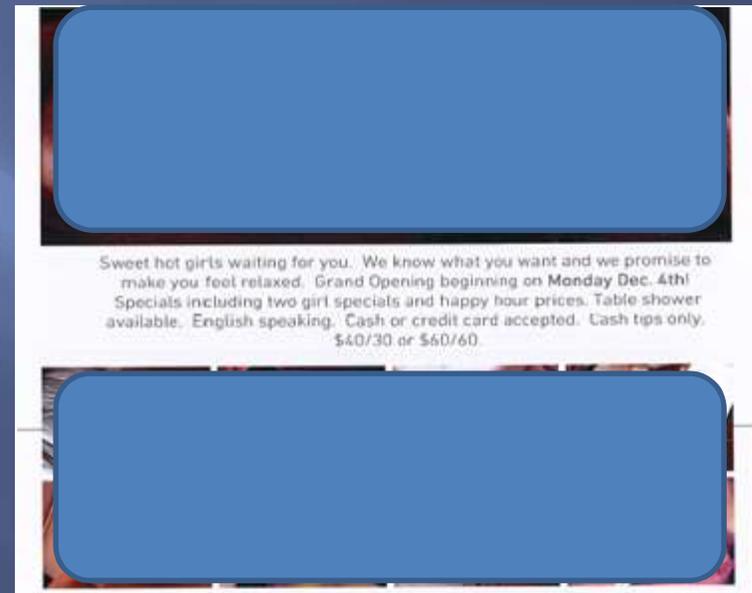
# Key Indicators a Business is Selling Commercial Sex

- Prices for massages significantly below market
- Serves primarily or only male clientele
- Locked front door, customers can only enter if buzzed in or through discreet back or side doors
- Windows covered
- Women appear to be living in the establishment



# Suspects' Roles

- ▣ True Owner/Operator
- ▣ STRAW LICENSE HOLDER
  - Usually Male
  - Paid Monthly \$500 Straw Licensing Fee
- ▣ STRAW UTILITY ACCOUNT HOLDER
  - Usually Male
  - Paid \$500 Monthly Fee
- ▣ Ads
  - “plus more”
- ▣ Review Websites
  - Johns post their experiences



# Investigation Tactics

- ▣ Surveillance
  - Customer Counts  
(male vs. female)
  - Females turned away
  - Length of stay
  - Observe  
owners/straw license  
holders
- ▣ ID Males for Stops
- ▣ Bank records
- ▣ UC Operations

# Common Charges

- ▣ Conspiracy
- ▣ Illegal Control of an Enterprise
  - Forever Prior
- ▣ Money Laundering
- ▣ Maintaining Prostitution Enterprise
- ▣ Conspiracy
- ▣ Receiving Earnings of a Prostitute

# Goals of Prosecution

- ▣ Dismantle Network
- ▣ Close IMBs
- ▣ Asset Forfeiture
- ▣ Fines
- ▣ Plea Language
  - Defendant shall not direct, oversee, manage, hold a business license for, or have any interest in any massage related business.
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