

University of Rhode Island

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Evicted Brothel Relocates

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Bali Day Spa Moves to ABC Spa: Still Located in Providence

Melanie Shapiro

Co-founder, Citizens Against Trafficking

Citizens Against Trafficking has learned that the Bali Day Spa, formerly located at 204 Westminster Street in Providence, has relocated to a sister spa-brothel site at 417 Smithfield Avenue.

As it has become apparent that Rhode Island will pass a law prohibiting prostitution, property owner Joseph Paolino moved to evict a spa-brothel in his building. Paolino signed a five year lease with the spa-operators in 2003, according to the *Providence Journal* ("Paolino versus the spa," August 2, 2009).

After leaving Westminster Street, Bali Day Spa placed an ad on backpage.com announcing that it was relocating to the Smithfield Avenue address, the same location as ABC Spa. In the Adult Services section of Craigslist an ad appeared stating: "Under new management: beautiful, charming, sex Asian girls are waiting!" ABC Spa is still advertising independently.

ABC Spa's business name is Health Spa Enterprises, Inc. It opened in 2008. Kwang Cha Yu is listed as the president. The spa was registered by attorney Michael J. Kiselica, who registered Bali Day Spa as well. The ABC Spa advertises regularly in the Adult Entertainment section of the *Providence Phoenix*.

The building at 417 Smithfield Avenue is owned by Tartaglione Holdings, LLC. Michael A. Tartaglione, the president, also owns a taxi cab business that lists its principal office as the same address as the spa-brothel.

"Johns" on the Internet report that the ABC Spa is a "full service" brothel, meaning that sexual intercourse is available for a fee.

Melanie Shapiro, co-founder of Citizens Against Trafficking, interviewed a man who has been inside ABC Spa on many occasions. He said that beyond the entrance there is a back room where women can be seen sitting silently on a bench. An Asian man sits with them. Although he has been there several times, he has never heard any voices or sounds from the back room.

The spa-brothel moved from Senator Paul Jabour's to Senator Edward O'Neill's Senate district and from Representative David Segal's to Representative Mary Ann Shallcross Smith's House district.