

# MBI



Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (MBI)

## MULTI-AGENCY MEDIA RELEASE

Web Page: [www.mbi-police.org](http://www.mbi-police.org)

E-mail: [mbiorlando@aol.com](mailto:mbiorlando@aol.com)

Telephone (407) 836-9701

Facsimile (407) 836-9743

The Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (MBI) applauds that the *Orlando Weekly* has agreed to "Do the Right Thing" and remove the "Adult Services" advertising, which was a category of advertising that was fueling the Central Florida organized prostitution trade. This will solve the problem that the MBI's investigation sought to address.

Because the mission of organized vice enforcement is to remove problems from the community, the option of a problem solving settlement to avoid a prolonged legal action is often the proper course of action. To its credit, the *Orlando Weekly* has agreed to help resolve problems in the community to include no more prostitution related advertising and to work with law enforcement to remove other advertised businesses that are fronts for prostitution, to include illegal escort services and massage parlor establishments.

The investigation spanned almost two years, yet involved a minimal amount of resources as it only took approximately eight hours to gather the undercover evidence, 24 visits to place prostitution ads and 5 phone calls. That time, plus the advertising purchases, and administrative time to prepare the prosecution, totaling \$9,943.33, is being paid for by the *Orlando Weekly* and not the taxpayers.

Even though the law enforcement goals in this case have been reached for our community, this investigation points to a much larger nationwide problem that we hope will be exposed by the media. Throughout the nation there remain yellow page advertisements, and weekly publications that have categories specifically designed to promote prostitution for the financial gain of the corporations that own the publications. It is simply wrong and a national corporate disgrace. A problem solving spotlight should be shined on corporate executives that make millions of dollars from prostitution advertising.

Corporate leadership is publishing and profiting from yellow page "escort service" advertising and weekly publications "Adult Services" advertising which promotes the degradation of men and women involved in prostitution and, in some instances, the tragedy of human sexual trafficking. Every law enforcement agency should not have to prove the point, in every jurisdiction, before other corporations decide to do the right thing and end advertising for prostitution.

Since 1996, the local yellow page advertisers have agreed to stop "Escort Service" advertising in our community and now the *Orlando Weekly* has agreed to stop printing its "Adult Services" category. However, corporate leaders in other communities have not agreed to "Do the Right Thing" in their publications. This is about the money, and we hope the media will expose this national shame.

As for the *Orlando Weekly*, thanks for doing the right thing for Central Florida.

The Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation is a multi-agency Narcotics, Vice and Organized Crime law enforcement task force assigned to Orange and Osceola Counties. The member agencies of MBI are the State Attorney of the Ninth Judicial Circuit; Sheriff of Orange County; Orlando Police Department; Winter Park Police Department; Apopka Police Department; Sheriff of Osceola County; Florida Department of Law Enforcement; Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration; U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Secret Service, and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation.