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**TWO KEW GARDENS MOTELS RAIDED IN PROSTITUTION CRACKDOWN**

*Five Motel Staffers Arrested And Motels Padlocked*

\_\_\_\_\_ Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that five motel employees were arrested earlier this week on prostitution-related offenses following the execution of search warrants at the Kew Motor Inn and the Par Central Motor Inn, both of which are located in residential areas of Kew Gardens and which allegedly served as havens for prostitutes and their pimps. In addition, the two motels were shut down under the City's nuisance abatement law.

District Attorney Brown said, "These two motels have been deemed public nuisances that have generated numerous prostitution-related arrests – including those involving underage girls – during the past year and have been the subject of numerous complaints from local residents. This office – together with our law enforcement and other governmental agency colleagues – are committed to working with local communities in eliminating crime and business practices that promote criminal activity. The actions that we have taken this week send a clear message – businesses that allow prostitution or other illegal activity to occur on their premises are at risk of being shut down."

District Attorney Brown identified the five defendants as Par Central desk clerks Harripersa Ramjattan, Bhaskar Chaniha and Wojuech D. Sady, and Kew Motor Inn desk clerks Atm Raham, and Masum Chowdhury (See Addendum for details on the defendants and the criminal charges).

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the criminal charges, undercover police officers posing as prostitutes and customers have visited the Kew Motor Inn, located at 139-01 Grand Central Parkway in Kew Gardens, and the Par Central Motor Inn, located at 82-85 Parsons Boulevard, since December 2011 during which time they witnessed various acts of illegal activity. It is alleged that the defendants accepted bribes, allowed the undercover officers to rent rooms without proper identification, knowingly allowed actual prostitution activity on the premises and, in some cases, assisted in the illegal activity. For instance, the undercover officers posing as prostitutes allegedly instructed the desk clerks to call their rooms when a customer arrived for them and then direct the customer to the room.

The raids were the result of a multi-government initiative by the Queens District Attorney's Office, the New York City Police Department and the New York City Department of Buildings.

(MORE)

District Attorney Brown specifically expressed his appreciation to Detectives Wayne Kam, Thierry Nemorin and others assigned to Narcotics Borough Queens Vice Module, which is under the supervision of Lieutenant Gerard Ferguson and the command of Captain Matt Donaher and the overall supervision of Inspector Michael Bryan, Commanding Officer of Narcotics Borough Queens; to attorney Scott Weiss, of the NYPD's Legal Bureau, which is under the supervision of Robert Messner; and to investigators assigned to the New York City Department of Buildings who are under the supervision of Chief Investigator James McElligott and the overall supervision of Commissioner Robert LiMandri.

Assistant District Attorney Jeanine R. Diehl, of the District Attorney's Special Proceedings Bureau, is prosecuting the cases under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Anthony M. Communiello, Bureau Chief, and Oscar W. Ruiz, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Linda M. Cantoni.

It should be noted that a complaint is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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#### **ADDENDUM**

HARRIPERSA RAMJATTAN, 63, of 105-65 130<sup>th</sup> Street in Queens, is charged with promoting prostitution, first- and second-degree falsifying business records, second-degree commercial bribe receiving and permitting prostitution. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

BHASKAR CHANIHA, 52, of 88-80 195<sup>th</sup> Place in Queens, is charged with first- and second-degree falsifying business records, second-degree commercial bribe receiving and permitting prostitution. If convicted, he faces up to four years in prison.

WOJUECH D. SADY, 25, of 37 Villa Court in Hempstead, Long Island, is charged with promoting prostitution, second-degree commercial bribe receiving, fourth-degree promoting prostitution and permitting prostitution. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

ATMRAHAM, 56, of 33-16 72<sup>st</sup> Street in Queens, is charged with promoting prostitution, first- and second-degree falsifying business records, second-degree commercial bribe receiving and permitting prostitution. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

MASUM CHOWDHURY, 46, of 160-34 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Queens, is charged with first- and second-degree falsifying business records, second-degree commercial bribe receiving and permitting prostitution. If convicted, he faces up to four years in prison.

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