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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Attorney Files Civil Enforcement Action to Shut Down Illegal Massage Parlor Near Barrio Logan

SAN DIEGO (April 21, 2025) – City Attorney Heather Ferbert has filed a civil enforcement action to stop prostitution and potential human trafficking at a massage business operating under the name Green Massage Spa, located in the Barrio Logan area. The legal action follows years of investigation and repeated complaints from nearby residents, business owners, and community members.

The San Diego Police Department (SDPD) and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) received frequent reports of prostitution-related activity at the site. Nearby businesses described disturbing incidents including increased foot traffic during late night hours, individuals engaging in sexual acts in parked vehicles, and loud noises. In response to these ongoing concerns, SDPD and NCIS conducted a joint investigation in collaboration with the City Attorney’s Nuisance Abatement Unit in preparation for prosecution.

Green Massage Spa has been posing as a legitimate massage business while routinely engaging in illegal activity. Over the past two years, investigators identified more than 160 online advertisements, blog posts, and reviews promoting commercial sex acts tied to the establishment. Undercover officers were offered sexual services on multiple occasions, resulting in several arrests.

During the course of the investigation, SDPD and NCIS observed clear signs that individuals were residing on the premises. Inside the business, they found an isolated bed setup complete with blankets and pillows, along with cooking appliances, stored food, and personal belongings. Each room was also outfitted with its own television, which displayed live security camera footage from inside and outside the property, raising concerns about surveillance and control of those living or working inside. In addition, the City’s Building and Land Use Enforcement Division (BLUE) reported multiple unpermitted plumbing modifications, underscoring the property owner’s disregard for health, safety, and zoning regulations.

“This case isn’t just about shutting down an illegal business, it’s about protecting vulnerable people from harm and exploitation,” said City Attorney Heather Ferbert. **“The evidence uncovered here points to a serious pattern of criminal behavior that has no place in any neighborhood.”**

The City Attorney’s Office has asked the court to issue an order shutting down the business and prohibiting its continued operation as an illegal red-light business. The complaint also seeks over \$25,000 in penalties against each named defendant, as well as reimbursement for public resources spent responding to complaints, conducting investigations, and pursuing enforcement.

“This is about restoring peace and safety to the community while sending a clear message: we will not allow businesses to operate in defiance of the law,” Ferbert added. **“We are committed to taking action wherever public health and dignity are being undermined.”**

The Nuisance Abatement Unit of the City Attorney’s Office worked in partnership with the City’s Building and Land Use Enforcement Division, San Diego Police Department, and the Naval Criminal Investigation Service to address the ongoing violations at this business. This case was prosecuted by Deputy City Attorney Richard A. LeVu, under the supervision of Senior Chief Deputy City Attorney Gabriela “Gaby” Brannan and Assistant City Attorney Paige E. Folkman

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