



# Pembroke Pines Police Department



9500 Pines Boulevard · Pembroke Pines · Florida 33024

Administrative Phone – 954-436-3200

24 Hour Dispatch – 954-431-2200

PIO On-Call Number – 954-252-5029

## MEDIA RELEASE

**ASSIGNED PIO:** Captain Al Xiques

**DATE OF MEDIA RELEASE:** February 7, 2020

**TIME OF MEDIA RELEASE:** 7:00 p.m.

**CASE NUMBER:** PPPD19OFF076652; PPPD19OFF076430; PPPD19OFF071606

**CHARGE/INCIDENT:** Arrests; Practicing Massage Therapy Without a License; Procuring for Prostitution

**DATE OF OCCURRENCE:** February 4, 2020

**TIME OF OCCURRENCE:** [Click here to enter text.](#) p.m.

**PLACE OF OCCURRENCE:** 10462 Taft Street (Body Salon); 9137 Taft Street (Charm Spa Massage) 7791 Pines Boulevard (5 Roses Spa)

**SUSPECT(S) - NAME, AGE, DOB, RACE, SEX, ADDRESS:**

- 1) Adult Asian Female (48-years-old)
- 2) Adult Asian Female (52-years-old)
- 3) Adult Asian Female (50-years-old)
- 4) Adult Asian Female (58-years-old)

**VICTIM(S) - NAME, AGE, DOB, RACE, SEX, ADDRESS:**

[Click here to enter text.](#)

## **INCIDENT SUMMARY:**

On Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., detectives from the Pembroke Pines Police Department arrested and charged four adult women with Unlicensed Practicing of Massage Therapy which is a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree felony, and Procuring of Prostitution which is a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree misdemeanor.

The initial investigation began November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019, when our department was contacted by a concerned citizen of Pembroke Pines, who had learned of possible prostitution activity occurring at several massage parlors within the city. He was particularly concerned about the potentially

Anyone with information regarding this incident is urged to contact the Pembroke Pines Police Department at 954-431-2200, email to [tips@ppines.com](mailto:tips@ppines.com), or call Broward Crime Stoppers at 954-493-TIPS.



# Pembroke Pines Police Department



9500 Pines Boulevard · Pembroke Pines · Florida 33024

Administrative Phone – 954-436-3200

24 Hour Dispatch – 954-431-2200

PIO On-Call Number – 954-252-5029

dangerous clientele that this illegal activity could bring to the area. Our Vice, Intelligence, and Narcotics Unit (VIN) immediately began a thorough investigation into this matter, which included five (5) undercover visits to three (3) massage parlors within Pembroke Pines, where criminal activity was taking place. An additional yet separate complaint was also investigated at another massage parlor, which revealed no criminal activity.

During the course of the investigation, the undercover detective acted no differently than any other customer, when going to receive a legitimate professional massage. When the detective was laying on the massage table with his private areas covered (twice wearing underwear and covered with a towel, twice covered only with a towel), the suspect(s) solicited him for sexual acts, and touched his private areas. The detective declined and immediately removed the suspect(s) hand from his body.

At no time did the detective undress in the presence of a suspect, nor did he expose himself voluntarily. The suspect(s) would either reach under the towel and touch the detective's private area, or they would remove the towel that covered the detective's private areas. In all instances, the detective reacted appropriately by removing the suspect(s) hand. At no time did the detective remain exposed beyond a brief and reasonable timeframe during each encounter. Similar circumstances were involved with all of the suspect(s) at various locations throughout the City of Pembroke Pines.

As part of the investigative process, prior to making the physical arrests of the suspect(s), they were questioned along with an investigator from the Department of Health. Due to a language barrier, a designated translation service was utilized over the phone. All pertinent inquiries regarding concerns for the suspect(s) potentially being victims of human trafficking were asked. It should be noted that all of the suspect(s) had possession of their Chinese passports, and two had possession of valid Florida and New York driver's licenses. Although there was no immediate suspicion that the suspect(s) were potential victims of human trafficking, this aspect of the investigation is being continued through the assistance of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI).

Until we receive final confirmation from HSI, we will not be releasing the suspects' names and information to protect their identities, as the possibility still exists that they could be victims of human trafficking.

Some of the initial aspects of this case which were provided by our local media partners to the general public were incomplete. Pertinent questions were not asked of our agency which created a misunderstanding of what occurred. The subsequent headlines and narratives appeared

Anyone with information regarding this incident is urged to contact the Pembroke Pines Police Department at 954-431-2200, email to [tips@ppines.com](mailto:tips@ppines.com), or call Broward Crime Stoppers at 954-493-TIPS.



# Pembroke Pines Police Department



9500 Pines Boulevard · Pembroke Pines · Florida 33024

Administrative Phone – 954-436-3200

24 Hour Dispatch – 954-431-2200

PIO On-Call Number – 954-252-5029

misleading, as if the detective did something inappropriate or wrong, in addition to revealing the identities of these suspects/potential victims.

We would like to make clear that at no time did a representative of our agency violate a law, policy, or act unethically. These cases are very sensitive in nature, which is why they can only be worked in an undercover capacity, always with the highest level of professionalism. Some media outlets went as far as revealing the name of the detective and posted a partial picture of him, knowing that he now works in an undercover capacity. That action compromises the safety of our operations, and adversely affects the interests of our community in our continued efforts to combat crime.

Our agency is 100% transparent. As with every case, this one will be available to anyone who wishes to read it consistent with Florida Public Records Laws, once the criminal investigation is completed.

For clarification, we would like to highlight the following:

- As with every undercover operation, investigative funds were utilized as part of this operation. This is completely ethical and consistent with best practices in law enforcement throughout the nation, as a necessary investigative resource
- The human trafficking aspect of every case involving prostitution is always investigated, as was done in this instance
- This operation was closely supervised, and due to privacy laws and legal limitations, no body camera or video surveillance was utilized

Any additional media requests will be processed on Monday February 10<sup>th</sup>, as our administrative offices are closed Friday-Sunday.