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PRESS RELEASE

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CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FILES CIVIL ENFORCEMENT ACTION TO SHUT DOWN ILLEGAL MASSAGE PARLOR IN LINDA VISTA

SAN DIEGO – City Attorney Heather Ferbert filed a civil enforcement action to shut down Comfy Spa, an illegal massage parlor in the Linda Vista neighborhood, after a more than year-long investigation revealed ongoing prostitution activity, a reported sexual assault, and extensive building and zoning violations at the property.

The lawsuit, filed on behalf of the People of the State of California and the City of San Diego, targets the business owners of Comfy Spa and the property owner of 5201 Linda Vista Road, Suite 104, alleging violations of the California Red Light Abatement Law, maintenance of a public nuisance, violations of the San Diego Municipal Code, and violations of California's Unfair Competition Law.

Beginning in early 2025, the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) received community complaints about prostitution activity at Comfy Spa, including reports of females possibly being held against their will and sex trafficked. SDPD officers conducted multiple undercover visits at the business. During a February 6, 2025 operation, an undercover officer was solicited for sex by a female employee, who was subsequently cited for a prostitution-related offense.

On February 24, 2026, SDPD responded to a reported sexual assault at Comfy Spa. The male victim, who came in for a massage on his wife's recommendation, reported being inappropriately touched by a female employee. Between December 25, 2025, and March 11, 2026, SDPD officers documented more than 258 online advertisements, blogs, and reviews promoting sex acts tied to this establishment.

"This case is about protecting our community and the vulnerable people who are exploited inside operations like this one," said **City Attorney Heather Ferbert**. "When a business hides behind a storefront to traffic in commercial sex, ignores repeated warnings, and puts the public at risk, our office will use every legal tool available to shut it down."

In addition to the criminal activity, the City's Building and Land Use Enforcement Division (BLUE) found that Suite 104 had been illegally converted, in part, into a residence. During an October 17, 2025 inspection, investigators observed an occupant sleeping in one of the rooms, along with a full kitchen with a refrigerator stocked with food, an unpermitted washer, dryer, water heater, and shower room, and unpermitted electrical work including added cameras and lighting. Six additional rooms had been built behind unpermitted interior walls for use as massage rooms.

The property is located in a Commercial-Community (CC-3-7) zone, which does not allow massage establishments or residential habitation. Despite being notified by SDPD in February 2025 and again by the City Attorney's Office in June 2025, the property owner failed to abate the nuisance.

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

The Housing Protection and Civil Code Compliance Unit (HPU) of the City Attorney's Office partnered with the City's Building and Land Use Enforcement Division and the San Diego Police Department to address the ongoing violations at this illegal business. This case is being prosecuted by Deputy City Attorney Jennifer Jacobelli.

The Complaint is attached [here](#).

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