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Two Arrested in Lawrence House of Prostitution, \$26,000 Seized

Mercer County Prosecutor Joseph L. Bocchini Jr. and Lawrence Township Police Chief Daniel A. Posluszny announced that the Mercer County Special Investigations Unit (SIU) concluded a two-month undercover investigation last week with the execution of search warrants at two locations in Lawrence.

Bocchini stated that during the course of investigation, undercover officers were solicited for sex by women working at 88 Lakedale Drive in Lawrence. On Thursday, November 7, officers executed search warrants at the premises and arrested the manager, Yuzhu Zhou. Officers seized \$274, ledgers and notes. A 2003 Chrysler PT Cruiser was also seized from the location as proceeds from prostitution.

Officers also executed search warrants at Zhou's residence on Dogwood Drive in Lawrence. A safe containing \$26,470 was located in a bedroom closet. An additional \$250 in cash, notes, ledgers, a laptop computer, a Harley Davidson motorcycle and a dirt bike were also seized. A 2009 Lexus RX3 was also seized from the location as proceeds from prostitution.

Officers with the prosecutor's office, the county sheriff's office, the Ewing, Hamilton, Lawrence and Trenton police departments, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, under the command of Lt. Mike Novembre, conducted the investigation and made the arrests.

Zhou, age 55, of Lawrence, was charged with three counts of third-degree maintaining a house of prostitution and one count of operating a sexually orientated business, a fourth-degree offense. She is free on \$60,000 bail.

Sha Liu, age 32, of Flushing, NY, was also arrested at 88 Lakedale Drive for propositioning an officer. She was charged with engaging in prostitution, a disorderly persons offense, and released on a summons pending court proceedings.

Despite having been charged, every defendant is presumed innocent until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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