

November News Cases:

Pimps guilty of trafficking teens to Kittery, Maine brothel

By Elizabeth Dinan

edinan@seacoastonline.com

November 07, 2009 9:17 AM

BOSTON - Two Mass. men were found guilty of prostituting minors in several states, including at Kittery, Maine's former Danish Health Club, according to federal prosecutors.

Authorities say Darryl Tavares of Revere and Eddie Jones of Boston were convicted in U.S. District Court Friday on charges related to forcing teenage girls to work as prostitutes. Prosecutors said the 26-year-olds were members of a Boston-based group known as the Jones family, that operated from 2001 to 2005 in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, New York, New Jersey, Florida and Pennsylvania.

Tavares and Jones switched underage girls between themselves and viciously beat them, say prosecutors. One testified that Tavares carved her face with a potato peeler, while another said Jones choked her after transporting her to Washington, D.C. for prostitution.

The guilty findings come more than three years after Kittery lawyer Gary Reiner was sentenced to jail for operating the DHC and laundering \$4 million in prostitution profits. Reiner was not convicted for any crime related to minors, but on March 3, 2006, was sentenced to five years in federal prison on charges of promoting prostitution at the Kittery club that masqueraded as a massage business. The sentence followed his request for a single day in jail and 364 days of home confinement.

Instead, federal Judge D. Brock Hornby gave Reiner the five-year prison sentence, a \$10,000 fine and \$906,000 in forfeiture penalties. Reiner, 58, a soccer dad and a former member of the Kittery Town Council, is currently incarcerated in a Penn. prison and is scheduled to be released on July 8, 2010.

"This was an evil business. Evil for the women who worked there and evil for the morals of the town of Kittery," Judge Hornby told Reiner at his sentencing hearing. "The tragedy is that the operation would've collapsed if not for Gary Reiner. Gary Reiner held it together when he should've walked away."

According to an affidavit by IRS special agent Rodney Giguere, the FBI began investigating interstate prostitution, crimes against children and money laundering at the Kittery brothel in Oct. of 2000 - four years before it was raided and shuttered. The investigation began in Boston, according to Giguere, where members of the Jones family peddled narcotics, committed insurance fraud and recruited teenage runaways to work as prostitutes "in fake massage parlors."

Some were prostituted at the DHC, according to the federal report, with one telling authorities she was promised “cars and nice clothes” if she worked as James Jones’ “ho.” Another underage girl, later revealed to have been 13 at the time, told authorities she worked at the DHC four days a week, had sex with five to six men a day and gave the cash to pimp Lance Williams, according to Giguere’s report.

FBI, IRS and state police raided the club on June 4, 2004. During a 5-day trial in Sept. of 2005, numerous witnesses testified that customers paid \$70 to get in the door, with the money going into the club’s bank accounts which Reiner managed. Prostitutes negotiated pay for various sexual acts with johns, were never paid by the “club” to work there and under Reiner’s management, were charged \$110-a-week to prostitute in the club.

Prostitute Cheryl Stillwell, who testified that she taught a 13-year-old girl how to perform sex acts with adult men for cash at the DHC, was sentenced to 20 months in jail. Prosecutors said her boyfriend and Jones family member, Lance Williams, traded another pimp a single cigarette for the name of a 13-year-old girl he drove to the DHC where she had sex with adult men for cash that she turned over to him.

Williams’ testimony linked Reiner to pimps, prostitutes and prostitution profits, but no minors. He is serving an 11 1/2 year sentence.

Club manager and former Guilford cop Russell Pallas served a six-month jail sentence. Club bookkeeper Mary Ann Manzoli was sentenced to a year of home detention.

The former brothel has since been converted to condominiums.

Material from the Associated Press was used in this report.

<http://www.istoptraffic.com>