

# ***METROPOLITAN BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION***

## ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

*2001*

The year 2001 was another active year for joint investigations being conducted by the member agencies of the Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation. The contributing agencies, consisting of the Ninth Judicial Circuit's State Attorney's Office, Orange County Sheriff's Office, Osceola County Sheriff's Office, Orlando Police Department, Winter Park Police Department, Ocoee Police Department, Apopka Police Department, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Customs Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Immigration and Naturalization Service, combined efforts to dismantle illegal narcotics and vice organizations operating in Central Florida and in judicial circuits that were supplying illegal services to Central Florida.



**Pictured Above:** The primary Heroin supplier in Miami, FL photographed during one of the many surveillance operations.

Some of those investigations included the continuation of the MBI, FDLE, and DEA HIDTA Heroin Task Force investigation titled ***Operation Corona***, which led to the **Heroin Trafficking arrest of the Florida President of the *Latin Kings*, known as Jose "King Joey" Rosado**. The ***Operation Corona*** investigation led to the heroin suppliers of Jose Rosado and to a new investigation titled ***Operation Final Count***, which resulted in eleven heroin trafficking arrests and the **dismantling of the *John Aragon Heroin Organization***.

**Operation Sandman** was a joint investigation conducted by the FDLE, MBI, DEA HIDTA Heroin Task Force, USCS, INS, Orange County Sheriff's Office, Orlando Police Department, and Ocoee Police Department directed at three inter-related heroin organizations. **The investigation resulted in 24 heroin trafficking arrests and the dismantling of those organizations.**

The four year investigation ***Operation Catch Stretch*** has been directed at the ***Jorge Farah Organization*** that is an active cocaine and marijuana organization operating in Central Florida. The joint investigation conducted with the DEA, IRS, and FDLE has already resulted in significant seizures of illegal cash assets in 2001 and is expected to be completed in 2002.

The above investigations and other narcotics investigations have resulted in the seizure of **\$7,432,388** in

**narcotics, \$1,182,381 in illegal cash proceeds, and the arrest of 160 drug traffickers.** Persons who commit the level of drug crime titled "*Trafficking*" face significant minimum mandatory prison sentences.

In the year 2001, the MBI Vice/Organized Crime Section continued the investigation of the ***Rachel's Men's Clubs***. As a result of evidence obtained in the investigation, **the owner of *Rachel's Men's Clubs*, James Veigle, was arrested for Racketeering, Deriving Support from Prostitution, Securing a Person for Prostitution, and Money Laundering.**

**Thirty-two of the *Rachel's Men's Clubs* managers, employees, and sub-contractors have pled guilty to charges ranging from racketeering, prostitution, and drug dealing.** Agents continue to gain additional evidence and are ready to proceed to the trial phase.

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## Rachel's owner is arrested

James Veigle was charged with racketeering and prostitution in connection with the strip clubs he owns.

By RENE STUTZMAN  
OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

After years of revelry with flashy cars, blond waitresses and high living, the owner of the two Orlando-area Rachel's men's clubs was arrested Wednesday on charges of racketeering, conspiracy, prostitution and money laundering.

James Veigle, 56, of Winter Park is accused of turning the two strip clubs into annual fantasy lands for high spenders.

It has been clear for months that Veigle was the principal target in a vice investigation that already has netted 34 people, most of them Veigle's former employees. His attorneys had been negotiating his surrender for weeks.

Shortly before he surrendered at the Orange County Jail, Veigle said that the Orlando Sentinel that he planned to fight the charges.

"We've been shadow boxing for eight months," Veigle said. "It's a time of reckoning."

He said that he had done nothing improper. He insisted that any illegal acts at his clubs in Casselberry and south Orange County had been the work of employees.

"I was going to get a Richard Nixon mask and go. I am not a crook," he joked.

Veigle, 56, a real estate, restaurant and nightclub entrepreneur worth an estimated \$10 million, is charged with 13 counts by the Office of Statewide Prosecution. According to the charges, customers could buy sex and drugs at the clubs if they had enough money.

PHOTO BY RACHEL S. DE

Turns himself in. James Veigle, owner of 2 Orlando-area Rachel's men's clubs, arrives at the Orange County Jail on Wednesday after being charged with 13 criminal counts.

In 2001, the MBI reduced enforcement directed at street prostitution as the Orlando Police Department established their own street vice enforcement unit to complement the Orange County Sheriff's Office street vice enforcement unit. The MBI focused more on organized prostitution services, including the racketeering investigation of **AAA Entertainment and Models** and a joint investigation with the Brevard County Sheriff's Office, called **Operation Harpoon**, which resulted in **four multi-county escort services being dismantled, and their owners arrested for racketeering**. The Vice/Organized Crime Section additionally met with representatives of the Sprint and BellSouth *Yellow Pages* publications to develop strategies to make it more difficult for illegal prostitution services to advertise in the *Entertainer* and *Massage* categories. Both publishers have already agreed to remove the *Escort Service* category from their *Yellow Pages* directories.

MBI agents also joined with members of the Orange County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Division in a racketeering investigation titled **Operation Stiffarm** directed at a distributor of illegal video gambling machines. The investigation resulted in the racketeering arrest of the owners of the distributorship and seizure of sixty-six video gambling slot machines.

The mission of the Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation, in concert with the members agencies of the MBI, is to aggressively target narcotics and illegal vice organizations from the Ninth Judicial Circuit, consisting of Orange and Osceola counties. The teamwork and dedication of the agencies as well as assistance from citizens in the community have resulted in another productive year and reinforced the Central Florida image as a community that will not tolerate illegal narcotics or vice organizations.

William A. Lutz, Director  
Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (MBI)