



Maricopa County Attorney

ANDREW P. THOMAS

301 W. JEFFERSON, SUITE 800
PHOENIX, AZ 85003
www.maricopacountyattorney.org

PH. (602) 506-3411
TDD (602) 506-4352
FAX (602) 506-8102

News Release

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For more information contact:

Mike Anthony Scerbo, Public Information Officer
(602) 506-3170 (office) or (602) 489-6913 (cell)

Additional Desert Diva Defendants Arrested

43 suspects named in 112 count indictment

County Attorney Andrew Thomas and Phoenix Police have announced the second phase of the Desert Diva's criminal investigation has resulted in a 112 count indictment against 43 suspects. At least 19 have been arrested. These indictments came as the result of search warrants that had been served late last summer. Information from those warrants enabled police and prosecutors to identify the suspects indicted. A grand jury handed up the indictment on April 23, 2009. Charges include:

- Conspiracy to Commit Illegal Control of an Enterprise, a class 3 felony
- Illegal Participation in an Enterprise, a class 3 felony
- Money Laundering in the Second Degree, a class 3 felony
- Employment in Prostitution, a class 1 misdemeanor
- Pandering, a class 5 felony

Phoenix Police started the investigation in 2007 in cooperation with the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. The investigation included financial records, computer records and interviews. It is alleged the operation was making bank deposits of \$250,000 a month.

Four of the defendants are alleged to be VIP customers, who actually participated in the enterprise. Three of them have been served with notice of the indictment. They are Lloyd W. Harris age 31, Harley Clayton Lisherness age 67, and Rodney Joseph Rosta age 62.

While at least 20 of the defendants are accused of being prostitutes, the indictment also covers other aspects of the business. Andrea Lynn Baraza age 23, and Chloena Michelle Haarstad age 19 are among several suspects accused of being phone operators working for Desert Divas and its associated businesses. Glen Edward Goldblatt age 45 is accused of being a photographer for the operation.

The first round of indictments resulted in the major operators of the business pleading guilty. They are each facing more than two years in prison. Deputy County Attorney Annie Laurie Van Wie is prosecuting.

19 of the 43 suspects indicted in this new phase of the investigation have been arrested by police in Phoenix, Colorado, Florida and the state of Washington.

Thomas stated, “This case is beyond prostitution. This was a major criminal syndicate that allegedly made millions of dollars. I am proud of the work done by our prosecutors and the skilled detective work of the Phoenix Police in breaking the back of this syndicate.”

Phoenix Public Safety Director Jack Harris stated, “Prostitution is often referred to as a “victimless” crime. However, the effects of these crimes adversely impact the quality of life in our community. The Phoenix Police Department continues to remain committed to aggressively combating and eliminating those organizations that engage in this type criminal activity in the city of Phoenix.”

Those accused of prostitution are:

Melissa Ann Haden age 25
Mindy Allison Haden age 25
Michelle Ann Keithley age 38
Tania Marie Koyanagi age 24
Jillian Lybarger age 24
Julissa Varela Flores age 24
Diane Savannah Hasse age 21
Leslie Ann Wolf age 21
Ashley Marie Kutka age 24
Cynthia Matthews age 27
Emily Jean Boyd age 24

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