

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 25, 2019

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Sex Workers Condemn Police Tactics As Patriots Owner Ensnared In Florida Prostitution Sting

SAN FRANCISCO — The Erotic Service Providers Legal, Education and Research Project (ESPLERP) today condemned police tactics in Florida, where a series of [prostitution stings ensnared Robert Kraft](#), owner of the New England Patriots, who is charged with soliciting prostitution.

The Florida police operation shut down the Orchids of Asia Day Spa along with nine other Asian spas and massage parlors around Orlando. Police claim prostitution solicitation by 165 men, including several other prominent executives, and have charged the owner of Orchids of Asia with deriving support from the proceeds of prostitution, keeping and frequenting a house of prostitution, and procuring for prostitution.

“These stings are a colossal waste of law enforcement resources,” said Maxine Doogan of ESPLERP. “The police always talk about “trafficking” and “saving victims”, but the eventual charges are always for prostitution offences - in the end there is no trafficking and there are no victims. It’s all part of the anti-trafficking industry - a global network of law enforcement, NGOs, and supporters, creating hysteria about trafficking to get funding - but then that really hurts consensual sex workers and their clients.”

“We really hope Robert Kraft fights these charges,” said Reada Wong of ESPLERP. “He has the legal resources to expose police entrapment and argue that private sex between consenting adults is protected by the constitution and Supreme Court judgements such as Lawrence v Texas (2003).”

“Sex work should be decriminalized,” said Claire Alwyne of ESPLERP. “Our lawsuit, [ESPLERP v Gascon](#) [case #16-15927], argues for a right to sexual privacy - whereby consenting adults can enter into private arrangements, which may involve payment, without fear of prosecution. That would stop law enforcement arresting sex workers and our clients.”

The Erotic Service Providers Legal, Education and Research Project (ESPLERP) is a diverse community-based coalition advancing sexual privacy rights through litigation, education, and research. Contributions to support the court case can be submitted through our crowd fundraiser - www.litigatetoemancipate.com.

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