

HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT VICE DIVISION



Sgt. Mike Hill

A Problem Oriented Policing Approach to Illegal Massage Establishments



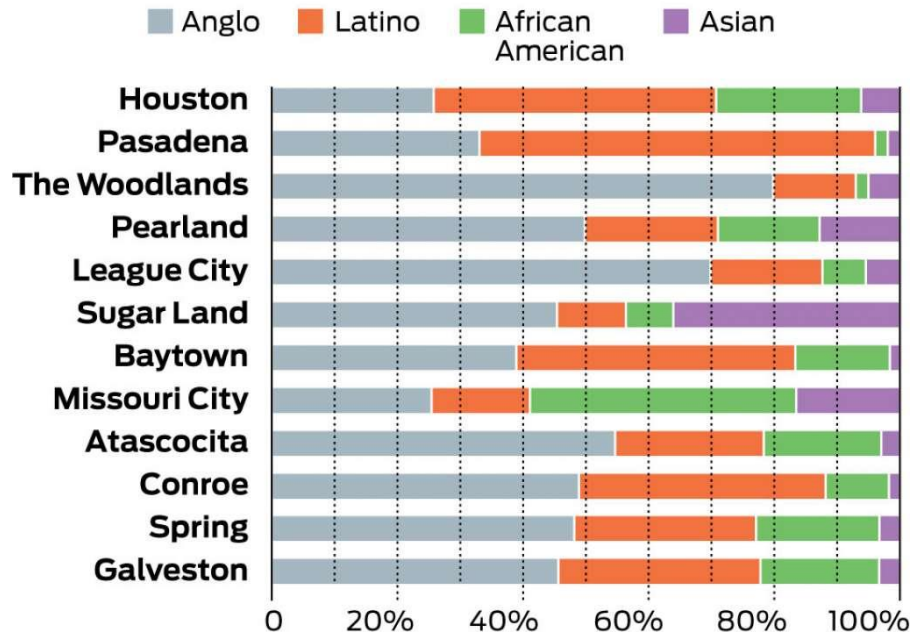
LEGAL MANDATE

- Identify licensed massage establishments under purview of state Occupation Code & municipal ordinances
- Conduct regulatory inspections and take action on observed violations
- Conduct undercover investigations to identify & arrest individuals engaged in criminal activity (prostitution, human trafficking, etc.)

KNOWN CHALLENGES

Houston-area diversity

Racial/ethnic demographic breakdown for local cities and suburbs, listed in order of population size:



Sources: Kinder Institute for Urban Research;
Hobby Center for the Study of Texas

Houston Chronicle

Demographic Diversity

- Houston is international city: about 30% of population not born in U.S.
- Nearly every major language (~145) spoken, making communication with police difficult
- Some people from other cultures have different expectations of social norms & laws

Large Geographic Area & Population

1 Million Milestone

U.S. Cities With a Population of a Million or More as of July 1, 2014, and the Number and Percentage of People Added Since July 1, 2013



United States™
Census
Bureau

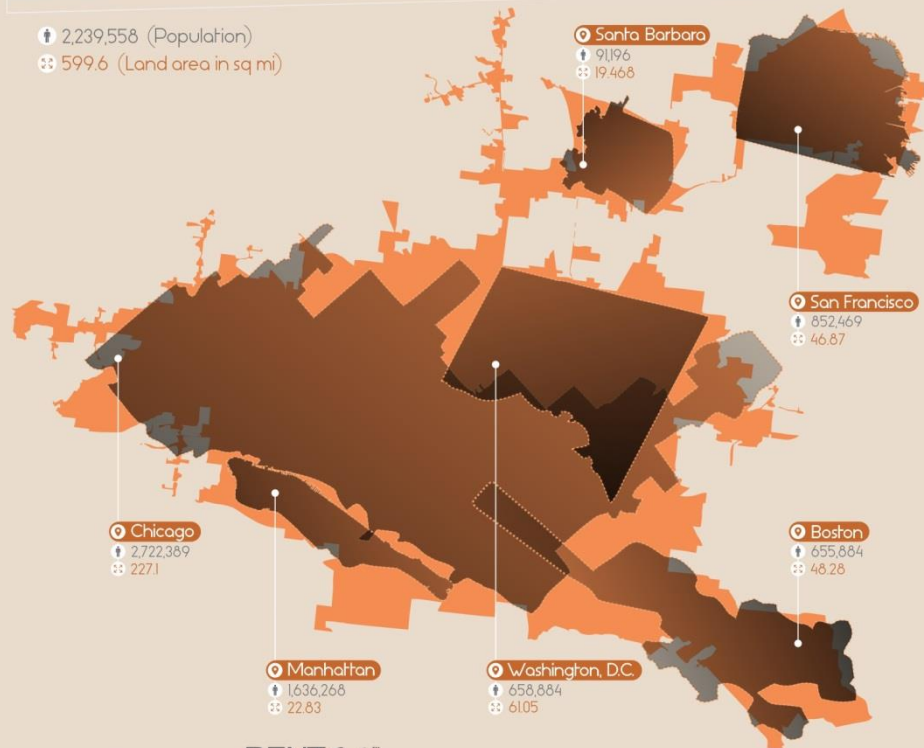
U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
census.gov

Source: 2014 Population Estimates

MAPPING HOUSTON

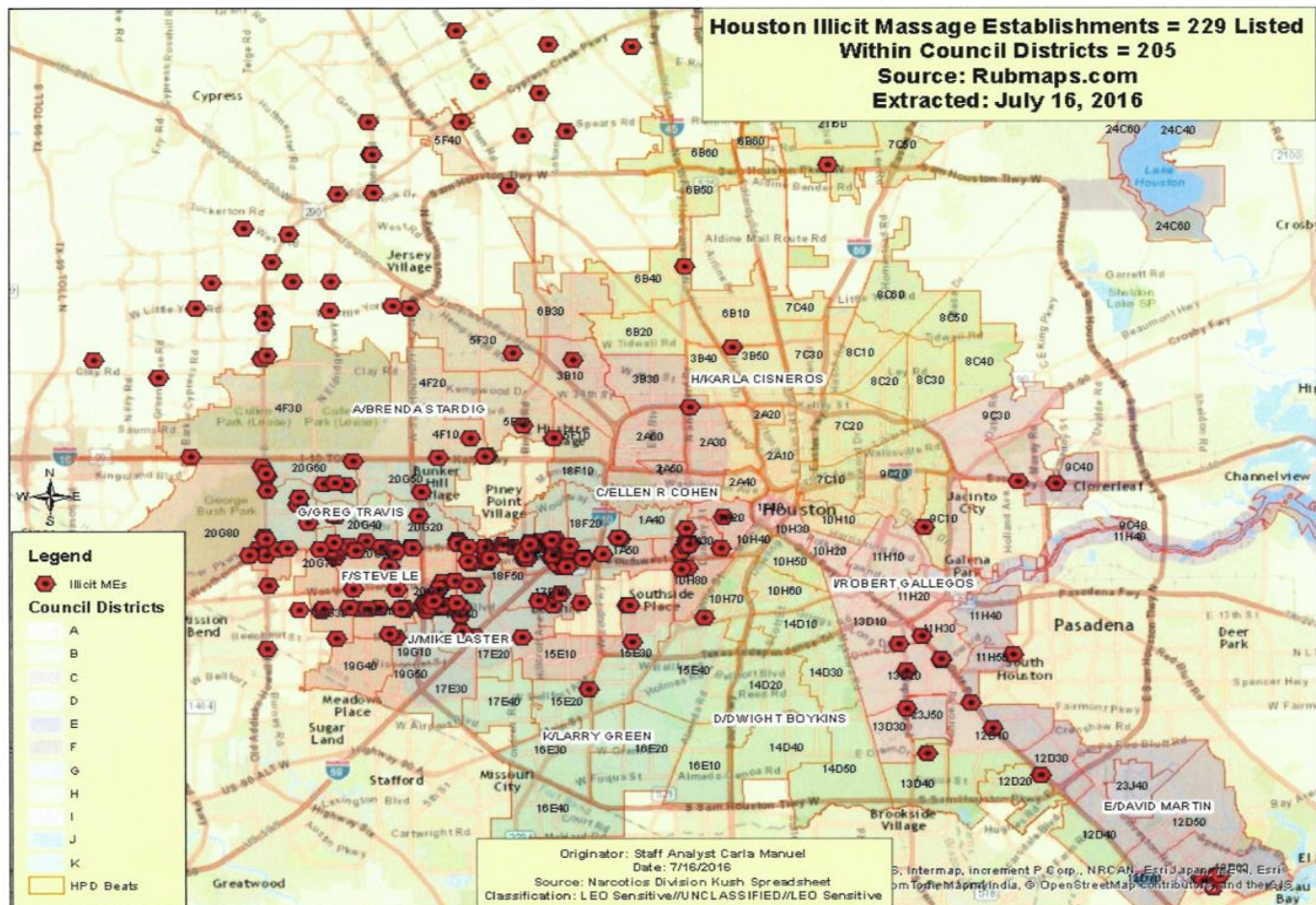
How many major U.S. cities can you fit inside?

↑ 2,239,558 (Population)
⊞ 599.6 (Land area in sq mi)



Brought to you by RENTCafe™

Illicit Massage Establishments in Houston, July 2016



600 sq. mi., 2+ million people

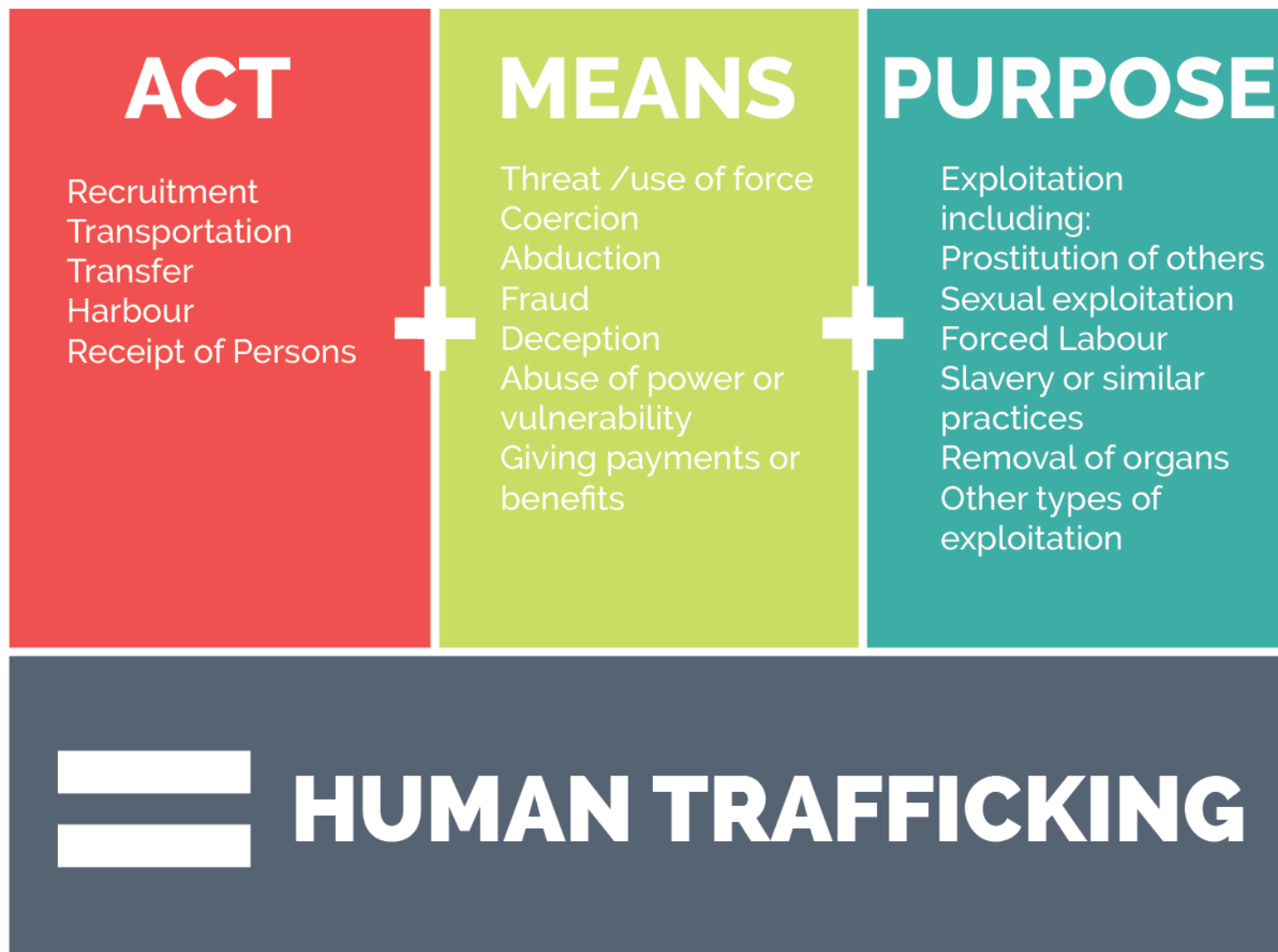
260 possible illegal massage businesses to be policed

47 HPD vice officers. 10+ spoken languages

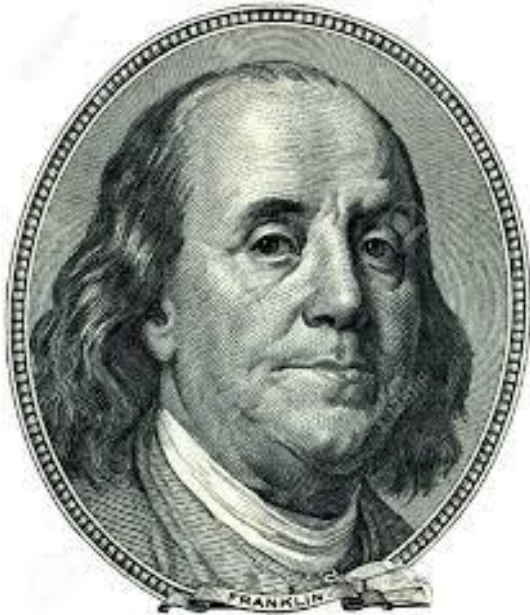
Crimes linked to illegal massage businesses:

- Human trafficking/prostitution
- Narcotics-related offenses
- Sexual assault
- Assault/aggravated assault
- Robbery/aggravated robbery
- Murder

HUMAN TRAFFICKING



UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEM



MONEY
MOTIVATES

- Typical spa customer pays \$60 entrance fee and can 'tip' up to \$100 for sex act. Provider may not be allowed to keep 'tip'.
- Trafficked women often live where they work. See 8-10 men/day.
- Recent case: man running prostitution ring with 7 IMBs, each with 3 providers per location on any given day.
- $\$160 \times 10 \times 3 \times 7 = \$33,600$ per day
(**\$12,096,000 gross annual revenue**).

The Iron Law of Troublesome Places*

Frequency of
troublesome events



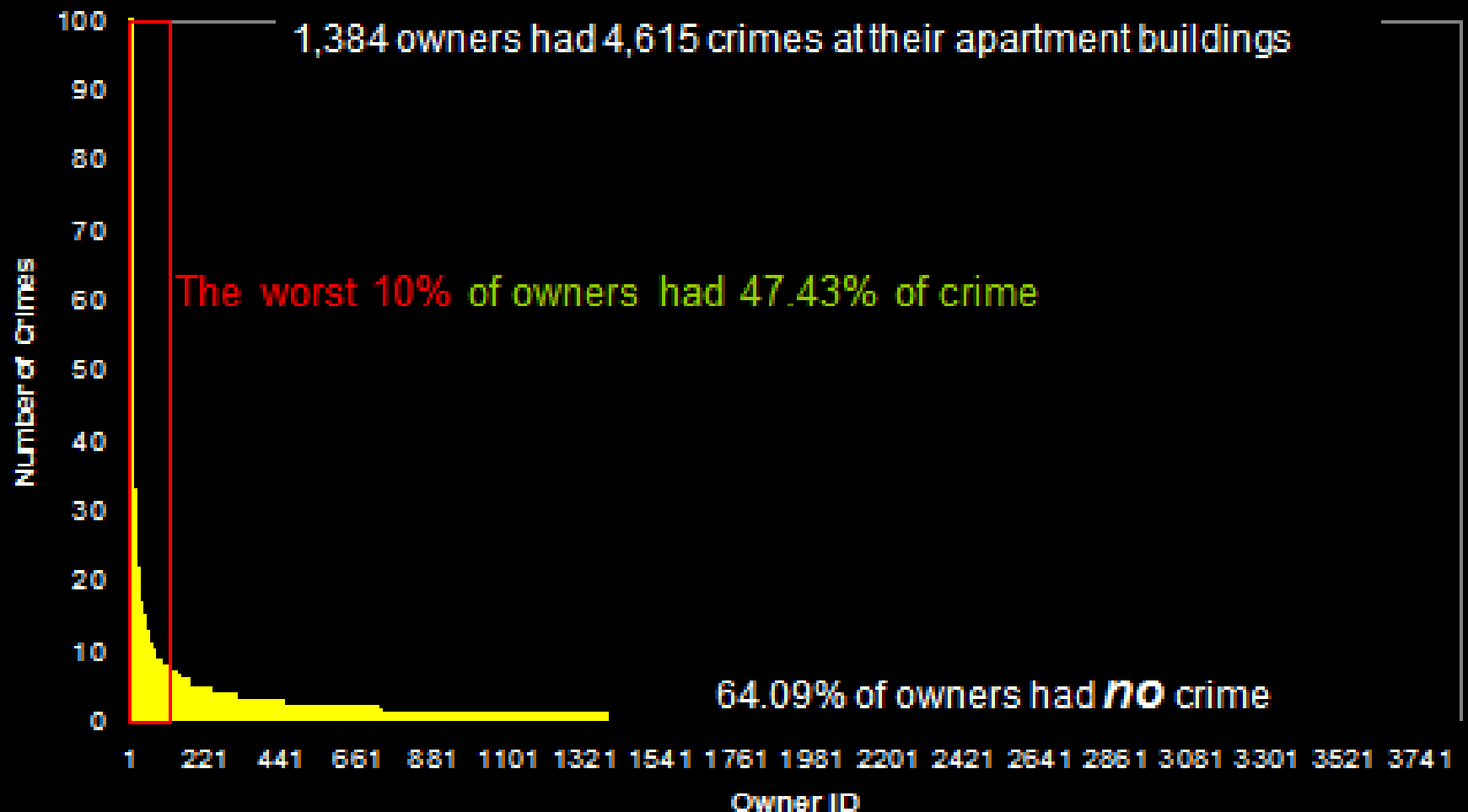
Facilities known to follow this law**

- Apartment complexes
- Banks
- Bars, pubs, and clubs
- Bus stop shelters
- Businesses (various)
- Coffee shops
- Construction sites
- Convenience stores
- Fast food restaurants
- Gas stations
- Health care facilities
- Hotels and motels
- Parking lots
- Places of worship
- Schools
- Sports facilities
- Telephone booths
- Young offender facilities

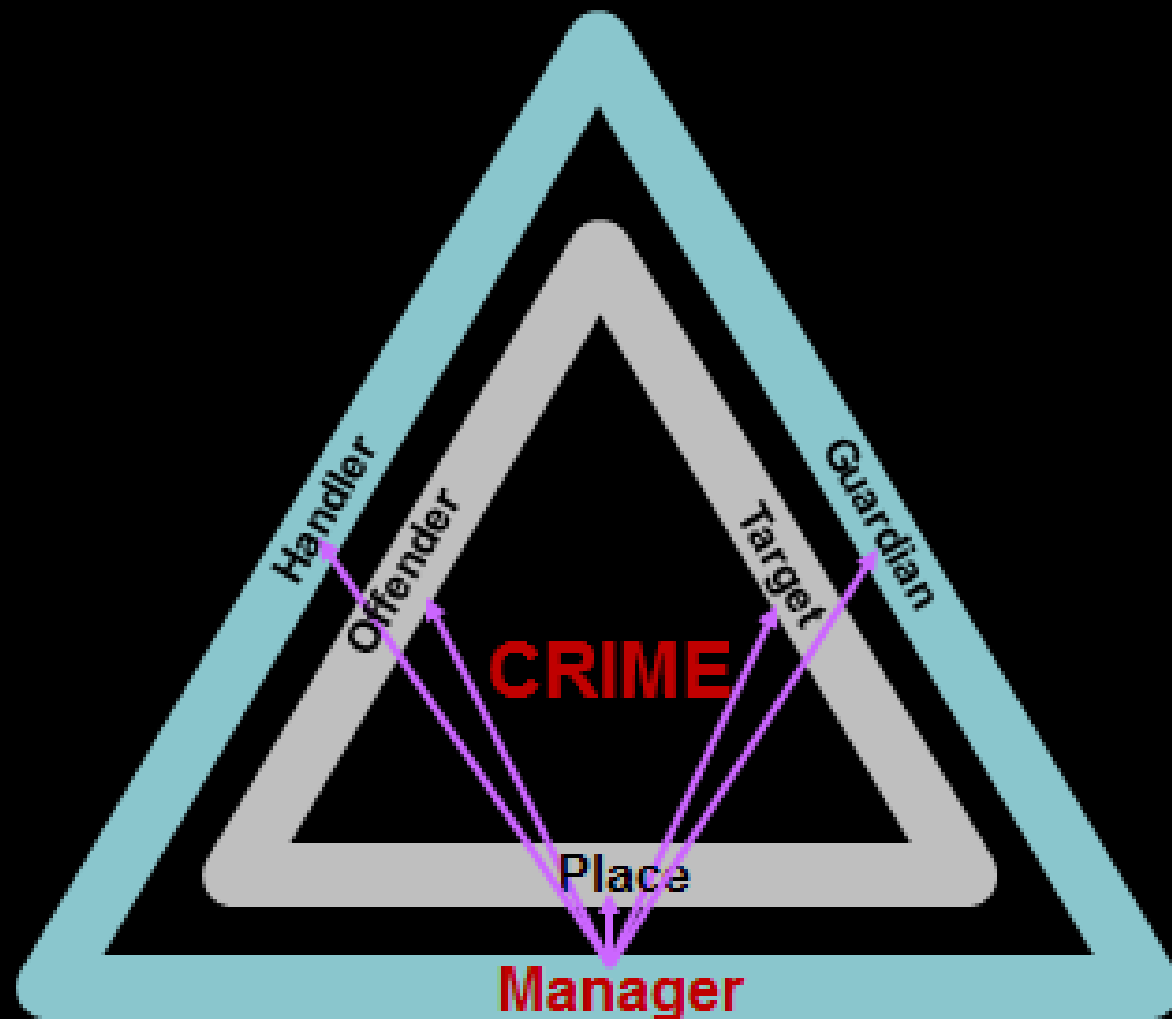
* Figure from Wilcox and Eck 2011. *The Criminology of the Unpopular. Criminology and Public Policy*

** All from Eck, Clarke and Guerette, 2008, except coffee shops and places of worship (Duro, 2010).

More Concentrated Among Owners than Crime Among Apt. Buildings



Place Managers Control Other Sides of Triangles



IDENTIFYING LOCATIONS

What is a massage establishment?

- Any place that offers or advertises **MASSAGE** and has more than one LMT conducting massages.



Citizen's Complaints



Patrol Reports

JC SPA





backpage Houston



All

News

Apps

Shopping

Videos

More ▼

Search tools

About 378,000 results (0.57 seconds)

Houston classifieds for apts, jobs, and items for sale - backpage.com

[houston.backpage.com/](#) ▼ Backpage ▼

Houston classifieds. Post free ads for apartments, houses for rent, jobs, furniture, appliances, cars, pets and items for sale.

You've visited this page many times. Last visit: 7/25/16

escorts

Houston escorts, female models, ...
adult entertainment ...

ts

Houston transsexual escorts,
transsexual models ...

body rubs

Houston erotic massage, body rubs
and ... entertainment ...

[More results from backpage.com »](#)

women > men

Houston personals for women
seeking men. Find a w4m date ...

Women seeking men

Houston personals for women
seeking men. Find a w4m date ...

Massage

Houston therapeutic massage,
registered massage therapist ...



South East - escorts - backpage.com

[southeasttexas.backpage.com](#) › [South East adult entertainment](#) ▼

Houston Asian Escorts Agency Here New Playmate To The... Outcall Only a latin dream the hottest girls in houston - 21 (houston and surrounding areas).

Free classifieds - backpage.com

[www.backpage.com/](#) ▼ Backpage ▼

Abilene · Amarillo · Austin · Beaumont · Brownsville · College Station · Corpus Christi · Dallas · Del Rio · Denton · El Paso · Fort Worth · Galveston · **Houston** ...

You've visited this page many times. Last visit: 8/1/16

South East - women seeking men personals - backpage.com

[southeasttexas.backpage.com](#) › [South East dating](#) ▼

Arrows Adult offers posting services that will take the BackPage. 21 (Houston All Over Outcalls!!) ... Allie Texas is Back Hablo Español - 23 (North Houston).

South East hobby escorts - backpage.com

local places 4,477

- [events](#)
- [bars/clubs](#)
- [restaurants](#)
- [salons/nails/spas](#)

community 191

- [childcare](#)
- [classes/workshops](#)
- [general](#)
- [groups](#)
- [lost & found](#)
- [volunteers](#)

buy/ sell/ trade 4,134

- [antique collectibles](#)
- [appliances](#)
- [business](#)
- [boats & motorcycles](#)
- [clothing/jewelry](#)
- [computers/electronics](#)
- [free](#)
- [farm/garden](#)
- [furniture](#)
- [household items](#)
- [miscellaneous](#)
- [pets, pet supplies](#)
- [sports equip.](#)
- [tickets](#)
- [tools/materials](#)
- [want-trade](#)
- [yard sales](#)

automotive 11,498

- [auto-truck-rv](#)
- [auto parts](#)
- [services](#)

musician 93

- [available/wanted](#)
- [equip/instruments](#)
- [instruction](#)
- [services](#)
- [plug the band](#)

rentals 10,632

- [roommates](#)
- [apt/condo/house](#)
- [commercial](#)
- [vacation](#)
- [miscellaneous](#)
- [rentals wanted](#)

real estate 1,629

- [house/condo](#)
- [land for sale](#)
- [commercial](#)
- [misc](#)
- [wanted](#)

jobs 9,651

- [acctg/finance](#)
- [admin/office](#)
- [computer/technical](#)
- [customer service](#)
- [domestic](#)
- [driver/delivery/courier](#)
- [education](#)
- [focus group/studies](#)
- [job wanted/resume](#)
- [mgmt/professional](#)
- [medical/health](#)
- [miscellaneous](#)
- [real estate](#)
- [rest/retail/hotel](#)
- [sales/mktg](#)
- [salon/spa](#)
- [show biz/audition](#)
- [trades/labor](#)

dating 2,643

- [women > men](#)
- [men > women](#)
- [men > men](#)
- [women > women](#)

adult

- [escorts](#)
- [body rubs](#)
- [strippers & strip clubs](#)
- [dom & fetish](#)
- [ts](#)
- [male escorts](#)
- [phone & websites](#)
- [adult jobs](#)

services 5,079

- [biz opps](#)
- [business](#)
- [cleaning](#)
- [computer](#)
- [creative](#)
- [financial](#)
- [health & beauty](#)
- [home improvement](#)
- [landscape/lawn](#)
- [labor/moving](#)
- [legal](#)
- [massage](#)
- [misc.](#)
- [real estate](#)



[backpage.com](#) > [adult entertainment](#) > [Houston escorts](#)

Disclaimer

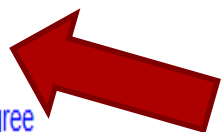
This section contains sexual content, including pictorial nudity and adult language. It is to be accessed only by persons who are 18 years of age or older (and is not considered to be a minor in his/her state of residence) and who live in a community or local jurisdiction where nude pictures and explicit adult materials are not prohibited by law. By accessing this website, you are representing to us that you meet the above qualifications. A false representation may be a criminal offense.

I confirm and represent that I am 18 years of age or older (and am not considered to be a minor in my state of residence) and that I am not located in a community or local jurisdiction where nude pictures or explicit adult materials are prohibited by any law. I agree to report any illegal services or activities which violate the Terms of Use. I also agree to [report suspected exploitation of minors and/or human trafficking](#) to the appropriate authorities.

I have read and agree to this disclaimer as well as the Terms of Use.

[I agree](#)

[I don't agree](#)



[My Account](#) | [Buy Credits](#) | [Contact](#) | [Help](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Terms](#) | [Safety](#)

houston.backpage.com is an interactive computer service that enables access by multiple users and should not be treated as the publisher or speaker of any information provided by another information content provider. © 2016 [backpage.com](#)

**You are now
viewing
the
“Gallery”**

backpage.com > Houston adult entertainment > Houston body rubs > spa

All | [Beaumont/Pt Arthur](#) | [College Station](#) | [Galveston](#) | [Houston](#) | [Huntsville](#)

All Houston | [Baytown](#) | [City of Houston](#) | [Conroe](#) | [Missouri City](#) | [Pasadena](#) | [Pearland](#) | [Sugar Land](#) | [The Woodlands](#)

spa body rubs

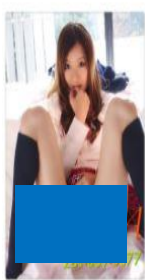
search

[top](#) | [gallery](#) | [video](#) | [date](#)



YAYA Spa ●●●●● Huston WEST
●●●●● LOVELY FOUR HANDS

Posted: Tue, Oct. 18, 10:02 AM



Welcome To Q SPA Treat
Yourself With Our HOT Asian

Posted: Tue, Oct. 18, 9:42 AM



Q*Q*Q*Q*Q* \$40 ONE HOUR!
Q*Q*Q* 5 New Girls Just Arrive

Posted: Tue, Oct. 18, 9:42 AM



♀♀♀♀♀♀♀♀@** 5
BEAUTIFUL BABES! 5 pretty girls

Posted: Tue, Oct. 18, 9:39 AM



♥♥♥♥!\\==== MANHATTAN ★
SPA ===♥♥♥♥!\\==*

Posted: Tue, Oct. 18, 9:37 AM



♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥
♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

Posted: Tue, Oct. 18, 9:25 AM



Young ♥ Asian

Posted: Tue, Oct. 18, 9:23 AM



【FLUSHING SPA】
—NEW ASIAN GIRLS 100%

Posted: Tue, Oct. 18, 9:23 AM



NEW NEW HOT
GIRLS ♥♥♥ Nana SPA ♥♥♥

Posted: Tue, Oct. 18, 9:23 AM



Hot
GIRLS ♥

Posted: Tue, Oct. 18, 9:23 AM



Sun &
Moon Spa

Posted: Tue, Oct. 18, 9:20 AM



Relax -Spa
YOUNG LATINA ♥nd

Posted: Tue, Oct. 18, 9:16 AM



【100% Real — SEXY】
—【ALL NEW MANAGEMENT】

Posted: Tue, Oct. 18, 9:08 AM



OMG! 2
NEW GIRLS THIS WEEKEND! 5

Posted: Tue, Oct. 18, 7:27 AM



NEW SEXY
HOT Asian SPA

Posted: Tue, Oct. 18, 8:50 AM



4 NEW GIRLS
ALL U CAN PICK

Posted: Tue, Oct. 18, 4:12 AM

CONDUCTING OPERATIONS



You NEVER know what'll happen.

Massage Pilot Program

- State Occupation Code authorizes police to inspect licensed (or should be licensed) business establishments
- Municipal ordinance has class “C” violations concerning massage violations authorized by state law
- Massage establishment violations carry same weight as prostitution cases under civil nuisance abatement lawsuits
- Uniformed DRT [POP] officers can conduct inspections with different protocol than undercover vice officers



TEXAS
Department of
State Health Services
Massage Therapy Licensing Program
Inspection Report for Massage Therapy Establishments
Houston Police Differential Response Team

Name of Massage Establishment _____ License# _____

Address _____ District/Beat _____ Date _____

HPD Incident No. _____

(C = Compliant - PD = Present but Deficient - D = Deficient - N/A= Not Applicable - R =Recurrent)

- | | | | | | |
|---|---------|----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| 1.) Rule: 25 TAC §140.361(d)
Current establishment license prominently displayed? | C _____ | PD _____ | D _____ | N/A _____ | R _____ |
| 2.) Rule: 25 TAC §140.303(p)
Complaint information available to public? | C _____ | PD _____ | D _____ | N/A _____ | R _____ |
| 3.) Rule: 25 TAC §140.307(b)
Massage therapists licensed/licenses prominently displayed? | C _____ | PD _____ | D _____ | N/A _____ | R _____ |
| 4.) Rule: 25 TAC §140.304
Initial Consultation Document? | C _____ | PD _____ | D _____ | N/A _____ | R _____ |
| 5.) Rule: 25 TAC §140.303(f)
Written consent for clients under the age of 17? | C _____ | PD _____ | D _____ | N/A _____ | R _____ |
| 6.) Rule: 25 TAC §140.361 (i)
Maintains employee/client records for 2 years? | C _____ | PD _____ | D _____ | N/A _____ | R _____ |
| 7.) Rule: 25 TAC §140.365
Has establishment ownership/mgmt. or location changed?
Lease document on site? | C _____ | PD _____ | D _____ | N/A _____ | R _____ |
| 8.) Rule: 25 TAC §140.360 (c) (9)
Meets state and local requirements for fire code? | C _____ | PD _____ | D _____ | N/A _____ | R _____ |
| 9.) Rule: 25 TAC §140.360 (c) (8)
Establishment floor plan on site? | C _____ | PD _____ | D _____ | N/A _____ | R _____ |
| 10.) Rule: 25 TAC §140.361 (c)
Residential/sleeping quarters separated? | C _____ | PD _____ | D _____ | N/A _____ | R _____ |
| 11.) Rule: 25 TAC §140.362
Meets state and local sanitary/health codes? | C _____ | PD _____ | D _____ | N/A _____ | R _____ |
| 12.) Rule: 25 TAC §140.306
Advertising in compliance? | C _____ | PD _____ | D _____ | N/A _____ | R _____ |
| 13.) Rule: 25 TAC §140.361(h) | C _____ | PD _____ | D _____ | N/A _____ | R _____ |

Methods of Investigative Entry

DRT [POP] vs. Vice

- DRT – Officer in plain clothes or uniformed, armed and with ID, no money (prior UC/Plain-clothes training and experience required by policy)
- Vice – Undercover, no ID, no weapon, money for entry, massage & prostitution cases

Things to look for

- Signs of physical abuse
- Appears fearful, anxious, tense, submissive, nervous
- Signs of emotional anxiety or dependence on trafficker
- Lack apparent freedom of movement
- Lack of knowledge of where he or she is
- Treated in demeaning or aggressive manner
- Noticeably watched, followed by others

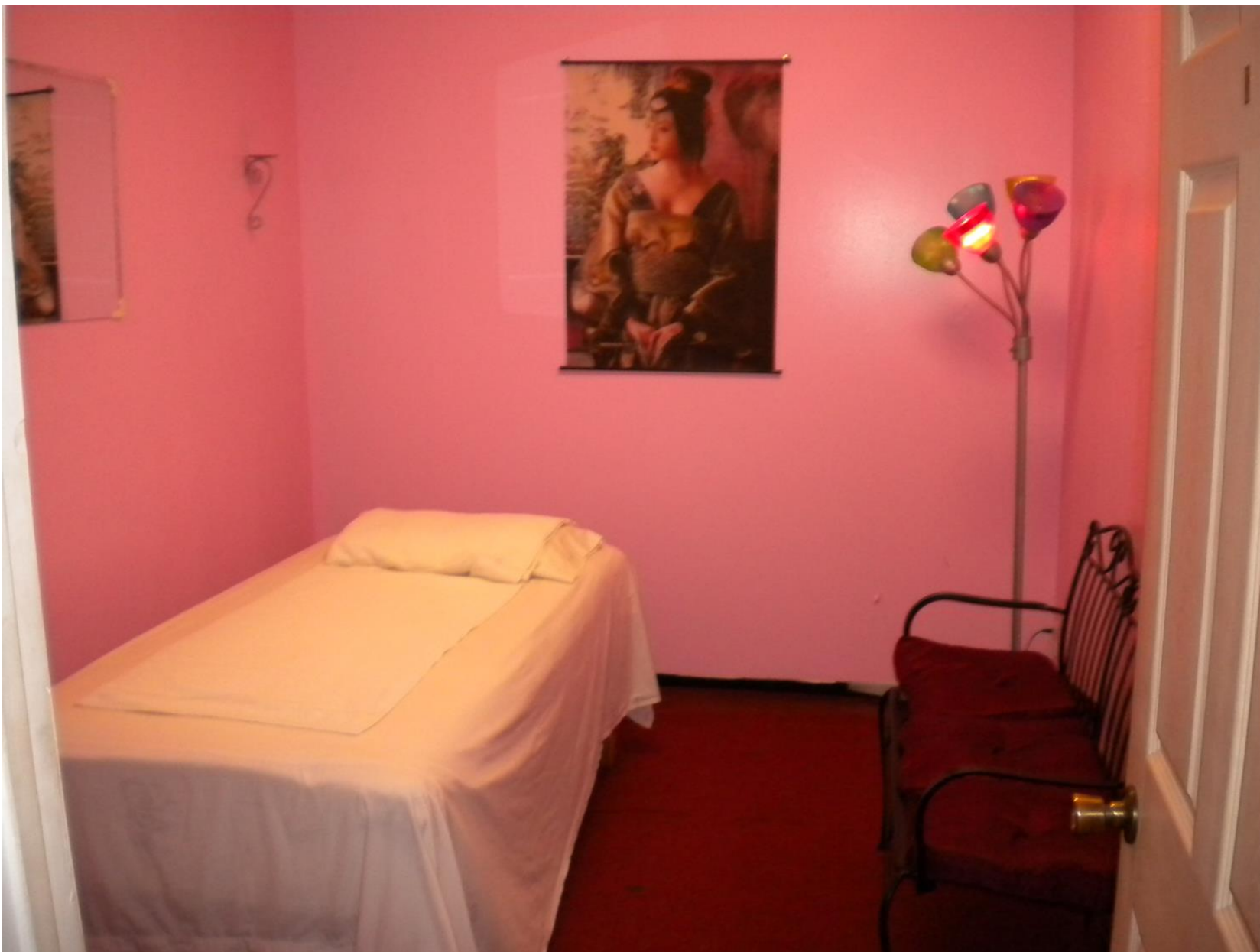
Living Quarters Inside IMB



Typical illegal massage rooms – example A



Typical illegal massage rooms – example B



Sex Related Items in Room



CITATIONS AND ARRESTS

- **Purpose:**
Reducing human trafficking through commercial sex demand-reduction strategies



ILLEGAL COMMERCIAL SEX DEMAND REDUCTION INITIATIVE

JANUARY 4 – FEBRUARY 26, 2016

- **HCSO & HPD Combined – Conducted over 70 operations (street, hotels/motels & illegal commercial sex-focused businesses)**

HCSO CHARGES (January 4 – February 4)			
Sex Buyer	Sex Seller	Drugs	Other
121	19	7	5
TOTAL ARRESTS: 144 TOTAL CHARGES: 152			

HPD CHARGES (January 4 – February 26)				
Trafficker	Sex Buyer	Sex Seller	Drugs	Other
6	135	99	10	18
TOTAL ARRESTS: 249 TOTAL CHARGES: 268				

Revolving Door?

03-07-2016, 11:53 PM

astroz4life
Gaining Momentum

Join Date: Nov 5, 2015
Location: bellaire
Posts: 32
Reviews: 4

Learned my SPA lesson at 7th Star

I've been hobbying for over 20 years; La Feeme, Execvtive XCT, Escapes 1-6, Westside Clinic, Native Tan, the list goes on and on. I decided to take the 7th Star plunge tonight. Five minutes in it was raided by the PoPo. Lucky for me, I was told that I could leave. I guess because there was no provider in the room with me. Happened 30 minutes ago and I'm still shook up. I'm back on the indy train. I know there are risks in the hobby, but I prefer to control the situation as much as possible. Can't do that in a SPA. Everyone stay safe.

Like | 3 users liked this post

QUOTE REPLY

A brush with police encourages this patron to swear off IMBs as the location is raided.

03-09-2016, 06:15 PM

azteclust
Premium Access

Join Date: Jul 17, 2011
Location: Houston
Posts: 581
Reviews: 17

I guess is back open their ad is back up on Bp

<http://houston.backpage.com/FemaleEs...r-spa/30633995>

Like | 1 user liked this post

QUOTE REPLY

However, a little more than 30 hours later, the spa is open and actively advertising again.

Lets look at what we're really doing.

- If you get an infection, do you treat the symptoms.....



Or do you cure it?



Community Involvement

Prostitution Diversion Program Protocols and Procedures

Made Possible through a Partnership between:



Handout Cards in Six Languages

IV. City's Anti-Trafficking Strategic Plan – Associated Images – Outreach Cards



The code reads 101-1-2, which means this card (for food establishments) is being distributed within Harris County by the Houston Health Department.



- Interview possible human trafficking subjects & give pamphlets available in several languages
- Once identified, call in task-force personnel

VICTIMS ASSISTANCE GROUPS

- ❖ YMCA
- ❖ Rescue Houston
- ❖ Free The Captives
- ❖ Elijah Rising
- ❖ The Landing
- ❖ Freedom Church Alliance
- ❖ Redeemed Ministries
- ❖ Project Girls CIS



Chapter 125s: Nuisance businesses



Community Partners Management Districts



Chapter 125

Civil practice and remedies code

Title 6. Miscellaneous provisions

Chapter 125. Common and public nuisances

- (1) discharge of a firearm in a public place
- (2) reckless discharge of a firearm

(3) engaging in organized criminal activity as a member of a combination

- (4) delivery, possession, manufacture, or use of a controlled substance
- (5) gambling, gambling promotion, or communicating gambling information

(6) prostitution, promotion of prostitution, or aggravated promotion of prostitution

(7) compelling prostitution

- (8) commercial manufacture, commercial distribution, or commercial exhibition of obscene material
- (9) aggravated assault
- (10) sexual assault
- (11) aggravated sexual assault

- (12) robbery
- (13) aggravated robbery
- (14) unlawfully carrying a weapon
- (15) murder
- (16) capital murder

(17) continuous sexual abuse of young child or children

(18) massage therapy or other massage services in violation

(19) employing a minor at a sexually oriented business

(20) trafficking of persons

(21) sexual conduct or performance by a child

(22) employment harmful to a child

CAUSE NO. 2016-46478

THE STATE OF TEXAS
Plaintiff

VS.

"A" SPA, NEW HAVEN SPA,
ALEX C. LUK AND THE REAL
PROPERTY KNOWN AS
8320 GULF FWY,
HOUSTON, TX 77017, *IN REM*,
DAN MA INDIVIDUALLY AND D/B/A
OAK SPA, MAM SPA, 249 SPA, PARIS
SPA AND JC SPA, VO RICHMOND
PLAZA LLC AND THE REAL
PROPERTY KNOWN AS
9544 RICHMOND AVE,
HOUSTON, TEXAS *IN REM*, AMPEX
WESTHEIMER PLAZA LP AND
THE REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS
13660 WESTHEIMER RD, HOUSTON,
TEXAS, *IN REM*, BLUE CREEK
HOLLISTER LLC AND THE REAL
PROPERTY KNOWN AS 14901
STATE HIGHWAY 249, HOUSTON,
TEXAS, *IN REM*, BEACON CAPITAL
INVESTMENTS LP AND THE REAL
PROPERTY KNOWN AS 2900
HILLCROFT AVE, HOUSTON, TX
77063, *IN REM*,

Defendants

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

FILED

Chris Daniel
District Clerk

AUG 22 2016

Time: 3:00 PM

By: [Signature]

Deputy

55th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

PARTIAL AGREED
ORDER GRANTING TEMPORARY INJUNCTION

Came on for a hearing, August 22, 2016, the application of Plaintiff, the State of Texas, for a Temporary Injunction pursuant to Chapter 125 of the Texas Civil Practices & Remedies Code (Chapter 125) against Defendants "A" Spa and New Haven Spa located at 8320 Gulf Fwy, the Real Property known as 8320 Gulf Freeway, Houston, Texas, *In Rem*; Karl Todd Erickson,

ADDENDUM

1. Tenant shall not permit or allow all or any portion of the premises to be used for (i) any unlawful purpose, (ii) any improper, immoral or objectionable purpose, as reasonably determined by Landlord, or (iii) any nuisance in or about the premises.
2. Tenant shall comply with, and faithfully observe, all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, orders, rules and regulations now in force or which may hereafter be in force pertaining to the premises.
3. Tenant, and any occupant, invitee, guest or any other person affiliated with Tenant, shall not engage in, or permit the premises to be used for, any criminal activity, including, but not limited to, (i) public indecency, as set forth in Texas Penal Code Chapter 43, including, but not limited to, prostitution (including promotion and compelling of prostitution), as defined in Texas Penal Code Chapter 43, (ii) criminal street gang activity or engaging in organized criminal activity as defined in Texas Penal Code Chapter 71 - Organized Crime, or (iii) threatening, intimidating, or committing assault as prohibited in Texas Penal Code Chapter 22 - Assaultive Offenses, or (iv) trafficking of persons, as defined in Texas Penal Code Chapter 20A - Trafficking of Persons.
4. ANY VIOLATION OF THE ABOVE PROVISIONS SHALL BE A MATERIAL AND IRREPARABLE VIOLATION OF THE LEASE AND GOOD CAUSE FOR IMMEDIATE TERMINATION OF THE LEASE OR THE RIGHT OF POSSESSION OR TENANCY. The reasonable judgment of the Landlord that Tenant has breached any of the terms and provisions of this Addendum shall be conclusive of that fact as between Landlord and Tenant. If Tenant breaches any of the terms and provisions of this Addendum, then Tenant shall be in immediate default (with no cure periods) under this Lease, and notwithstanding anything in the Lease to the contrary, Landlord shall have the right to exercise any and all remedies available to Landlord at law or in equity, including, without limitation, the right to immediately terminate Tenant's possession of the premises and/or terminate this Lease.
5. In case of conflict between the provisions of this Addendum and any other provisions of the Lease, the provisions of this Addendum shall govern. This Addendum is incorporated into the Lease effective as of the Effective Date.

Tenant Signature

_____, 201____
Date executed by Tenant

Landlord Signature

_____, 201____
Date executed by Landlord (being the
"Effective Date")

Locations of interest tracking numbers

	No. of locations	% of Total locations tracked	% of Spa locations tracked
No. of locations identified as spa/possible IMB	260	54.39%	
No. of locations submitted for filing of Civil Nuisance Abatement Actions Law Suits	27	5.65%	10.38%

Possible IMB Tracking

No. of tracked individual spa locations that saw vice operations:	#of locations tracked	% of Total locations tracked	% of Spa locations tracked
2016	60	12.55%	23.08%
2015	39	8.16%	15.00%
2014 (Est.)	11	2.30%	4.23%
Percentage of Identified suspected IMBs visited over 3 years*			42.31%

IMBs Facing Civil Abatement Actions

	No. of locations	Closures
Submitted (by Vice)	27	16
Filed	16	13
Resulting In:		
Temporary Restraining Orders	2	1
Temporary Injunctions	9	8
Permanent Injunctions	2	2

You didn't do it if nobody knows about it.



Questions?

Sergeant Mike Hill

Houston (Texas) Police Department

(713) 308-8600

mike.hill@houstonpolice.org