

MBI

Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation
United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Florida Department of Health
Attorney General's Office of Statewide Prosecution



MULTI-AGENCY MEDIA RELEASE

Web Page: www.mbi-police.org

E-mail: mbiorlando@aol.com

Telephone (407) 836-9701

Facsimile (407) 836-9743

OPERATION CHINA DOLL

This is the **first of two media releases** involving a crackdown on Asian Massage Parlor owners. The first media release involves the arrest of **Li Ping Ding** for Racketeering and Maintaining Places for Prostitution. **Next week**, MBI agents will be seeking the owner of another massage parlor operation for similar charges.

Specific Information on Massage Parlor Operated by Li Ping Ding

After a **two-year** investigation, an Orange County woman, **Li Ping Ding**, is being charged by police with running a **large scale Massage Parlor Prostitution Operation** in Central Florida. **Li Ping Ding's** charges include **Racketeering** and **Maintaining a Place for Prostitution**, in connection with operating **ten (10) Central Florida massage parlors -- three (3) commercial storefront Asian Massage Parlors** and **seven (7) residential Asian Massage Parlors**, where prostitution-related arrests have occurred.

Law enforcement officers allege that many customers of the **commercial storefront massage parlors** and the **residential massage parlors** were **paying up to \$160.00 per visit for illegal sex acts**. Numerous customers have provided sworn statements to police and **subpoenas will be issued for other customers** to provide additional testimony.

As a result of the arrests by local law enforcement, **Li Ping Ding** recently placed an ad in the **Orlando Weekly** offering to **sell** her massage business. Li Ping Ding was contacted by a "potential buyer," who turned out to be an undercover MBI Vice agent. During their meeting Li Ping Ding told the "potential buyer" about the profits that could be made in her "*type of business*".

Agents are presently in the process of making the arrest of **Li Ping Ding** for **Racketeering and Maintaining a Place of Prostitution** at the **Hang Zhou Spa**, an erotic massage parlor located at **6440 East Colonial Drive, Suite A, Orlando, Florida**. **Li Ping Ding** recently changed the name of the massage parlor from **Soothing Asian Massage** (which was employing Asian females exclusively) to **Hang Zhou Spa**, after numerous arrests by MBI agents.

Li Ping Ding faces a **potential thirty (30) year prison sentence** for the charge of Racketeering, which carries a **bond of \$100,000**. So far, **fifteen (15) employees** working for **Li Ping Ding**, have been charged with Prostitution or Practicing a Healthcare Profession/Massage without a License.

The **Orlando Police Department** and the **Seminole County Task Force**, known as the **City/County Investigative Bureau**, also contributed to the investigation.

Background Investigation of Central Florida Asian Massage Parlors (AMP's)

The Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (MBI), United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the Florida Department of Health (FDH) have been investigating a number of **local Asian massage parlors**, to include the **Li Ping Ding** operation, for several years, and during these investigations, have made **forty-five (45) arrests at eighteen (18) different massage parlor establishments**. These arrests included charges for Prostitution, Practicing a Healthcare Profession without a License, Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Cocaine, and Deportation for Immigration Violations.

MBI, ICE, and FDH agents **first began investigating** some of the local massage parlors for **human trafficking for sexual exploitation and prostitution violations**. The majority of the arrested employees at the massage parlors were immigrants from Korea and China, and at several locations the employees of the massage parlors were **living at the business** and appeared to have been **sleeping on the floor at night**. However, none of the Korean or Chinese employees contacted has verified that Human Trafficking has occurred.

In addition to the **erotic massage parlors in storefront locations**, the investigating agencies have also found that a number of the advertised Asian massage parlors in Central Florida have been operating **out of residences rented for the sole purpose of prostitution**. Arrests were made at **eight (8) of these residential prostitution operations** and the suspects using those residences have since moved out and the residences are currently occupied by new tenants that are not involved in this investigation.

A **Google search** of "Asian Massage Parlor," "AMPing," "Massage providers," "Massage Hobbyist," will provide background information on **activities that often occur** in Asian massage parlors.

Customers of massage parlors who were **offered illegal sexual acts by employees** are asked to **notify the Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation**. If you suspect a business is providing **unlicensed massage therapy**, please contact the **Florida Department of Health** at 1-877-HALTULA (425-8852).

Contact Person

Additional information **will be provided at the scene of the arrest**, 6440 East Colonial Drive, Orlando, Florida, by the **MBI Vice/Organized Crime Commander Paul Zambouros**. In addition to this news release, there are five (5) attachments as detailed below.

Attachments:

- A. Addresses for Commercial and Residential Businesses Operated by Li Ping Ding
- B. *Orlando Weekly* Ads for Massage Parlors Operated by Li Ping Ding
- C. Arrest Photos for Prostitution/Other Crimes at businesses operated by Li Ping Ding
- D. List of Defendants arrested at businesses operated by Li Ping Ding
- E. Nationwide Background Information on Asian Massage Parlors