



SEARCH

Police officer has sex with prostitute, then arrests her

Mark Frauenfelder at 9:28 am Wed, Apr 24



Pittsburgh is a safer place, thanks to police detective Ronald DePellegrin, who allowed himself to receive a blow job in order to arrest a prostitute.

DePellegrin saw an online ad for a prostitute and "obtained his [chief's] permission to conduct an undercover operation." He set up an appointment with the prostitute, first stopping by Walgreens to purchase condoms and baby wipes.

DePellegrin describes what happens next in his criminal complaint: "Becky started to perform oral sex on me, when I said oh shit, the cops were coming."

A police union spokesman uttered a classic policespeak word in his defense of the sting operation: "[Police officers] sometimes have to do what they have to do to effectuate an arrest."

Sex First, Then Arrest Hooker: Don't Cops Have Better Things to Do?

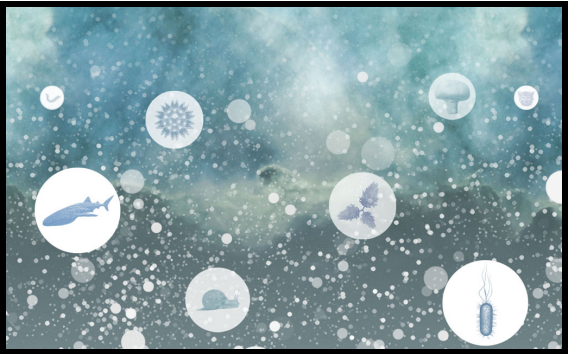
Mark Frauenfelder is the founder of Boing Boing and the editor-in-chief of **MAKE** and **Cool Tools**. Twitter: [@frauenfelder](#). Come and hear **Mark speak at the ALA conference in Chicago on July 1.**

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RadioSilence

Sounds like Det. McNulty to me.

4 hours ago 14 Likes

Like Reply

Navin_Johnson

Beat me to it.

4 hours ago in reply to RadioSilence 1 Like

Like Reply

**Shay Guy**

"...at which point the officer was unable to resist the ministrations of the suspect, and found himself brought to the point of a sexual act."

...

"There were two of them. I was outnumbered."

4 hours ago in reply to RadioSilence 7 Likes

Like Reply

**Christopher**

Hey, Pittsburgh, Nashville was ahead of you on this by more than eight years. Well, technically, down here it wasn't our cops who got so lucky. The cops used "confidential informants", usually men who were arrested for other crimes and who got a reduced sentence in addition to getting special favors.

Source:

<http://www.nashvillescene.com/...>

4 hours ago 1 Like

Like Reply

**lasermike026**

I'm not going to get into the prostitution: rights vs. exploitation discussion.

That being said, this story is good example of why criminalizing prostitution is not helping anyone and enforcing prostitution laws is a logic warping enterprise.

Who should handle the negative effects of prostitution? Doctors, therapists, and social workers not the police.

4 hours ago 16 Likes

Like Reply

marilove



tors, therapists, and social workers not the police."

Just like the war on drugs, yeah?

4 hours ago in reply to lasermike026 2 Likes

Like Reply

Boundegar

In what sense are you not going to get into the discussion?

4 hours ago in reply to lasermike026 7 Likes

Like Reply

allenmcbride

In the sense that one's position on the legal status of prostitution can be independent of one's opinion on whether prostitution is inherently exploitative, I'm guessing.

3 hours ago in reply to Boundegar 4 Likes

Like Reply



FrankenPC .

Harvey Keitel approves.

4 hours ago 3 Likes

Like Reply



erock

criminalizing prostitution is probably a no-win exercise. that being said... if you get paid to have sex as a part of your job, what does that make you? i suppose cops get some lee-way and/or pre-emptive immunity in such <sarcasm>important cases.</sarcasm>

4 hours ago 6 Likes

Like Reply



GawainLavers

effectuate

Although I am fundamentally opposed to the death penalty, I allow for a few exceptions.

"Becky started to perform oral sex on me, when I said oh shit, the cops were coming."

I see what you did there...

4 hours ago 13 Likes

Like Reply

Navin_Johnson

Reminds me of the classic Onion article: "Why do all these homosexuals keep sucking my cock?"

Just substitute homosexuals for prostitutes....

<http://www.theonion.com/articl...>

4 hours ago in reply to GawainLavers 3 Likes

Like Reply



MurasakiMadness

If the officer was being paid while receiving oral sex, does that make him a prostitute, as well?

4 hours ago 17 Likes

Like Reply

nixiebunny

But then you'd have to arrest the payroll dept. for being a john.

3 hours ago in reply to MurasakiMadness 4 Likes

Like Reply

dragonfrog

There is, as I understand it, an exception that allows pornographic actors to work legally - the payer must be a party to the sex act for it to constitute prostitution. If all participants are payees of some third party, it's not prostitution anymore.

2 hours ago in reply to MurasakiMadness 1 Like

Like Reply

Blaven

Sounds more like he effectuated a free blow job to me.
As for that porno exception, it seems like there is some potential here.
Would it be possible to create some kind of third party exchange system with a complex payment system to make prostitution 'legal'?

2 hours ago in reply to dragonfrog

Like Reply

**SamSam**

DePellegrin describes what happens next in his criminal complaint: "Becky started to perform oral sex on me, when I said oh shit, the cops were coming."

Sure he "obtained his chief's permission" first. *No one* could *possibly* suspect that he got caught having sex with a prostitute, then asked his buddy chief who was only too happy to pretend that it was a "sting" operation all along.

4 hours ago 9 Likes

Like Reply

Christopher

Let's just say, hypothetically, that it really did happen the way he claims: he obtained permission from his chief to have sex with a prostitute.

While I agree that it's much more likely that the chief is merely pretending that this was an officially approved sting operation, the officer's story actually makes the chief look even more stupid.

3 hours ago in reply to SamSam 2 Likes

Like Reply



Megan

Technically speaking, if he is paid for doing his job, and his job is to have sex with her, then he was.... wait for it....

Paid for *sex*.

Certainly he should be prosecuted for such a thing.

4 hours ago 9 Likes

Like Reply

curgoth

Well, he said he bought condoms, and cops are always using condoms as proof of intent to prostitute.

1 hour ago in reply to Megan 2 Likes

Like Reply



SomeGuyNamedMark

He was gathering evidence, or she was.

3 hours ago

Like Reply



starfish and coffee

I'd be inclined to accept Police Detective DePellegrin's approach as perfectly legal as long as he can prove that he does not discriminate in terms of gender or sexuality. I.e. if he engages an equal amount of male

and female sex workers and accepts being on both the receiving and giving end of penetration, then I'd be fine with it.

3 hours ago 2 Likes

Like Reply



crummett

"...the cops were coming."
Ha! I see what you did there.

3 hours ago

Like Reply

Prolapsed Cranium

"oh shit, the cops were coming."

Well, at least we know ONE of them was.

2 hours ago in reply to crummett

Like Reply



Cowicide

Police officers sometimes have to do what they have to do

Police zing operation.

3 hours ago 1 Like

Like Reply



Hanglyman

Mitchell, is that you?

2 hours ago

Like Reply



ChickieD

She brought him to the point of effectuation? Great job to both of them!

1 hour ago

Like Reply



Gyrofrog

I recall a case like this in Austin getting thrown out. There were a number of massage parlors in which prostitution was occurring, and an undercover cop visited one. They tried to bust the place but then it turned out that the cop had gone through with the "massage." This wound up in "News of the Weird" but none of us remembered it hitting the local press. This would've been 1990 or so...

1 hour ago

Like Reply

Christopher

Surprisingly it didn't make "News of the Weird", but Nashville was doing something similar in 2005: the cops paid guys they'd arrested for other crimes to go into strip clubs and solicit sex, in exchange for reduced sentences.

Interestingly the local paper that reported it was also the one that regularly ran "News of the Weird".

1 hour ago in reply to Gyrofrog

Like Reply



schlocktober

Cops are the fucking worst. Not all cops, but yeah, all cops.

1 hour ago

Like Reply



fergus1948

Did he effectuate his ejaculate?

1 hour ago

Like Reply



bigomega73

"[Police officers] sometimes have to do what they have to do to avoid paying their prostitute" Fixed

42 minutes ago

Like Reply

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