

Stanislaus County **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Sheriff Adam Christianson
250 E. Hackett Road, Modesto, CA 95358



MEDIA RELATIONS



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE May 2, 2008
TIME 2:00 PM

TWO PEOPLE ARRESTED FOR OFFERING MORE THEN A MASSAGE AT A RIVERBANK SPA

Riverbank, CA - On May 1, 2008, Riverbank deputies arrested the owner and an employee of K-Spa in Riverbank. K-Spa is licensed by the City of Riverbank to provide massage services. The arrest occurred after a massage practitioner of K-Spa propositioned an undercover deputy for sex during a massage, a misdemeanor violation of prostitution. The owner was also arrested on a misdemeanor violation of maintaining a house of prostitution.

The massage practitioner was identified as Mi Jung YANG, a 40-year-old Riverbank resident. The massage establishment owner was identified as Sung Cha STELLE a 39-year-old Riverbank resident. Both were arrested and booked at the Stanislaus County Public Safety Center. Both STELLE and YANG have business licenses through the City of Riverbank to operate and work as massage practitioners. Those licenses are in jeopardy now, as both were served letters of intent to revoke their respective licenses. Both are entitled to an appeal process.

Riverbank deputies conducted the undercover investigating following tips and other information that acts of prostitution were occurring at the spa. On April 4, 2008, Riverbank deputies arrested a female, Ran Gyeong HONG, a reported Riverbank resident who is 41 years old, at K-Spa for working in the spa as an unlicensed practitioner. The arrest occurred after a uniformed deputy arrived at the spa to talk to the spa owner, STELLE. The deputy saw three Korean women run out the back door as he entered the front door. Other deputies detained the females and HONG admitted to working in the spa as a masseuse. STELLE was cited by a Riverbank code enforcement officer for allowing an unlicensed practitioner to work in the spa. STELLE was served with a letter of intent to revoke her business license and her appeal hearing for that offense is pending.

"Clearly, Ms. Stelle has demonstrated an inability to operate or manage the massage establishment in a law abiding manner", said Riverbank Police Services Chief Tim Beck. "Ms. Stelle has extensive experience working in the massage industry and has in fact been present in Escalon and Riverbank spas twice before when law enforcement officers have made arrests for prostitution activities during undercover investigations", said Chief Beck.

On 12-1-06, deputies arrested STELLE in Riverbank after a K-Spa employee propositioned an undercover officer for sex. STELLE was arrested and booked for criminal conspiracy during that investigation. However, the Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office rejected her case for prosecution.

Anyone with information about this case is encouraged to contact Riverbank Police Services at (209) 869-7162. Callers can also leave an anonymous tip by calling Crime Stoppers at (209) 521-4636 and be eligible for a cash reward.

For information regarding this press release please contact Riverbank Police Chief Tim Beck at (209) 863-7134.