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Salon 657 American Brothel in Middletown

Melanie Shapiro, Esq, *independent scholar*
Donna M. Hughes, Dr.



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American Brothel in Middletown

Melanie Shapiro, co-founder of Citizens Against Trafficking, reports on a brothel with American women in Middletown

Middletown is a family community on Aquidneck Island between Portsmouth and Newport. It is also home to two known brothels, Lee Health Tuina Center and Salon 657.

(Citizens Against Trafficking previously reported on the Tuina Center Asian spa-brothel located next to a children's science education center.)

Most of the spa-brothels in Rhode Island are run by Asians with Asian women engaging in prostitution. Salon 657 is one of the increasing numbers of prostitution venues with American women.

Salon 657 is located in the rear of the Gateway Barber Shop at 657 W. Main Rd., right on the Newport line. The business is registered to Chris & Mike's Place LLC (James V. Aukerman is listed as the registering agent.) The property is owned by Richard O. Reavis and Vince A. Arcello. Salon 657 is located next to a pizzeria and family restaurant, Tito's Cantina.

Salon 657 advertises in the "adult entertainment" section of the *Providence Phoenix* that it offers "erotic massage and hair cutting services" for men only. Services are available by appointment only (401 451 9145).

The services are advertised as \$100 hour, which includes a complementary cocktail. "Johns"—the men who purchase sex acts---have discussed their sexual experiences at Salon 657 on the Internet since early this year. They discuss three American women who engage in sex acts for money: "Chelsea," "Tara" and "Alyssa." The names women in prostitution use are always fake names.

Several months ago, a woman called Salon 657 and asked for an appointment. The woman asked, "How do you know about this place?" She said she'd call back with an appointment time, but never did.