

IN THE
COUNTY OF UTAH, STATE OF UTAH

State of Utah vs. FERRERI, JOSEPH EDWARD Date Of Birth: 11/03/1966 200 N 298 EAST SALINA. UT 84654	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Affidavit of Probable Cause</h2>
Arrestee	

On 02/04/2021 14:00 the defendant was arrested for the offense(s) of:

Offense	Offense Date	Offense Description	Enhancement Statute	Severity	Court
1	02/04/2021	AIDING PROSTITUTION	76-10-1304(1)	MA	DST
2	02/04/2021	PATTERN OF UNLAW ACTIVITY	76-10-1603	F2	DST

I believe there is probable cause to charge the defendant with these charges because:

Detectives have been investigating multiple massage parlors for human trafficking, pattern of unlawful activity, prostitution, aiding prostitution, money laundering, and multiple nuisance violations.

On 09/22/2020, American Fork Police department received an anonymous online complaint from a citizen regarding the new "Asian" massage parlor located at 376 E 60 South, American Fork. The complainant informed officers that this parlor had listings on "Rub Maps", an online website which shows where you can go to receive a "happy ending" massage. The complainant stated in his complaint that all you would need to do is send a male in the parlor, become naked, and as the masseuse begins to massage, she will touch you inappropriately. If you do not complain she will continue and even, make offers for more.

Most, if not all, Asian massage businesses operate the same. In my training and experience I have learned how these criminal organizations are operating with minimal risk to the business owner. An Asian massage parlor, herein referred to as an AMP, typically sets up operation in small strip mall areas throughout the United States. Most AMP's advertise their businesses visually by placing neon signs, window coverings with images of Asian Zen type photos, or lastly simply stating "Asian massage." The business typically applies for a business license with the local government entity within the city it is located. The names listed as owners on the applications are often difficult to understand, as Chinese names start with the last name first. This usually disassociated them from any type of driver's license database since the United States typically lists first name first, and last name last. Many applications have ownership names using out of state driver's licenses and addresses, typically tied to the southern California area.

Once the business is granted a business license, mostly because the city entity has no legal basis to deny licensure, they are able to open the store front. Most of the AMP businesses apply for a business license several times per year, only changing slightly the name variation of the business, and changing the owner's name and information. The store front itself never changes the signage, nor does it operate utilizing the new name change. This tactic is commonly used by the Asian criminal organizations to thwart law enforcement from criminal investigations.

These Asian females fall into a world of human trafficking and become victims in their own right. In the Asian culture, family honor is among the highest level of priority to these Asian female victims. The criminal organizations often threaten to contact their families and provide them with information of voluntary prostitution occurring in the United States, which is unwanted by the female victims. These Asian female victims fall deeper into the human trafficking organization living with the fear of what may happen if they deviate from the criminal organizations wishes. Some of the Asian females are forced to live in small closets or rooms within the massage business premise and given only minimal means for survival. If the Asian female victims are not living on the store premise, they often live with several other Asian women who are also victims of the human trafficking organization in apartment buildings or homes owned or rented by members of the criminal organization.

Detectives began investigating the massage parlor, which were identified as Sunflower Massage. Detectives searched the business license of Sunflower Massage parlor and found the person who applied for the business license was a specific female, and they found she is also the business owner of Relax Wood LLC (204 E 860 South, Orem), Small Rainbow (250 N Orem Boulevard, Orem), and she frequents Magic Massage (483 W 30 North, American Fork).

Detectives began following the business owner and found she travels between the 4 massage parlors.

Detectives have found through surveillance that most of the female masseurs appear to stay at the different parlors they work at. Detectives have rarely seen the female workers leave through multiple hours of surveillance, both physical and electronic.

Through my training, experience and conversations with other officers who specialize in this field, I have found that rarely if ever are the Asian females involved in being trafficked allowed to leave the business. This is done to control the female individuals and keep them involved in trafficking.

Detectives performed multiple undercover operations where officers were sent in as patrons to the different massage parlors and found each of the above listed massage parlors solicited sexual acts in exchange for payment. Detectives performed undercover operations on Sunflower Massage, Relax Wood LLC, Magic Massage, and Small Rainbow. At the undercover operations the Asian female masseur's solicited sexual activities in exchange for money, this was denied by undercover officers.

On December 14, 2020, a concerned citizen observed an older white male in a Chevrolet Truck picked up a Chinese girl from the Sunflower Massage parlor. The truck then drove to a residence located in Lindon, Utah. Detectives have observed this same Chevrolet Truck at Relax Wood LLC on multiple occasions.

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Through my training, experience and communications with other officers, I found it is not uncommon for trafficked girls to be dropped off and picked up by someone other than the business owner. This is done in an attempt to thwart law enforcement investigations and keep other members of the organization "clean".

Detectives have performed multiple "john stops" on customers as they are leaving massage parlors. On all of these stops the male customers have all acknowledge there are "happy endings" offered to customers.

Detectives began reviewing a website which reviews Asian Massage Parlors that offer sexual services to patrons, which they found to be a website designed to leave reviews on various massage parlors which offer happy ending services. Through reviewing multiple reviews on Magic Massage, Relax Wood, and Small Rainbow Massage it was found multiple individuals left reviews in which it was found if you offer a big enough tip you can receive hand jobs, blow jobs and on some cases even sex. On February 1, 2021 detectives were performing physical surveillance on the Relax Wood LLC and observed two females exit Relax Wood LLC and enter a white Mercedes. The white Mercedes then traveled from Relax Wood LLC to the residence in Lindon. One of the females exited the vehicle and entered the Lindon residence, the other stayed in the vehicle and left the area. An undercover officer who previously performed an undercover investigation at the massage parlor earlier that day observed the driver was one of the females who provided a massage, and solicited sexual acts was driving the white Mercedes then traveled to Small Rainbow Massage located at 250 North Orem Boulevard without making any stops along the way.

Through my training and experience I have found that most organizations will have some sort of headquarters which holds money, transaction books, files, passports, identifications, and other valuable items.

Detectives served multiple search warrants on February 4, 2021. Detectives performed a traffic stop on the male driving the Chevrolet truck and identified him as Joseph Edward Ferreri. Post Miranda Ferreri informed detectives that he would drop his wife off at Relaxed Wood LLC each day in the morning and pick her up each night. I informed Ferreri that his wife was engaging in sexual acts each day or soliciting sexual acts each day. Ferreri informed me he was suspicious that she was participating in this and knew she had been arrested in the past for these same acts. I asked why he would drop her off each day if he knew this and he informed me that is his wife so of course he would take her. Detectives have observed Ferreri drop another female off multiple times at a parlor and take her back to their residence after, and Ferreri was also seen taking the other female to Sunflower massage on another incident. Ferreri informed detectives that his wife works from 08:00 until 23:00 approximately 14 hours a day, seven days a week, and she only makes \$6,000 a year. Ferreri informed detectives his wife sleeps at the parlor if he does not pick her up. Ferreri informed detectives that his wife works at multiple massage parlors. Ferreri informed detectives that he met his wife at a massage parlor where she provided him a sexual act in return for money, this was also confirmed through Ferreri's wife. Ferreri does not speak Chinese and his wife only speaks Chinese. Ferreri admitted that since they have been married, they have spent years apart. Ferreri's wife is not yet a citizen and she is dependent on him to gain citizenship status. Based off the totality of the circumstances it appears the marriage may not be legitimate.

Without Ferreri transporting his wife to the various massage parlors she would not have been able to engage in criminal activity. Joseph lied multiple times to officers during the interview and would not cooperate despite having a search warrant. Joseph has been known to travel for days at a time to Selina Utah.

By submitting this affidavit, I declare under criminal penalty of the State of Utah that the foregoing is true and correct.
/S/ Lott, Shawn E

Officer Name: AFSELOTT - Shawn E Lott
A sworn officer with: UT0250100 - American Fork PD
Agency Case 21AF00967

Probable Cause Entered: 02/04/2021 23:23
Probable Cause ID: 159380
Suggested Bail Amount:

SUBMISSION IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

Booking Agency: Utah County Sheriff Office
Agency Inmate ID: 401952
Arrest Date/Time: 02/04/2021 14:00
SID: 1011482
FBI ID: 88540XB6

Booking Agency ORI: UT0250000
OTN: 60808706