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By Sarah Heise

Ceres massage parlor investigated for sex trafficking

Owners being investigated after undercover operation

Published 9:51 AM PST Jan 31, 2014

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CERES, Calif. (KCRA) — An undercover investigation was conducted Thursday at a Ceres massage business after reports came in that employees were offering sexual services for money, according to Ceres police.

Employees at Oriental Massage, located on the 2500 block of East Whitmore Avenue, were reportedly offering sexual acts in exchange for money, police said.

Ceres police and Without Permission, an organization dedicated to exposing the sex trade, planned an undercover operation at the massage parlor.

When an undercover police officer was offered sexual acts in return for money, the team converged on the business, officials said.

Ceres Code Enforcement inspected the building for violations such as illegal showers, locker rooms, business license violations and other hazards.

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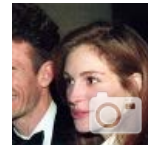
Without Permission and Ceres police interviewed the women inside the business and offered resources to them if they are being exploited.

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Officials are conducting an investigation into the business and the business owners, Ricardo Ruiz and Zi Qian, and no arrested were made.

Police said massage parlors are havens for sex trafficking, which makes this investigation a priority.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Ceres Police Department at 209-538-5616.



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