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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **CITY ATTORNEY FILES CIVIL ENFORCEMENT ACTION TO SHUT DOWN ILLEGAL MASSAGE PARLOR IN BARRIO LOGAN**

SDPD and NCIS conclude joint investigation in collaboration with the City Attorney's Nuisance Abatement Unit

**SAN DIEGO** – City Attorney Heather Ferbert filed a civil enforcement action to stop prostitution and possible human trafficking occurring at the Green Massage Spa, a massage parlor in Barrio Logan. This action follows years of law enforcement investigation, arrests, and community complaints.

Since 2022, the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) have received many reports of prostitution-related activity occurring at the massage parlor. 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.

On at least 4 separate occasions, spa workers offered to sell sex to undercover police officers, which led to several arrests. Officers also documented 160 online advertisements, blog posts, and reviews promoting commercial sex acts tied to the establishment. Also, despite being notified in early 2023 about the criminal activity, the Defendants refused to abate the nuisance.

**"The illegal activity associated with this business has posed a threat to the safety and welfare of U.S. Navy personnel,"** said Special Agent in Charge Nicholas Carter of the NCIS Southwest Field Office. **"NCIS will continue working with our law enforcement partners to root out criminality that threatens the readiness of our military forces and the safety of our communities."**

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

**"This type of business has no place in our neighborhoods. These types of illegal operations are in direct contrast with our highest value, human life. We are dedicated to working collaboratively with the City Attorney's Office and NCIS to ensure our neighborhoods remain safe."** said Chief Scott Wahl.

The City Attorney's Office is asking the court to issue an order shutting down the illegal business and ordering each Defendant to pay civil penalties of \$2,500 per day, per violation, and investigative costs.

**“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. **“In partnership with SDPD and NCIS, the evidence uncovered here points to a serious pattern of criminal behavior that has no place in any neighborhood.”**

Ferbert added, **“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. We are committed to taking action wherever public health and dignity are being undermined.”**

The Nuisance Abatement Unit of the City Attorney's Office partnered 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 illegal 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.

The complaint is attached.

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