



San Diego City Attorney Jan I. Goldsmith

NEWS RELEASE

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LA QUINTA HOTEL LOCATED IN THE NORTH COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD OF RANCHO PENASQUITOS IS ORDERED TO ADDRESS PROSTITUTION & NUISANCE ACTIVITY

City Attorney's Office Settles with Hotel which Must Ensure it does not Continue as a Haven for Criminal Activity

San Diego, CA: La Quinta Hotel, located at 10185 Paseo Montril, in San Diego's North County inland area of Rancho Penasquitos, must now increase security, install additional security cameras and signs to deter criminal activity, change hotel registration policies, and make significant changes to its manner of doing business. The hotel owner must also pay \$15,000 in investigative costs to the City of San Diego and \$5,000 in civil penalties. An additional \$20,000 in civil penalties is stayed, pending successful compliance with the terms of the settlement.

BRE/LQ Properties LLC, a Delaware company, doing business in California, owns the franchise hotel and settled the case through their attorney Scott Williams. The stipulated judgment was signed by Judge Judith F. Hayes, in Department 68 of San Diego Superior Court.

During 2012 and 2013, the San Diego Police Department conducted several undercover operations and inspections at the property. During their investigation, it was discovered that numerous females have been advertising themselves for sex on an internet website. Since March 2012, detectives of the San Diego Police Department made approximately 16 prostitution related arrests. On 12/13/12 detectives pulled 4 prostitutes out of the hotel within a 3 hour period. On 1/12/13 detectives arrested a pimp at the hotel for human trafficking, pimping, pandering and child endangerment. Evidence from the arrest revealed that the prostitute working for him at the hotel had been also advertising and working out of several states. The pimp's and prostitute's 6 year old child was also present at the hotel who indicated that his mother "goes on calls", gets paid for the calls and gives the money to his father, the male pimp arrested. On one night in March 2013 there were 3 prostitutes working at the hotel in 2 different rooms.

"Hotel guests need to feel safe and secure." said City Attorney Jan Goldsmith. "Our office will continue to work diligently to hold business owners accountable and clean up neighborhoods impacted by illegal activity such as prostitution."

La Quinta Hotel has had a history of illegal activity and previous management at the hotel was nonresponsive and uncooperative with SDPD in addressing crime at the hotel and taking preventive action to deter crime.

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Accordingly, the case was referred to the Code Enforcement Unit of the City Attorney's Office by Vice officers of the San Diego Police Department. Deputy City Attorney Nicole Pedone worked closely with the local and corporate hotel management to ensure that the criminal activity was immediately abated. Among the agreed settlement terms, the hotel is now required to hire a 24 hour security guard for the next 90 days; install additional security cameras; and post signs to deter criminal activity. The hotel must also photocopy all guest and visitor identification cards for a period of time; require a cash deposit for all rooms rented with cash; register all guest and visitor vehicles; install additional lighting around the hotel; and continue to maintain a "Do not Rent" list of known individuals arrested for prostitution related-activity on or off the property. Additionally, all hotel visitors must register at the desk between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. and present valid government-issued picture identification.

The defendants are now permanently enjoined from conducting, allowing, permitting directly or indirectly, the occurrence, continuance, or reoccurrence of acts of lewdness or prostitution, solicitation, or human trafficking upon the premises of the property; permitting any violations of the San Diego Municipal Code section related to hotels, motels, Inns, etc.; maintaining any violations of the Red Light Abatement Act at the property; knowingly using or permitting the use of the property for the purposes of unlawfully selling, serving, storing, keeping, manufacturing or giving away of controlled substances; and maintaining, causing or permitting at the property the existence of a public nuisance as defined by California Civil Code sections 3479 and 3480. The owner will work closely with the San Diego Police Department and City Attorney's Office in implementing the new procedures at the hotel, monitoring the activity at the hotel and will provide the City Attorney's Office with copies of weekly security logs and incident reports pertaining to the hotel for the next 6 months.

[The City Attorney's Code Enforcement Unit](#) addresses nuisance properties and code violations throughout San Diego. The Unit works in partnership with the City's Code Enforcement Services Unit, the San Diego Police Department, and the community to identify and aggressively address code violations and nuisance properties.

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