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## Affidavit sheds light on brothel

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**COVINGTON** - A criminal complaint unsealed Friday in U.S. District Court chronicles the federal government's year-long struggle to close a reputed brothel in Florence.

A raid 12 months ago of 6555 Nicholas St., Suite 5A, appeared to be a success. Federal authorities didn't nab the johns or prostitutes but the ringleaders were prosecuted.

The madams were sentenced to multiple months in jail and remained in prison Friday. The accused ringleader of a network of brothels, Yong Williams of Cheviot, was arrested and even began testifying against brothel owners.

Yet, despite the federal government's apparent breakup of the ring, women continued to take money in exchange for sex at Suite 5A in Florence, according to the unsealed court documents.

The documents were made public during the first court appearance of Yong Hui Cho. The 51-year-old woman is charged with using interstate commerce to promote prostitution.

She remained at the Boone County jail in Burlington Friday night on no bond. U.S. Magistrate Judge Gregory Wehrman could set bond during a detention hearing Friday in federal court.

Her lawyer, Shannon Sexton, said it was premature to comment on the evidence, or lack thereof against his client. He said he intends to represent her to the fullest extent of the law.

The affidavit, attached to the criminal complaint for Cho, makes claims similar to what were made one year ago against the former owners of the business: The massage parlor listed at the address was a front for a brothel.

Customers would pay an upfront flat fee of \$60 for a half-hour massage and \$80 for a one-hour massage. When they were brought into a back room, they would negotiate a second fee with the "masseur" for sex, according to the affidavit.

The affidavit stated that workers would get \$30 for every hour they had a customer. Cho also claimed her employees could make almost \$9,000 per month, according to the affidavit. The workers would live in the back of the store and be charged \$10 per day for food, according to the affidavit.

A review of the articles of incorporation documents filed with the Kentucky Secretary of State in Frankfort show the business was incorporated as Kings Spa on Aug. 30. That was three months after the first raid on the business.

Tae Sun Kim, of Flushing, N.Y., was designated to act as the initial registered agent in the state documents.

The Boone County and city of Florence occupational license applications filed on behalf of Kings Spa

state the business opened Feb. 1. It states Kim as the owner/partner and that Cho was the name of the "applicant, a partner, and the representative responsible for the daily operations of the business."

There was no record of Kim being criminally charged in state court or federal court for the Eastern District of Kentucky. Kim also couldn't be reached Friday afternoon for comment.

Cho was recorded by an undercover informant wearing a wire stating her "male partner purchased the business for \$60,000 from the previous owner," according to the affidavit. Cho described her partner in that recording as a man from New York.

Cho was later recorded saying her partner put everything in her name and that he was no longer her partner, according to the affidavit.

The employees of the business were a 36-, 37- and 48-year-old Korean-American women, according to the affidavit. Two had green cards, Cho allegedly told the informant, and the oldest employee was in the process of obtaining a green card. It was unclear Friday what happened to the workers. On April 22, Cho allegedly told the government informant that two of her workers had become "scared" and left.

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