

RELATED ARTICLES

Judge drops sex case as 'outrageous'

February 5, 2008

Must sex be a part of sex stings?

September 23, 2007

2 Women At Spa Charged With Prostitution

August 8, 2006

Judge grills trooper on sex sting

November 15, 2007

Massage case causes ire

November 11, 2009

FIND MORE STORIES ABOUT

State Police

Prostitution

Informant

# Snitch had sex 4 times, so lawyer asks: Who's the victim?

## Offended spa customer became informer in North Whitehall prostitution case. Trooper says police laughed as they listened to sting.

September 19, 2007 | By Debbie Garlicki Of The Morning Call

A man who went to a North Whitehall spa for a massage was so upset that a woman offered him sex that he reported it to state police.

The man volunteered to help police get evidence for an arrest. Police attached a body wire to his pants and sent him into the Shiatsu Spa on Route 309 in the township on four days last year.

The informant allegedly was masturbated once and had intercourse three times with two different women while state troopers sat outside in a vehicle and listened to what was happening. They laughed afterward.

Each time, state police paid the informant \$40 for his "time and effort," according to testimony at a Lehigh County Court hearing Tuesday.

The lawyer for one of the women charged with prostitution now is asking a judge to dismiss the case, arguing that the conduct of the police and informant was so outrageous that Sun Cha Chon was denied due process.

Defense lawyer Maureen Coggins claims police went too far when they allowed the informant to complete sex acts not once, but four times. She contends police had enough evidence for probable cause for an arrest when sex was offered and money changed hands.

Coggins tried to show that the defendant is in fact the victim.

A psychotherapist who treats prostitutes and lectures on sexual trauma was called as an expert witness and gave her opinion. "When police officers act as johns and they traumatize a person unnecessarily, it is outrageous. I'm shocked," said Mary Anne Layden of the University of Pennsylvania Health System.

Deputy District Attorney Joseph Stauffer tried to show through cross-examination that police did a legitimate investigation and that Chon, 52, has a lengthy history of prostitution and promoting it.

He tried to show that Chon stood to gain financially and was traumatizing the women working for her.

Judge Robert L. Steinberg continued the hearing to November and will rule later on the defense request.

State Trooper Gregory Emery testified Tuesday that police told the informant to gather information, such as how many rooms were in the spa and how many employees and patrons were there. The informant, he said, also was instructed to try to find out what acts would be performed for what prices.

Emery said he was trying to determine if prostitution was going on inside and who was running the operation.

Chon, who is charged with prostitution and promoting prostitution, a felony, listened to the testimony while a Korean interpreter translated for her.

Coggins asked Emery if the informant was told to have sex if it was offered. "It was part of the crime, correct," Emery said.

He testified the informant was told that if he was comfortable with what was happening, he could stay. The informant, the trooper said, brought his own condoms.

The informant first visited the spa on June 8, 2006.

Recommend

0

0

Coggins asked whether Emery laughed when the informant later met police after he had received manual stimulation, allegedly from Chon. Emery admitted that he did and said "it was definitely unprofessional."

He said he was shocked that prostitution allegedly was going on in North Whitehall and was surprised by what had happened.

Coggins said the informant commented to troopers on the tape, "Laugh it up, boys." Coggins asked Emery if he laughed on another occasion when the informant said something. "If I did, I wouldn't be surprised," the trooper said, adding he didn't recall it.

The informant returned to the spa three more times and had sexual intercourse with Chon, who was known as "Gina," and a woman called "Cocoa."

Emery said informants are given money to pay for the sexual acts and are paid \$40 for their time.

He testified that police needed to establish that prostitution was going on, and that three visits or contacts is typical in prostitution investigations. He said he believed sex had occurred in another case in Lehigh County and in cases in Northampton and Bucks counties.

In 1997 in Carbon County, a judge dismissed a prostitution charge against a woman whose attorney argued that a trooper went too far when he allowed the woman to allegedly masturbate him before arresting her.

At Tuesday's hearing, Steinberg asked Emery if the use of sex was discussed with his supervisors.

"They were aware of my investigation," Emery said, adding they knew about the sex. The supervisors, he said, didn't approve it but they also didn't tell him to allow it or not to allow it. Emery said a chief deputy district attorney also knew of the investigation.

The identity of the informant was revealed to the defense, but he didn't testify.

Emery said police weren't investigating the Shiatsu Spa until the informant came to them.

Layden testified as an expert witness about the trauma done to people who engage in prostitution. Many prostitutes, she said, were raped as young teens, were physically assaulted and were homeless.

She said they are psychologically damaged and believe that prostitution is all they are good for and all they can do. That testimony led to her later opinion that police further traumatize prostitutes when they allow sexual acts to be completed in investigations.

The hearing was continued to give the prosecutor time to call his own expert witness if he wants.

debbie.garlicki@mcall.com

610-820-6764

**FEATURED ARTICLES**



**Big-city acts bound for Sands**



**Lehigh County reassessment challenge deadline is today**



**Lyme disease Q&A: Keeping the ticks at bay**

**More:**

**Pennsylvania's April primary ballot taking shape**

**Lehigh County tax reassessments now public**

**Analysis: Pennsylvania's U.S. Senate race emerging from presidential shadows**

**Lyme disease prevention is important this spring**

**Wegmans adding jobs in Schuylkill**

**DA: Bangor teacher had sex with students**