



FILIPINO AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION – NEVADA

Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Organization

14 November 2011

RE: Policies on Human Trafficking

LETTER OF SUPPORT

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To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Executive Board and volunteers of the Filipino American Heritage Foundation – Nevada, we would like to extend our support to Bamboo Bridges in their quest to enforce fair and rightful policies against human trafficking in the state of Nevada.

Sincerely,

ROMUALDO ARAGON, JR., MD

Founder & Current President

Filipino American Heritage Foundation - Nevada

Submitted At Meeting
by MINDIE LLOYD
Date 11/15/11 Item #4

President's Office: 2870 S Maryland Parkway, Suite #120, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109

Tel 702.737.9520 * Fax 702.737.9522 * raragonmd@aol.com * www.fahfnv.org

My Name is Robert Henry.
Address 3355 S Jones Blvd
LAS VEGAS, NV 89146.

I am a local businessman, and the president of the Filipino American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Nevada. My family and I moved into our home in Las Vegas in 2002. Since then the population in the Valley has doubled. Our concern is that our ordinances keep up with the growth. The Reflexology Industry has a demonstrated history of abuses regarding prostitution and human trafficking. We urge the City Council to arm our courts and law enforcement with the ordinances which will help control any further abuses in the Reflexology Industry.

Submitted At Meeting
by MINGGIE LLOYD
Date 11/15/11 Item #4

My name is Minddie Lloyd, and I am the chair of Bamboo Bridges, a non-profit organization that seeks to address violence against women in the Asian Pacific American community.

We are present today to support the proposed change to the City of Las Vegas massage and reflexology ordinances.

The federal government has estimated that between 14.5 to 17.5 thousand people are trafficked into the United States annually, and that women from Asia represent the largest segment of those trafficked. Additionally, Las Vegas has been determined to be a major destination city. Research has shown that massage parlors are often fronts for women who are trafficked into the sex industry.

It is important to recognize that unregulated massage parlors create opportunities for women to be exploited and/or required to offer sexual services.

Based on a review of state and local regulations throughout the U.S., it appears the most effective approach to minimize opportunities for exploitation includes a combination of criteria related to business licensing, the licensing of massage therapists, regulation of the massage establishments (to include documentation, accountability, standards relating to criminal history, and meeting health code standards), regular inspection, and meaningful penalties for non-compliance to include significant fines, arrest, and possible revocation of licenses.

Legitimate, legal massage parlors are an asset to our community, however we strongly support the City in holding owners accountable for conditions that put massage and reflexology workers at risk of exploitation.

Submitted At Meeting
by MINDIE LLOYD
Date 11/15/11 **Item** #4

Clark County Commission
Street Address here
Las Vegas, NV 89000

3-12-08

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to inform you as to my concerns regarding the massage parlor issue in Clark County.

After researching the issue in depth, I have come to a number of conclusions. Foremost is that this area has a severe problem with the growing abundance of storefront brothels masquerading as massage businesses. Many of these brothels use human trafficking to acquire "staff". Through interviews I have discovered that a significant portion of the women used in the so-called Oriental parlors are below the age of consent. One young woman, kidnapped in Texas, was held captive for over five years. She still suffers physically from the abuse she received as punishment for her escape attempts.

There appears to be little interest on the part of various State, County and City officials to even address this issue. The District Attorney will not issue indictments when presented with evidence. The State Board of Massage Therapists told me they did not have citing authority and could not issue fines, yet an NRS chapter gives the board that authority. A check with the LCB staff in Carson City verified this.

An amendment adjusting the hours for a few legitimate Massage Therapists will not address this issue. All it will do is inconvenience those legal businesses. What needs to be done is add regulations dealing with licensing, certification and inspections. The cost of inspections can be self-funding by the issuance of fines. The NRS allows fines of \$1000 per violation per day. Enforcement can also be directed to those landlords consistently leasing space to the unlicensed massage brothels. Several interviews have indicated that some of these property owners are not citizens and may have ties to organized crime. In addition to this, citing authority needs to be given back to the agencies governing these businesses so that the public interest is protected once again.

Assemblyman Bob Beers
355 Cavalla Street
Henderson, NV 89074

Submitted At Meeting
by PETER CHRISTOFF
Date 11/15/11 Item # 4

LOOKING IN ON: CITY HALL

Senator thinks case of masseuse who got citation was mishandled

Hundreds have petitioned to repeal or change law

By **JOE SCHOENMANN**
Las Vegas Sun

Help may be on the way for a woman who pleaded with the Las Vegas City Council two weeks ago about her massage career being ruined by a potentially unjust citation by undercover Metro Police vice officers.

After an item about the Las Vegas woman appeared in the Sun this week, state Sen. Maggie Carlton, D-Las Vegas, who was instrumental in establishing the Nevada Board of Massage Therapists, said she thinks police acted wrongly.

Vowing to look deeper into the woman's story, Carlton said she thinks police had no right to ticket the woman for giving a massage to a man.

"I don't think Metro had the authority to do what they did," she said.

County and city ordinances, in an effort to curtail prostitution, forbid opposite-sex massages unless the masseuse is working for a licensed establishment.

This woman — a single mother who feared repercussions if she were named — said she went to an upscale Las Vegas hotel after getting a call for a massage. She is an independent masseuse who travels to customers.

After she was treated rudely by men in the hotel room, she said, and refused their come-ons to perform sexual massages, a lieutenant entered the room. The undercover officers, she said, told the lieutenant she didn't do anything wrong. But the lieutenant, she claimed, said she broke the massage ordinance. She was given a citation.

With the citation on her record, she could get only a probationary license from the state massage board.

Several hundred people have signed an online petition to get the opposite-sex ordinances repealed or changed.

Casting lines: Exotic businesses lure customers with kickback cash to cabbies

A look at some of the enticements offered to cabdrivers to encourage special delivery

This massage parlor offered \$15 kickbacks — according to the cabdriver who parted with the card, it wasn't enough money for him to refer passengers.

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7-11pm
Cabbies receive \$15 OFF

ALL SERVICE MASSAGE
(WHITE, LATINO, CHINESE, JAPANESE, KOREAN, THAI GIRLS)
TAXI DRIVERS CONTACT: KEN
686-7900

The \$100 driver's kickback is twice the amount customers pay to enter this business, which advertises "steam and theme rooms" and "relaxation with the most beautiful girls."

Cabdrivers are assigned PINs and say it helps escort services keep track of kickbacks without using names.

An outcall service offers cabbies and limo drivers \$200 for every passenger they refer.

CHRIS MORRIS /
SUN PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Brothels and strip clubs get customers, cabbies get cash

BY ABIGAIL GOLDMAN
Las Vegas Sun

Detective Jeff Gentry is undercover in Chinatown, waiting for a taxi driver he tapped to negotiate the price for a night in a neighborhood brothel — a plain vanilla apartment with cream leather sofas and soft music piped over a haggling housemother, who tells the driver that she charges \$150 for "full service."

Gentry knows the brothel's base rate, but expects the cabdriver to quote him \$300 and poof! — pocket the rest. He declines.

A working girl wearing a white robe and nothing else offers Gentry a drink. He declines.

By then, his cabdriver is out the door, \$150 richer.

Not bad for 20 minutes of work. Welcome to the wide world of kickbacks — the quick cash transactions keeping



Making a connection: Posing as a tourist and wearing a hidden camera, private investigator Hal De Becker films a cabdriver arranging a visit to a brothel. After negotiating prices, the cabbie ushered De Becker into an apartment with three women waiting. Brothels and strip clubs compete for customers by paying kickbacks that reach hundreds of dollars.

Las Vegas' salacious side alye.

Although the statement is apt to infuriate them, taxi and limo drivers who take kickbacks from illegal brothels and strip clubs are crucial to keeping such businesses afloat.



Drivers often act as brokers for brothels, shuffling tourist jobs to hidden locations, setting the fees and taking their cut. And because brothel owners need tourists chauffeured to their doors, they advertise to drivers, handing out business cards in the taxi lines



outside casinos, each with a kickback quote and number to call.

Same goes for strip clubs, where cabbies cash in for dropping off clients.

When Gentry and another undercover detective pose as two rubes looking for a lap dance, they get a taxi to

take them to a strip club and watch the driver pocket \$60 for it from the club.

With an entrance fee at about \$20, lap dances at negotiable prices and Budweisers at \$9, the strip club can afford to kickback \$90 a head.

Like brothels, strip clubs bet they'll make it all back.

Sitting outside the Rio, a taxi driver piloting a minivan — call him Joe, because he doesn't want his name in the paper — boasts about his brothel connections. He pulls out a small card advertising kickbacks at a new bordello. The payoffs are stunning: One client nets him \$200. Additional clients net another \$200 each, up to \$800.

"Someone gets in the cab and they want to get laid, all we do is we make a call," he says.

Here's how it works: Joe learns that a brothel is open and offering kickbacks. [See Kickback, Page 2]

COURTESY KTNV

TIPPING CABDRIVERS IS PRICEY, BUT IT KEEPS BROTHELS OPEN

He calls the brothel and is assigned a personal identification number. The next time Joe has an interested passenger, he calls the brothel with his PIN and gets the going rate. On arrival, he takes the john's money, gives it to the brothel, gets his kickback and depending on the client's wish, Joe waits or Joe splits.

"I work with the real deal," he says. "If they want to get laid, they're gonna get laid."

During Operation Dollhouse, the two-year investigation into illegal brothels that ended in April with seven people arrested and 25 prostitutes detained, police charged John Gregory Keyes, 50, with nine counts of living off the earnings of a prostitute, charges that police reports indicate Keyes fessed up to when he was discovered at a known house of prostitution off Spring Mountain Road at 2:30 a.m. on a Saturday night.

At the time Keyes was arrested, he was employed as a taxi driver, according to the Nevada Taxicab Authority.

Police did not respond to questions about what role Keyes played in the prostitution ring. Taxicab Authority records indicate Keyes has since been terminated.

(It's worth noting that the San Mateo, Calif., sheriff and undersheriff were detained, questioned and released at one of the massage parlors raided during Operation Dollhouse. They said they got into a limo and told the driver they wanted a massage because they were sore from a Las Vegas charity run — but not the kind of massage, they insist, the confused limo driver somehow thought they meant.)

The local brothel business has tried to button itself up since Dollhouse, police say, but the bottom line remains: If brothels slip too far under the radar, or keep their kickbacks too quiet, they'll never get cabs to come with clients.

Short-staffed on a slow week night, it takes seasoned Metro vice detectives no more than 20 minutes to find a brothel, half an hour to get inside and case the place.

Prostitution is illegal in Clark County, but taking kickbacks isn't. As long as a passenger is delivered to his or her desired destination, tips are allowed. It's diverting a passenger, pushing a person into going to one place over another, that gets a cabdriver in trouble.

This is where strip clubs get involved, and the kickback game becomes much more complicated. And costly.

To court cabbies, strip clubs have waged kickback wars, continually upping the ante

to edge out the competition.

On peak nights, cabbies have reported making \$80 a head.

(Cabdrivers caught diverting face a \$500 fine, suspension and possible license revocation. Cabdrivers who take inquiring johns to brothels are typically charged with prostitution-related offenses, such as pandering, aiding and abetting, furnishing transportation for prostitution.)

When a 2005 Assembly bill threatened to make kickbacks illegal, cabdrivers threatened strikes and held mass honking sessions, saying tips are the hard-working driver's bread and butter. Then-Gov. Kenny Guinn vetoed the bill.

That December a strip club coalition, the Nevada Association of Nightclubs, decided to ban kickbacks. Bounties reportedly rose so high that the entire strip club community was hurting: spending too much to lure clients or losing too much to clubs willing to pay more.

When it became clear in 2006 that some strip clubs weren't abiding by the kickback agreement, the association started filing lawsuits and hiring private investigators to prove palms were still being greased.

Association attorneys hired private investigator Hal De Becker to catch cabdrivers diverting strip club clients for kickbacks.

After four nights of hailing cabs, De Becker had seen enough.

When he asked to go to the Palomino Club (a member of the association then not paying kickbacks), cabdrivers gave all sorts of reasons why they wouldn't take him: The surrounding neighborhood is a ghetto, the cover charges are too high, it doesn't serve alcohol (it does), other clubs are better.

One cabdriver, a woman, told De Becker the Palomino was a place where old strip-pers went to die.

Drivers who got comfortable, De Becker says, opened up about the kickbacks. Some said they were getting more than cash: DVD players, flat-screen TVs, even an evening at a legal brothel. Other clubs were handing out swipe cards, scanning drivers as they came in, racking up points for prizes.

The nightclub association's attorney, Dominic Gentile (who acquired the Palomino Club in March 2006 as payment for defending the previous owner in a murder investigation), alleges strip clubs are doing more than diverting customers: They're committing massive tax fraud, writing off the kickbacks as a business expense and not reporting the driver's income to the Internal Revenue Service.

Gentile hired a former IRS agent to

investigate the fraud that he's certain is occurring. What Gentile's not certain of, however, is whether the association's lawsuit will go forward.

In fact, it's not even clear whether the Nevada Association of Nightclubs still exists.

Former association members told the Sun the coalition slowly dissolved last year because of lack of interest, but wouldn't be quoted.

Sources close to the association say the strip club owners realized they'd probably spend more money on litigation and private investigators than they would just giving in and paying the kickbacks.

Gentile recently sent letters to association members, asking whether they're still interested in their case.

...

Interim Chief Investigator Joe Dahlia has been working for the Nevada Taxicab Authority for 18 years. Kickbacks have always been a topic of discussion, he says, and the difficulty with diversions hasn't changed: Money talks.

Brothels pay bigger bounties, so it makes sense that cabdrivers pushed bordellos on private investigator De Becker.

One driver asked whether De Becker was a cop, and satisfied that he wasn't, suggested the investigator visit Sensations, a massage parlor on Industrial Road where De Becker could get "full service" for \$160.

Detectives raided the business this month and arrested customers who admitted they were there for more than massage.

...

Standing in the living room of the Chinatown brothel, a working girl offers to "sleep" with Gentry, ushering him into a back bedroom where there is a mattress on the floor, white sheets and white towels. The usual. Gentry sizes it up and makes an excuse to leave.

Waiting outside, Detective David Hunkins takes careful notes: the time, the place, certain quotes from the conversation, which aren't fit for print.

"We'll be back," he says.

There are 6,477 taxicabs driving the streets of Las Vegas and about 1,000 limos, Dahlia says. Even if one of his 25 investigators heard of a driver doing kickback diversions, how would he prove it? By asking the driver, or the person paying the bounty?

"If I had the answer," Dahlia said, "I could probably retire."

Abigail Goldman can be reached at 259-8806 or at abigail.goldman@lasvegassun.com.



State of Nevada Board of Massage Therapy



Friday, February 15, 2008

LINKS



American Massage
Therapy Association

NCTMB
National Certification
Board for
Therapeutic Massage
and Body Work



MISSION

The mission of the Nevada State Board of Massage Therapy is to, through licensing and regulating the practice of massage, protect the public health, safety and welfare by ensuring that only qualified competent Massage Therapy Practitioners are licensed in the state of Nevada. It is our goal to balance the needs of the public with those of Licensed Massage Therapists, through development, implementation, enforcement, and continued improvement in the areas of therapist education, public safety, boundaries, and ethics, in compliance with the highest standards set forth within the massage therapy profession.

Bulletins

[Temporary NAC \(pdf\)](#)

[License Renewal
Instructions \(pdf\)](#)

[How to become
licensed in Nevada \(pdf\)](#)

[Continuing Education
Information \(pdf\)](#)

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

License Verifications

[Verify a License](#)

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MRS Lisa Cooper

Board of Massage Therapists
1755 E. Plumb Lane Suite 252, Reno, NV 89502
Phone (775) 688-1888 Fax (775) 786-4264
Email: nvmassagebd@state.nv.us
Web Site: www.massagetherapy.nv.gov

Board of Massage Therapists
101 Convention Center Dr. Suite 830
Las Vegas, NV 89109
Phone (702) 486-2212 Fax (702) 486-3658

- 775 688-1900 - RENO NV 89502

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**Nevada State Board
of Massage Therapists**

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of Massage Therapists**

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Fax (702) 486-3658

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

On June 11, 2010, the Nevada State Board of Massage Therapists voted to give the administrative staff the authority to deny any application submitted to the Nevada State Board of Massage Therapists with education that was completed at the following location: Select Therapy Institute located at: 2209 San Gabriel Blvd., Suite C, Rosemead, CA, 91770. The Board granted this authority due to the investigation that was completed by the National Certification Board of Therapeutic Massage and Body Work dated April 9, 2010. (See Attached)

5. Review of Graduates

NCBTMB staff reviewed the records of those STI "graduates" whom applied to take the National Certification Exam using STI's assigned school code. NCBTMB found that some STI "graduates" were connected to erotic massage and/or prostitution. Below are some examples:

- a. "Graduates" working at erotic massage parlors who use the internet to advertise their services.
- b. A "graduate" who owns a business where arrests were made relating to prostitution, and who pled nolo contendere to a felony count of prostitution.
- c. A "graduate" who was working in a brothel was arrested for soliciting sex for money and held in a New York jail due to her immigration status.
- d. A "graduate" that promotes herself on several web sites including Craigslist, Backpage and Erotic M.P. regarding her sexual services for a fee.
- e. A "graduate" who was charged with running a place of prostitution and collecting earnings from another(s) prostitute.

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NOTICE OF SCHOOLS NOT APPROVED IN NEVADA

The Nevada State Board of Massage Therapists made a motion and voted on the following:

Review/Discussion/Action on Investigation Results from the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork Report on Quality of Education; Acceptance or Rejection of Applications/Continuing Education for Licensure/Renewal Related to the Listed Schools and Date of Suspension, Based on Educational Requirements.

List of School	Date of Suspension
Acupuncture and Massage Institute of America (Arcadia)	06/25/2009
Acupuncture and Massage Institute of America (Hacienda Heights/Rosemead)	06/25/2009
Acupuncture and Massage Institute of America (Los Angeles)	06/25/2009
America's Institute of Traditional Medicine	08/28/2009
American International Vocational College	06/03/2009
American Training School for Medical Professionals	08/13/2010
Andrew Health	12/08/2009
Body Concepts Wellness Institute	04/08/2011
Cal Lion Institute	12/10/2009
Diamond Beauty College	6/14/2011
East West Institute of Hand Therapy	06/29/2009
Fountain Massage School (A Former Texas School)	
Hahm Therapeutic Massage Institution (Los Angeles)	02/10/2011
Matrix (A Former Texas School)	
New Wave Myotherapy	02/07/2011
Oriental Medicine Institute of America	05/24/2011
Pro Nail (A Former Florida School)	
Royal Irvin College	06/29/2009
School of Healing Touch	02/22/2011
<u>Select Therapy Institute</u>	11/04/2009
UBC El-Monte	06/29/2009
United States Alternative College	06/08/2010
Universal Careers Institute (A Former Texas School)	
Wall Street Institute	12/30/2009
Xincon America School	04/25/2011
Yunique Wellness Center	6/25/2009

The motion passed unanimously.

Going forward all applications submitted to the Nevada State Board of Massage Therapists with education from the above schools will be denied based on the date the School Code was suspended from the National Certification.

Any other school listed above without a Date of Suspension, your application will be denied.

All Applications with California School Education are subject to an Application Review.

Page 1 of 1
Subj: **Bring LV massage parlors before City Council to Show Cause**
Date: 11/14/2011 1:37:54 P.M. Pacific Standard Time
From: Stevemiller4lv@aol.com
CC: nvmassagebd@state.nv.us

Bring LV massage parlors before City Council to Show Cause why they should keep their business licenses while employing "therapists" with bogus certificates from phony California certificate mills.

As a former Las Vegas City Councilman, I recommend that Mayor Pro Tem Stavros Anthony -- upon the passage of his massage parlor ordinance -- immediately bring all existing city massage parlor licensees before the City Council to Show Cause why they should be allowed to keep their business license while employing "massage therapists" with certificates of completion from the schools listed below:

**Nevada State Board
of Massage Therapists**
1755 E. Primm Lane Suite 252
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Phone (775) 888-1888
Fax (775) 786-4264

Email:
nmassageboard@state.nv.us
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Xinchen America School	04/25/2011
Yunquo Wellness Center	6/25/2009

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All Applications with California School Education are subject to an Application Review

Posted 8/29/2011

For years, Nevada Board of Massage Therapists Executive Director Lisa O. Cooper accepted certificates of completion from the above "schools," and issued Nevada State Massage Therapists Licenses based on these bogus certificates.

Today, hundreds of women who *purchased* their certificates of competition from one of these schools are employed in neighborhood massage parlors and out call massage services located within the City of Las Vegas.

Their massage licenses should not be grandfathered.

Do not allow these women after the passage of the new Ordinance to continue their trade without having to attend an accredited massage therapy school licensed in Nevada and obtain a Clark County Health Card (and I suggest a Sheriff's Card) as will be the requirement of all new applicants.

Making a level playing field of qualifications for all Las Vegas massage therapists, will stop the continuation of the illicit massage-sex industry.

Steve Miller

Steve Miller writes internationally syndicated columns on organized crime and political corruption for Rick Porrello's AmericanMafia.com, and the Canada Free Press.
Visit his website at: <http://www.SteveMiller4LasVegas.com/>

Steve Is a former LV City Councilman who believes some things that happen in Vegas should not stay in Vegas. To subscribe to his Insider E-Briefs, send your e-mail address to: SteveMiller4LV@aol.com. Write ADD in SUBJECT
Or if you would like to un-subscribe to these sometimes-too-frequent E-Briefs, REPLY with REMOVE in SUBJECT