

Sting Operation at Massage Facilities Results in One Closure, One Arrest and Several Citations

Contact: Michelle Corson, Public Relations Officer, (661) 868-0288

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 20, 2018

Bakersfield, CA – Kern County Sheriff's Office and Kern County Public Health Services conducted an undercover sting operation on December 19, 2018 involving two massage facilities in the unincorporated areas of Kern County. One woman was arrested and another woman was cited for county ordinance violations and illicit acts. The Sheriff's Office's actions were as follows:

- Angel Massage – 1906 E. California Avenue, Suite G, Bakersfield, CA. Officers arrested Hiu May for violation of California Penal Code Section 647 (b) – solicitation of prostitution.
- Paradise Spa – 919 N Chester, Bakersfield, CA. Officers cited Niu Guiying from Bakersfield, CA for violation of Kern County Ordinance 8.70.100(B)(2) – exposure of another person.

Additionally, the Public Health Services Department required Angel Massage to immediately close and issued a Notice of Violation due to numerous violations, including violation of Penal Code Section 647(b), massage practitioner clothing exposed undergarments, and the massage practitioner was operating without a California Massage Therapy Council certificate. Paradise Spa was issued a Notice of Violation due to multiple violations, including exposure of another person and allowing an individual to reside within the massage establishment.

This is the sixth sting operation under a County Ordinance whereby Public Health regulates massage establishments to ensure they maintain a safe and sanitary environment as well as establish reasonable standards to reduce the opportunity for acts of prostitution and human trafficking to occur. We partner with the Kern County Sheriff's Office to investigate all complaints and reports of suspected or known prostitution and/or human trafficking activities in massage establishments.

To date, the Department, in partnership with the Sheriff's Office, has performed undercover decoy operations at fifteen local massage establishments. **100%** of our decoy operations have resulted in violations of the Ordinance Code related to prostitution and/or illicit acts and the Kern County Sheriff's Office has arrested fifteen massage therapists for these same violations. In addition to the arrests made on the massage therapists, all massage establishments found in violation of the Ordinance Code related to prostitution and other illicit acts have been permanently closed by our Department. Anyone who suspects illicit activity at a massage facility is asked to call Kern County Public Health Services at 661-321-3000.