

From: Robert D. Rivers
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 10:47 AM
To: Cameron D. Bonnett; Sabine E. Lebaillieux
Subject: FW: Analysis of Strip Club Effects on French Quarter for City Planning Commission
Attachments: Regulating Strip Clubs in the French Quarter.pdf

From: William Khan [<mailto:wkhan@utexas.edu>]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 11:51 AM
To: Leslie T. Alley; Dubravka Gilic; Paul Cramer; CPCinfo; Robert D. Rivers; nkindel@nola.gov; Kenneth Butler; bdesrocher@nola.gov; lmasey@nola.gov
Cc: James A. Gray; Stacy S. Head; Susan G. Guidry; nramsey@nola.gov; LaToya Cantrell; Jared C. Brossett; Jason R. Williams; Jason R. Williams; Jonathan T. Harris; Barbara L. Keller; Catrina M. Simmons; Lauren R. Hotard; Carla D. Gendusa; Aaron A. Clark-Rizzio; Katie D. Hunter-Lowrey; Connolly A. Reed; Clarence J. Williams III; Vanessa A. Spinazola; Tyler L. Gibson; Mary B. Cunningham; Leatrice Dupre; T. Gordon McLeod; Marilyn B. Wood; Julius Feltus; Bryon Cornelison; John D. Pourciau; Anna N. Nguyen; Kara Y. Johnson; Lena Stewart; Aylin A. Maklansky; Freddie King; Sandra G. Thomas; Miles L. Granderson; CouncilDistrictD; Tanya D. Nettles-Evans; Domonique C. Dickerson; Peter C. Waggoner; Erin C. Spears; Mary N. Fontenot-Smith; Maurice C. Baird; Maria M. Tio; bmoliver@nola.gov
Subject: Analysis of Strip Club Effects on French Quarter for City Planning Commission

Dear City Planning Commission:

On January 7th, the New Orleans City Council passed a motion directing the City Planning Commission to hold a public hearing on strip clubs in the French Quarter within 60 days. The City Council motion to the City Planning Commission to study this issue and establish regulations for strip clubs has granted broad authority to the CPC in proposing regulations for such venues.

Language from New Orleans City Council Motion M-16-21 (directing the CPC to analyze strip clubs in the French Quarter and propose regulations):

"That in the process of studying and reviewing the Adult Live Performance Venue Interim Zoning District, the City Planning Commission staff is directed and granted the flexibility to make all appropriate changes to the proposed regulations and any existing corresponding regulations in the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance..."

http://cityofno.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=3&clip_id=2251&meta_id=314277

To the City Planning Commission, I would like to propose a "spacing" requirement which would limit how close future strip clubs in the French Quarter could be next to each other. A "spacing" requirement (like 500 ft), which would grandfather in existing strip clubs but not allow new ones within 500 ft of existing ones, is likely to pass constitutional muster, while I am not sure an outright ban (permanent or temporary) would be legal.

I have written a report and analysis of strip club effects on the French Quarter. It is attached in PDF format. My analysis is grounded in economics, real estate, and public policy, and it buttresses the argument for further regulating strip clubs in the French Quarter. I will be

supplying a hard-copy version of my report to each City Councilmember and the City Planning Commission.

The operational impact and negative effects of strip clubs in the French Quarter are poorly understood and rarely examined methodically; why else would city zoning allow strip clubs to open door-to-door, block-by-block, or facing one another in the French Quarter prior to the recently passed moratorium?

Let me share my perspective as a full-time French Quarter resident, voter, and business owner with graduate degrees and coursework in law, business administration, real estate, and economics.

Respectfully,

William Khan
French Quarter business owner, resident, and voter

From: Robert D. Rivers
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 10:47 AM
To: Cameron D. Bonnett; Sabine E. Lebailleur
Subject: FW: Statistics and Research for Adult Live Performance Venue Study

From: William Khan [<mailto:wkhan@utexas.edu>]
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 9:33 AM
To: Cameron D. Bonnett
Cc: CPCinfo; Robert D. Rivers; Leslie T. Alley; James A. Gray; Stacy S. Head; Susan G. Guidry; nramsey@nola.gov; LaToya Cantrell; Jared C. Brossett; Jason R. Williams; Jason R. Williams; Vanessa A. Spinazola; DistrictC; Andrew D. Kopplin; rberni@nola.gov; Mitchell J. Landrieu; Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu
Subject: Statistics and Research for Adult Live Performance Venue Study

Dear Cameron:

As a full-time French Quarter resident, voter, and family-friendly business owner on Bourbon Street, I stopped by City Hall yesterday, and I gave the City Planner on Duty seven (7) documents, research reports, and news articles about strip clubs (adult live performance venues) in the French Quarter.

The City Planner on Duty told me that you are tasked with the City Planning Commission's Adult Live Performance Venue study.

As one of the few young professionals in the French Quarter, I am passionate about this matter because I want to continue raising my family here.

In my research report (titled "Statistical Facts and History of Strip Clubs in the French Quarter"), I included several statistics, including a comparison of how the concentration of strip clubs in the French Quarter is far greater than the entire city of Portland (the city with the greatest number of strip clubs on a per capita basis).

I am glad that regulating strip clubs in the French Quarter is finally a priority of city hall. Frankly, strip clubs in our city's most historic neighborhood and tourism center should have been regulated and limited at least a decade ago. When the city bans new hotels, new t-shirt shops, and new food carts (other than Lucky Dog) but allows new strip clubs to open, you can see that the city has shown misplaced priorities in protecting the French Quarter.

Statement 1: According to an urban research study, Portland, OR has the highest number of strip clubs per capita in the country with nearly 9 strip clubs per 100,000 people.

Source: "Why Does Portland Have so Many Strip Clubs?"
<http://priceconomics.com/why-does-portland-have-so-many-strip-clubs/>

Statement 2: The cleanup of Boston's Clean Zone (one of the cities used by the 1977 Bourbon Street Task Force in creating the Vieux Carre Entertainment District--Bourbon Street):

<http://www.bizjournals.com/boston/print-edition/2013/03/08/new-projects-wipe-away-more-vestiges.html>

Statement 3: City Councilmember Kristin Palmer NOLA.com Op-Ed which referred to the number of strip clubs in the neighborhood as a justification for a harsher curfew for minors:
http://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2012/01/modified_new_orleans_curfew_ne.html

Statement 4: Strip clubs repelled at least one convention from selecting NOLA
http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/09/bourbon_street_strip_clubs_cou.html

Statement 5: Mayor Mitch Landrieu's goal of 13 million visitors by 2018
http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2012/05/mayor_mitch_landrieu_calls_on.html

Statement 6: Prostitution, drug crimes, and lewd/improper conduct at strip clubs
http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2015/11/4_more_bourbon_street_clubs_bu.html

Statement 7: History of violations at Bourbon Street strip clubs
http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2015/11/in_bourbon_street_strip_clubs.html

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

William Khan

French Quarter resident and business owner

Cameron D. Bonnett

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 10:54 AM
To: Leslie T. Alley; Dubravka Gilic; Paul Cramer; CPCinfo; Robert D. Rivers; nkindel@nola.gov; Kenneth Butler; bdesrocher@nola.gov; Imassey@nola.gov
Cc: James A. Gray; Stacy S. Head; Susan G. Guidry; nramsey@nola.gov; LaToya Cantrell; Jared C. Brossett; Jason R. Williams; Jason R. Williams; Jonathan T. Harris; Barbara L. Keller; Catrina M. Simmons; Lauren R. Hotard; Carla D. Gendusa; Aaron A. Clark-Rizzio; Katie D. Hunter-Lowrey; Connolly A. Reed; Clarence J. Williams III; Vanessa A. Spinazola; Tyler L. Gibson; Mary B. Cunningham; Leatrice Dupre; T. Gordon McLeod; Marilyn B. Wood; Julius Feltus; Bryon Cornelison; John D. Pourciau; Anna N. Nguyen; Kara Y. Johnson; Lena Stewart; Aylin A. Maklansky; Freddie King; Sandra G. Thomas; Miles L. Granderson; CouncilDistrictD; Tanya D. Nettles-Evans; Domonique C. Dickerson; Peter C. Waggonner; Erin C. Spears; Mary N. Fontenot-Smith; Maurice C. Baird; Maria M. Tio; Brandon M. Oliver
Subject: Sad Statistical Facts and History of French Quarter Strip Clubs

After the one-year moratorium on new strip clubs expires, what's next for the French Quarter and the image of New Orleans? The French Quarter already has the nation's highest concentration of strip clubs on a per capita basis and per square mile. According to an urban research study, Portland, OR has the highest number of strip clubs per capita in the country with nearly 9 strip clubs per 100,000 people. With approximately 4,000 residents, roughly 20 strip clubs, and an area of only 0.66 square miles, the French Quarter has 56 times more strip clubs per capita than Portland (which is 220x larger in land area). The concentration of strip clubs in the Vieux Carre on a per capita basis sadly rises whenever a resident of the French Quarter permanently leaves because he or she cannot raise a family and enjoy a normal life in an increasingly unbalanced neighborhood.

Should new strip clubs or adult entertainment venues be allowed to proliferate in the Vieux Carre after the moratorium ends? In contrast, new hotels, t-shirt shops, and food carts (other than Lucky Dog) are prohibited from ever opening in the French Quarter. Why has city hall ignored or tolerated the harmful impacts of strip clubs in New Orleans' oldest neighborhood for decades?

In 1977, Mayor Moon Landrieu established the Bourbon Street Task Force with a blue-ribbon panel to study the strip and suggest improvements. The panel visited the adult-entertainment districts of Boston's "Combat Zone," New York City's Times Square, and Atlanta's red-light areas. Modeled on other cities but tailored to New Orleans' unique flavor, the Vieux Carre Entertainment District (otherwise known as Bourbon Street from Iberville to St. Ann) was created shortly thereafter. At the time, Bourbon Street's adult-entertainment venues were not dominated by the out-of-town owned and corporate chains of strip clubs that currently line the strip.

From its outset, the Vieux Carre Entertainment District offered vaudeville, burlesque shows, and theatrical glamour. The 1977 Bourbon Street Task Force's permissive rules, which were intended to encourage the street's creativity and individuality, have been abused, leading to the present-day marketing of lap dances and private champagne rooms. Since 1977, the cities that the task force considered as benchmarks for New Orleans have reformed their respective adult-entertainment districts. Boston's Combat Zone was transformed by civic activists into a family-friendly and mixed-use district. New York City's clampdown on sexually-oriented businesses in the 1990's has been widely praised for launching the city's revival, making it a more decent place to live and to visit. Atlanta's strip clubs today are not allowed to sell alcohol.

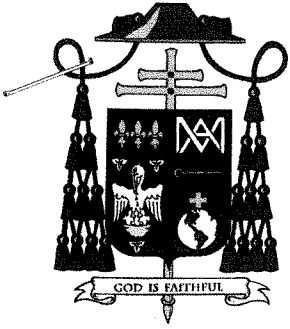
New Orleans should update and modernize its 40-year old regulations for strip clubs in the French Quarter. The negative effects of strip clubs on quality of life are clear. In 2012, City Councilmember Kristin Palmer

specifically pointed to the number of strip clubs in the French Quarter as a justification for tightening the curfew for minors in our city's oldest neighborhood. On the 300 and 400 blocks of Bourbon Street, there are at least seven strip clubs flanking the Royal Sonesta Hotel, and reportedly at least one convention rejected New Orleans as a destination because strippers were visible from the sidewalk.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu has set a goal of attracting 13 million visitors annually to New Orleans by 2018. How can New Orleans achieve such a goal without promoting a cleaner and more balanced brand that appeals to more families, children, and ordinary people? It's time for some common-sense restrictions on how close new strip clubs could open near existing ones in the French Quarter.

The need for a buffer from strip clubs is not a foreign concept under current New Orleans zoning rules. Outside of the French Quarter, the New Orleans Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance prohibits strip clubs and nude cabarets from opening within 1,000 feet of residences, churches, schools, and parks. The exposé of prostitution, drug-related crimes, and lewd/improper acts at French Quarter strip clubs led to a temporary moratorium, but city hall should strive for more substantial reforms. To revamp the worsening environment of the French Quarter and to bolster the neighborhood's livability, the city should permanently limit how close future strip clubs can open near current ones.

William Khan
French Quarter resident and voter



Archdiocese of New Orleans

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March 21, 2016

MAR24'16 11:57AM

City Planning Commission Office
1300 Perdido St., 7th Floor
One Stop Shop
New Orleans, LA 70112

Dear City Planning Commission Members:

Because of my great love for the City of New Orleans and my role as Archbishop of New Orleans, I express gratitude to the City Planning Commission for their efforts to study "Adult Live Entertainment Venues" in the city of New Orleans. I, too, am concerned that in the Fall of 2015, an undercover investigation by law enforcement found that more than 50% of the adult live entertainment venues in the French Quarter were involved in drug dealing and prostitution.

We are aware that New Orleans is considered a major hub for sex trafficking by national law enforcement and human trafficking experts. This, too, is a grave concern as it allows people not to respect the dignity of others. The human trafficking experts say that there is a direct link between the adult live entertainment industry and human trafficking.

Much of what I have in this note you already know. Nonetheless, please know that I am of support of any efforts we can make in order to study this issue and to eliminate drugs, prostitution, and trafficking from our great city.

Thank you for your attention.

Wishing you God's blessings, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond
Archbishop of New Orleans

GMA/el

cc: New Orleans City Council

Where is the Risen Christ to be found in 2016?



Archbishop
Gregory M.
AYMOND

On Easter Sunday, Archbishop Gregory Aymond delivered the following homily at the 11 a.m. Mass at St. Louis Cathedral.

Last Sunday, I joined about a thousand people in Woldenberg Park to watch the production of "The Passion" by FOX network that was filmed here in New Orleans. The production was well done. It takes the story of the passion of Jesus of 2,000 years ago and places it in the context of our own day.

After the death of Jesus was remembered in "The Pas-

sion," it seemed like everybody around me was turned away from the stage. Being curious, I turned the other way, too, and on top of the Westin Hotel, there was the large image of a man dressed in white, with light shining around him. This is how the resurrection was portrayed. I was a little bit surprised.

However, maybe the resurrection of Jesus always surprises people. If we look at today's Gospel, on that first day of the week, the women have come with their spices to anoint the body of Jesus. They want to show reverence for it. They come to the tomb, and, to their surprise, the rock has been rolled away. They look into the tomb, and it is empty. For them, it caused many questions: "Who stole the body? Why are they making fools of us? Where did they put the

On the Web:

www.nolacatholic.org

body?"

Then the messengers of God come to the women and explain that Jesus has risen, just as he had promised. The women run and give this message to the other the apostles – the 11 – and they think it is nonsense. Yes, we are always surprised at how the resurrection takes place.

Finally, Peter, trying to figure out what is going on, runs to the tomb and he, too, sees the stone rolled away. He sees the empty tomb, peers in and sees the wrappings that had been around Jesus. With human eyes, Peter would have said, "The tomb is empty." But with the eyes of faith, and reflecting on Jesus' promise, he says, "He is risen, just as he promised."

This morning we are not literally at that empty tomb, but we have heard the Gospel story. May I suggest that, humanly speaking, we could say, "Well, the tomb is empty. End of the story." However, we look at this story with our hearts of faith. The reason you and I are here this morning is that we believe that the tomb is empty in order that the Lord Jesus is risen, just as he has promised. Yes – Jesus is risen to be the light, to scatter the darkness and to be the light that gives hope and mercy.

We symbolized that light so beautifully at the Easter Vigil. After we blessed the Easter candle, a sign of the Risen Christ, we processed in and the cathedral was in total darkness. The only thing that could be seen was the flickering of the Easter candle, the Risen Christ. The deacon sang,

"Light of Christ."

Christ is the light who scatters the darkness of the world, the darkness within our own hearts and in the hearts of all we love. The Easter candle will be a focal point for the next 50 days during this Easter season. You and I will stand before the light of the Easter candle for the next 50 days, hoping that the Easter light will cause a flicker in our own hearts and in our world to dispel the darkness.

The Resurrection is not just an event that happened 2,000 years ago. The Resurrection has incredible significance for us this morning. In the darkness of our own lives, we believe the Risen Christ comes to bring light. What are those dark moments? When you and I feel pain or struggles. When we are disappointed or feel

See **ABP. AYMOND** page 19 ▶



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As New Orleans turns 300, isn't time we grew up?



Peter
FINNEY JR
CLARION HERALD

If first impressions mean anything, the billboards say what New Orleans – soon to celebrate its 300th anniversary as one of the world's most exotic travel destinations – is all about.

As you leave Louis Armstrong International Airport and wind down the airport access road heading to I-10, it's not John Besh or Emeril Lagasse stirring up a steaming pot of seafood gumbo over a fire with a wooden spoon.

Instead, it's an in-your-face, billboard-size lounge ticket to a Bourbon Street strip joint.

And, for good measure, there's a matching billboard for the reverse side, telling departing travelers who may have missed out on the fun: "Catch you next time."

Jim Kelly used to run Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans, and now he's the executive director of Covenant House New Orleans, where many of the girls who walk into his place looking to get off the streets wind up after their young life spun out of control

first by "dancing" in strip clubs – what the club operators euphemistically call "adult live entertainment venues."

First comes the dancing, Kelly said, followed by the value-added services expected of the dancers in the strip club's "VIP" rooms. That's where the girls, if they want to keep their cash, drinks and drugs coming in, know what they have to do.

"It's a victimless crime, unless you know the victims," Kelly said. "I know the victims."

Kelly was chilled last June when he picked up the paper and read about Jasilas Wright, a 19-year-old dancer at Stiletto's Cabaret on Bourbon Street. Investigators said Wright died after being thrown from a speeding car on I-10 by her pimp.

Wright's age particularly galled Kelly. He approached the City Council to pass an ordinance that would raise the age requirement on strip club dancers from 18 to 21. At Kelly's urging, the council also called for a comprehensive study of strip clubs in New Orleans and placed a moratorium on new clubs opening up.

In October, state officials launched an investigation of the strip clubs and discovered nine out of 14 clubs were dealing in prostitution and drugs.

"Nine out of 14," Kelly said.

"Can you imagine that happening in any other industry and there not being an uproar?"

Kelly said a recent study of his Covenant House teens by Loyola University indicated that 14 percent – 87 kids during the course of the year – had been victims of human trafficking, which is defined as using "force, fraud or coercion" to control another person.

"Do you not think these dancers are being coerced to do what they have to do, OK, to make sure that people are happy?" Kelly said. "What's going on in the VIP rooms?"

The most compelling testimony in the study of strip clubs came last month from former New Orleans Councilwoman Kristin Gisleson Palmer, who told the City Planning Commission that her younger sister Rebecca had fallen into drug and alcohol addiction due to a troubled childhood and mental health problems. Rebecca Gisleson started stripping at age 19, and she committed suicide in 1998. Rebecca's twin sister Rachel also took her life a short time later. "There's no doubt in my mind that the stripping was a major contributing factor to (Rebecca's) death," Gisleson Palmer said.

Kelly is a realist. He knows there probably is no way to

shutter every Bourbon Street strip club, but he hopes at least half will be gone soon.

"The bottom line is this is an affront to women," Kelly said. "We're treating women as pieces of meat. Where is the dignity? Where is the respect?"

Kelly says as New Orleans approaches its tricentennial in 2018, it needs to look seriously at its culture of wanton excess.

"There's no more 42nd Street in New York; there's no more Combat Zone in Boston," Kelly said. "I'd like us to be known for the World War II Museum and the Aquarium of the Americas. I'd like to see us known for Brennan's. Food, great entertainment. We've got so much more to offer. Strip clubs are out of sync with marketing New Orleans as a world-class destination."

There still is time for public comment. The City Planning Commission will offer a staff report on April 9, and the full commission will meet to discuss the study on April 26. The City Council meets May 2.

"I think we're called to stand up," Kelly said.

Send electronic comments to cpcinfo@nola.gov or send a letter to City of New Orleans, City Planning Commission, 1300 Perdidido St., 7th Floor, New Orleans, LA 70112.

Peter Finney Jr. can be reached at pfinney@clarionherald.org.

1481 Burbank Drive
New Orleans, Louisiana 70122

April 6, 2016

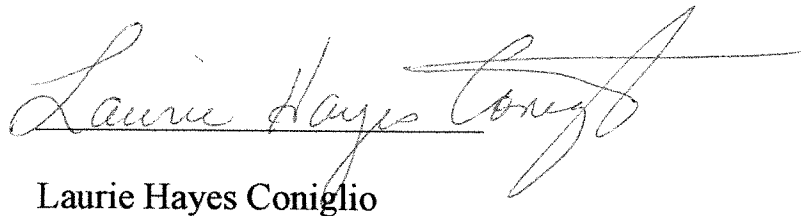
City Planning Commission Office
1300 Perdido Street, 7th Floor
One Stop Shop
New Orleans, LA 70112

Ladies & Gentlemen:

Please scrutinize all adult live entertainment venues (strip clubs) within the city in response to recent criminal activity and public outcry. Such clubs are notoriously connected to Human Trafficking, something widely recognized by national law enforcement and Human Trafficking experts.

Your attention is appreciated.

Very truly yours,



Laurie Hayes Coniglio

cc: New Orleans City Council
1300 Perdido Street, 2nd Floor West
New Orleans, LA 70112

2329 General Meyer Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70114

April 4, 2016

City Planning Commission Office
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One Stop Shop
New Orleans,, LA 70112

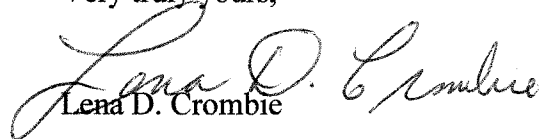
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Ladies & Gentlemen:

Please scrutinize adult live entertainment venues (strip clubs) within the city in response to recent criminal activity and public outcry. Such clubs are notoriously connected to Human Trafficking, something widely recognized by national law enforcement and Human Trafficking experts,

Your attention is appreciated.

Very truly yours,


Lena D. Crombie

cc: New Orleans City Council
1300 Perdido Street, 2nd Floor West
New Orleans, LA 70112

Report to the City Planning Commission on the Effects of Strip Clubs on Non-Adult Businesses

1. Strip clubs tend to burden neighboring businesses with significant costs, customer displacement, and negative effects.
2. Strip clubs displace commerce from families, children, women, and the elderly; they also make it harder to recruit and retain employees who are repulsed by the culture and gauntlet created by strip clubs.
3. Signs, outdoor advertising, and on-street solicitation by strippers are visually offensive, repel non-adult business customers, and harm quality of life.
4. Because they are so concentrated and have to compete heavily with one another, strip clubs engage in aggressive solicitation practices that border on promoting prostitution and encouraging illegal activities.
5. As a business owner of a family-friendly establishment, I am concerned about the crowd that strip clubs and adult-oriented businesses attract: prostitutes, pimps, johns, addicts, unsavory people, the mentally disturbed, and muggers who prey on the public.
6. Strip clubs have a systematically and uniquely negative effect on quality of life and Bourbon Street's reputation. I am a member of the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau. When I try to encourage convention organizers and managers to bring their groups to my shops on Bourbon Street, many of them decline to come to the street during evening hours (because strip clubs escalate their offensive practices at night) or they decline to come to Bourbon Street at all.
7. The negative image and perceptions of harmful effects from strip clubs are important because people act on their perceptions.

1. Strip clubs tend to burden neighboring businesses with significant costs, customer displacement, and negative effects.

- In 2012, Councilmember Kristin Palmer pointed to the number of strip clubs and bars in the French Quarter as a justification for tightening the curfew for minors in the Vieux Carre.
- According to the French Quarter Management District, visiting families and convention planners deciding whether to hold a meeting in New Orleans have complained about scantily clad women and explicit posters visible from the sidewalk and the public right-of-way.
- In 2015, the sales tax rate was increased in the French Quarter by 0.25% to pay for a detachment of Louisiana State Police. The high rates of disorderly conduct, drunk customers, and rowdy patrons from strip clubs and bars (especially at night) contribute to the French Quarter's overall higher crime rate. As shown by the Louisiana State Police and the Office of Alcohol and Tobacco, strip clubs themselves are magnets for crime, including prostitution, human trafficking, drug dealing, and lewd & improper conduct. But the sales tax increase was not limited to strip clubs and bars; all businesses, including non-adult establishments, have to carry the burden.

- Strip clubs promote, glamorize, and spread visual clutter, a drinking/party culture, and pornographic flyers; strip clubs internalize the profits from the perception they create for the French Quarter, but they do not have to deal with the costs of losing family-oriented customers or living in a neighborhood with lower quality of life.

For at least three decades (30 years), the city of New Orleans has allowed strip clubs to proliferate on Bourbon Street and Iberville Street and to open next to or near existing strip clubs. The end results of the city's insufficient regulation of strip clubs in the French Quarter include: (1) a concentration and clustering of strip clubs, (2) an economic/land-use configuration that is tilted toward adult-entertainment and nighttime establishments, (3) the crowding out and displacement of businesses that are low-margin, resident-oriented, and/or family-friendly, (4) a tighter curfew for minors in the French Quarter, (5) a less favorable environment for families and a growing negative perception of the French Quarter, and (6) an irreversible loss of residents.

2. Strip clubs displace commerce from families, children, women, and the elderly; they also make it harder to recruit and retain employees that are repulsed by the negative culture and gauntlet created by strip clubs.

The most frequent clients of sex businesses are young, transient, and single males. Statistically, alcohol-based businesses that cater to this demographic category tend to push out and deter other demographics like women, families, children, and even the elderly.

Sex businesses in the French Quarter are singularly responsible for creating a "dead zone" that people not interested in adult uses actively avoid—at a detriment to neighboring businesses.

Negative public attitudes toward areas of concentrated sex-businesses create "dead zones" unattractive to shoppers, store owners, and investors, and greatly decrease marketability and business opportunities in the vicinity of the sexually oriented businesses. Several customers of mine have indicated concern for the safety of their children and other pedestrians in the area.

Sex businesses set the tone of the pedestrian traffic in the area. Comments to me from customers, non-adult-business patrons, and passers-by have indicated that they, as people on foot in the vicinity of sexually oriented businesses, have been propositioned for sex acts, sexually harassed, or subject to aggressive panhandling.

Non-adult businesses suffer from the presence of sexually oriented businesses because our customers are fearful and concerned for their children. The concentration of multiple sexually oriented businesses in the French Quarter can have a major impact on the neighborhood by contributing to crime, driving away family oriented businesses, and debasing the reputation of the community.

When concentrated, sexually oriented businesses typically compete with one another for customers through larger, more visible signs; obscene solicitations; and graphic advertising. They tend to be magnets for certain types of businesses such as alcohol beverage outlets and late-night eating establishments like those offering pizza by the slice.

My business has not only lost customers; we have also lost existing and potential employees, suppliers, and other stakeholders. We have difficulties in hiring and retaining employees for our non-adult business, particularly young mothers, elderly individuals, and ordinary women & men. The proliferation of adult entertainment, often identified by graphic signage and lewd barkers, has led to widespread concern about potential deterioration in the quality of life and the neighborhood's reputation.

These impacts include: inappropriate exposure of children and teenagers to graphic sexual images, increased crime, diminishing business opportunities, adverse effects upon the climate for other types of commercial activities, and overall negative influences upon community character.

Adult uses located in the area, particularly in concentration, have a negative impact on their businesses, deterring potential customers. Negative perceptions associated with the area can lead to disinvestment, blight, and a tendency to shun shopping streets where unsavory activities are occurring. These areas are avoided because shoppers do not want to be associated in any way with adult uses, or have their children walk by adult uses.

Strip clubs discourage shoppers from walking in pedestrian-oriented commercial areas, which the French Quarter is supposed to be.

Other impacts could be traced to public perceptions. Many people, particularly the elderly, are afraid to walk the streets. Others have expressed concern that children were being exposed to sexually-explicit materials and unsavory persons. Quality of life and business are adversely affected by litter, environmental effects, difficulty in recruiting employees and retaining & attracting customers.

Negative impacts stemming from the adult establishments include: a decline in the overall reputation of the community, a reduction in the economic vitality of individual businesses, and a declining potential for business in the community.

3. Signs, outdoor advertising, and on-street solicitation by strippers are visually offensive, repel non-adult business customers, and harm quality of life.











4. Because they are so concentrated and have to compete heavily with one another, strip clubs engage in aggressive solicitation practices that border on promoting prostitution and encouraging illegal activities.

Sexually oriented businesses provide a focus for illicit activities pertaining to prostitution, pandering, and other illegal sex acts.

The placement of a sexually oriented business is generally an indicator of the decline of a community—the business district as a whole is impacted.

Also, the target audience in the immediate vicinity of a strip club will not suffice for a sex business; it must engage in more aggressive solicitation practices to draw business from a larger surrounding region.

Some of the Bourbon Street strip clubs are very aggressive about peddling their entertainers, liquor, and sexual themes.

I walk on the 200 to 500 blocks of Bourbon Street everyday. I have heard barkers from Bourbon Street strip clubs loudly yell the following things on the street and sidewalk in earshot of families, children, and ordinary people:

- i. “It’s ti**y time.”
- ii. “Come inside for cold beer and hot pu**y.”
- iii. “Anything goes.”
- iv. “We have chicks with big t*ts.”

5. As a business owner of a family-friendly establishment, I am concerned about the crowd that strip clubs and adult-oriented businesses attract: prostitutes, pimps, johns, addicts, and muggers who prey on the public.

According to the French Quarter Management District, visiting families and convention planners deciding whether to hold a meeting in New Orleans have complained about scantily clad women and explicit posters visible from the sidewalk and the public right-of-way.

6. Strip clubs have a systematically and uniquely negative effect on quality of life.

Concentrations of these businesses have detrimental effects on residential and commercial activities caused by: (1) noise (such as loud music or vulgar solicitations), lighting, disruption of non-adult commerce, and the type of crowd during late night hours; (2) increased opportunity for street crimes; and (3) the tendency of citizens to avoid such business areas.

Quality-of-life impacts, such as littering, noise, late night operations, offensive signage, and general negative perceptions about the neighborhood or certain streets, are significant.

People loitering near adult establishments have made the neighborhood “intimidating.”

Certain impacts such as offensive signage depicting eroticism or sexually-explicit words are especially problematic for children.

There are several impacts from adult entertainment establishments located in the French Quarter, particularly in concentration.

Adult use businesses have a negative effect on the economic health of businesses located in their vicinity that primarily serve families and that do not peddle alcohol, video poker, or sexually-oriented material.

Adult uses are detrimental to non-adult businesses. Customers have complained about aggressive barkers and strippers from adjacent strip clubs.

I am a member of the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau. When I try to encourage convention organizers and managers to bring their groups to my shops on Bourbon Street, many of them decline to come to the street during evening hours (because strip clubs escalate their offensive practices at night) or they decline to come to Bourbon Street at all.

Flamboyant strip club advertising, solicitation practices, and the visibility of strippers from the sidewalk also make it more difficult to make a convincing pitch to business and convention customers.

Customers have shown me photographs of the adjacent strip clubs to complain. Frequently, unsavory people loiter in front of strip clubs and are involved in petty crime, which ruins quality of life for me and my customers.

It is undeniable that strip clubs create "dead zones" in commercial areas that shoppers avoid. The negative public perceptions about adult uses, such as the need to provide private security guards and leave Bourbon Street before sunset, also harm business.

Many customers have complained about the impacts from strip clubs. These impacts include: exposure of children and teenagers to graphic sexual images, increased crime, aggressive panhandling and propositioning for sexual activities, adverse effects upon the climate for other types of commercial activities, attracting a disreputable crowd, and overall negative influences upon community character.

Sexually explicit business signs or displays visible from the public street are particularly offensive.

7. The negative image and perceptions of harmful effects from strip clubs are important because people act on their perceptions.

Mark Collins Romig

MAR17'16 10:43AM

March 15, 2016

New Orleans City Planning Commission
1300 Perdido St, 7th Floor
New Orleans, LA 70112

Re: Study of Adult Live Entertainment Venues

Dear Commissioners Wedberg, Brown, Steeg, Duplessis, Mitchell, Mora, Allen, and Marshall:

I would like to thank the City Council and the City Planning Commission for their recent efforts to study "Adult Live Entertainment Venues in the City of New Orleans." I am pleased that the study will consider "limitations on the number of such establishments, best practices of other cities, land use regulatory mechanisms, use standards, and input from industry representatives and impacted businesses."

I am concerned:

- In October 2015, law enforcement found drug dealing and prostitution taking place in 9 out of 14 strip clubs in a month long undercover investigation. Drug dealing and prostitution (male and female) is also known to take place in other kinds of clubs and venues.
- New Orleans is considered a major hub for human sex trafficking by national law enforcement and human trafficking experts (including the Polaris Project).
- A Loyola study estimates 87 Covenant House residents per year have been involved in human trafficking, increasing to 150 residents per year if the sex industry and strip clubs are included.
- According to a lawsuit, reported by the Times Picayune, dancers in strip clubs are often hired as independent contractors, not as employees with regular benefits. Dancers are constantly sexually harassed, and are forced to work in an environment that is neither safe, secure nor crime free.

I believe:

- The existing number of strip clubs leads to an increase in overall French Quarter crime including violence, prostitution, lewd/improper acts, petty crime and drug dealing – and therefore does not promote the public health, welfare and safety of the City.
- As we approach our 300th anniversary, the strip clubs' affiliated crimes and negative reputations are completely out of sync with marketing New Orleans as a world-class destination.

I recommend:

- The number of strip clubs in our city needs to decrease by at least 50%.

- A special tax/fee needs to be levied against the strip clubs to pay for increased law enforcement on Bourbon Street, and for on-going inspections of the clubs.
- Dancers should be hired as regular employees with standard benefits, should be provided a safe, secure, crime free environment, and should not be allowed to be sexually harassed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Romig". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "M".

Mark C. Romig,

From: William Khan (Resident, Voter, and Business Owner in the French Quarter with three family-friendly establishments on Bourbon Street that neighbor or are located near strip clubs)

To: The New Orleans City Council and the City Planning Commission

RE: Regulating Strip Clubs in the French Quarter

January 30, 2016

The operational impact and negative effects of strip clubs in the French Quarter are poorly understood and rarely examined methodically; why else would city zoning allow strip clubs to open door-to-door, block-by-block, or facing one another in the French Quarter prior to the recently passed moratorium?

Let me share my perspective as a full-time French Quarter resident, voter, and business owner with graduate degrees and coursework in law, business administration, real estate, and economics.

My Academic Qualifications and Perspective as a French Quarter Resident and Neighboring Business:

I hold a Juris Doctorate (Law) degree and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Texas at Austin. I graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in Economic History and Public Policy. I have completed coursework in urban real estate and land use regulation at Wharton, Tulane, the University of New Orleans, and the University of Texas at Austin.

My family's businesses on the 200, 400, and 500 blocks of Bourbon Street are one of the few remaining family-friendly and family-oriented establishments in the area. We have been in business at those locations for more than 30 years. Because I live in the French Quarter and I walk along Iberville Street and Bourbon Street every day to manage my family's shops, I have a reality-based, relevant, and ground-level perspective on the impact of strip clubs in the French Quarter. I feel the effects of strip clubs daily as I walk to work and try to maintain a family-friendly establishment on Bourbon Street.

I want to raise my family here in the French Quarter, but the door-to-door and block-by-block concentration of strip clubs has significant and negative spillover effects throughout the neighborhood.

Executive Summary: Strip clubs in the French Quarter are mostly clustered next to one another or near each other, and they are concentrated on Bourbon Street and Iberville Street. When strip clubs are allowed to open within feet of each other or even door-to-door (as current law permitted prior to the one-year moratorium), this concentration of strip clubs generally creates negative operational, environmental, and aesthetic effects—harmful externalities—for residents, visitors, pedestrians, onlookers, locals, other types of businesses, and for their neighbors. Because of these negative effects, strip clubs and other adult-oriented businesses tend to displace and eventually crowd out less-intensive and more-benign types of establishments.

One constitutionally legal solution for the New Orleans City Council to combat the negative, compounding effects of strip clubs in the French Quarter would be to enact a spacing requirement for any new strip clubs in the Vieux Carre, which would limit how close a new strip club could open near to existing ones. In the 1990s, New York City enacted a spacing requirement that effectively spread out sexually-oriented businesses and reduced their concentration in saturated areas. The U.S. Supreme Court approved the New York City requirement in 1998.

Negative Operational Effects:

- 1) Strip clubs on Bourbon Street and in the French Quarter tend to be closed between 7AM to 1PM. When these businesses are closed during the morning time and just past noon, their closure and non-activity tend to create a “dead zone” on the street during the daytime in which few pedestrians walk nearby, vagrants congregate to fill the vacuum created by the lack of pedestrian activity, traditional businesses suffer, and opportunities for crime and public disorder abound.
 - a. What do I mean by a “dead zone”? I mean an environment in which few pedestrians, visitors, or passers-by walk on a street because few businesses are open at that time.
 - b. When there are too many strip clubs on a block, their closure during the daytime and the resulting creation of a “dead zone” that deters customers from patronizing establishments makes it harder for non-adult oriented businesses and neighborhood stores to succeed on that block.
 - c. Once non-adult oriented businesses cannot survive on a block due to the negative effects of nearby strip clubs, the presence of strip clubs nearby encourages other strip clubs to cluster near each other and suffocate daytime life on that street.
 - d. Since strip clubs, bars, nightclubs, or other adult-oriented businesses collocate next to each other or cluster nearby, they tend to crowd out and eventually displace businesses that are low-margin, resident-oriented, and/or family-friendly.
- 2) In October 2015, agents with the Louisiana State Alcohol and Tobacco Control documented the following illegal and illicit activities at several Bourbon Street strip clubs: prostitution, drug-related offenses, lewd & improper acts.
 - a. By the very nature of their operations and their business model to sell alcohol with nudity and lap-dances, strip clubs arguably create breeding grounds for risky behavior to take root and for patrons or employees to slide into illegal activities.
 - b. When strip clubs are concentrated and located next to one another, the illegal activities that may occur at one strip club and the profits generated from such activity can create competitive pressures for neighboring strip clubs to promote prostitution, drug sales, and lewd conduct or risk losing business.
- 3) Since strip clubs displace businesses that derive their income during daytime hours and they crowd out businesses that offer items/services which are more locally tied to New Orleans itself, strip clubs could be considered a more intensive land use than an establishment such as a museum or a barber shop.
- 4) Even when strip clubs do not allow criminal activities within their premises, researchers have found that customers and employees of strip clubs tend to be magnets for crime.
 - a. Studies have shown that sexually-oriented businesses attract “perfect” victims: cash-carrying men predisposed to party and to drink. Especially when they have had a few drinks, they may not be enthusiastic about calling the cops if they can help it.
 - b. Because customers of strip clubs are sometimes inebriated or focused on sexual activity, they may attract prostitutes, pimps, drug-dealers, hustlers, or scam artists.
 - c. Some strip clubs stay open as late as 5AM or just before dawn; coincidentally, loitering of suspicious people (who may or may not be prostitutes, pimps, drug-dealers, or robbers) and criminal incidents within the French Quarter tend to skyrocket at these times.

- 5) Because strip clubs have a reinforcing, negative effect on the operating business hours of a street (they are closed in the daytime until 1PM but open until 5AM), their effect on land-usage and commercial/residential activity is significant and far-reaching.
 - a. Any resident who happens to live or walk near a strip club could inadvertently become the victim of criminal predators who are targeting strip club customers and employees.
- 6) Strip clubs on Bourbon Street and Iberville Street tend to use outdoor solicitation, barkers, spokespeople, and strippers, clogging a portion of the sidewalk and public right-of-way. The outdoor solicitation by strip clubs intensify their land usage and negatively affect surrounding businesses.
 - a. The sidewalks on Bourbon Street and Iberville Street are very narrow. When space on the sidewalk is occupied by a Bourbon Street barker or stripper, it disrupts the flow of pedestrians, delivery workers, residents, tourists, locals conducting business downtown and sometimes forces people to walk on the street and share the road with cars to pass.

Negative Environmental Effects:

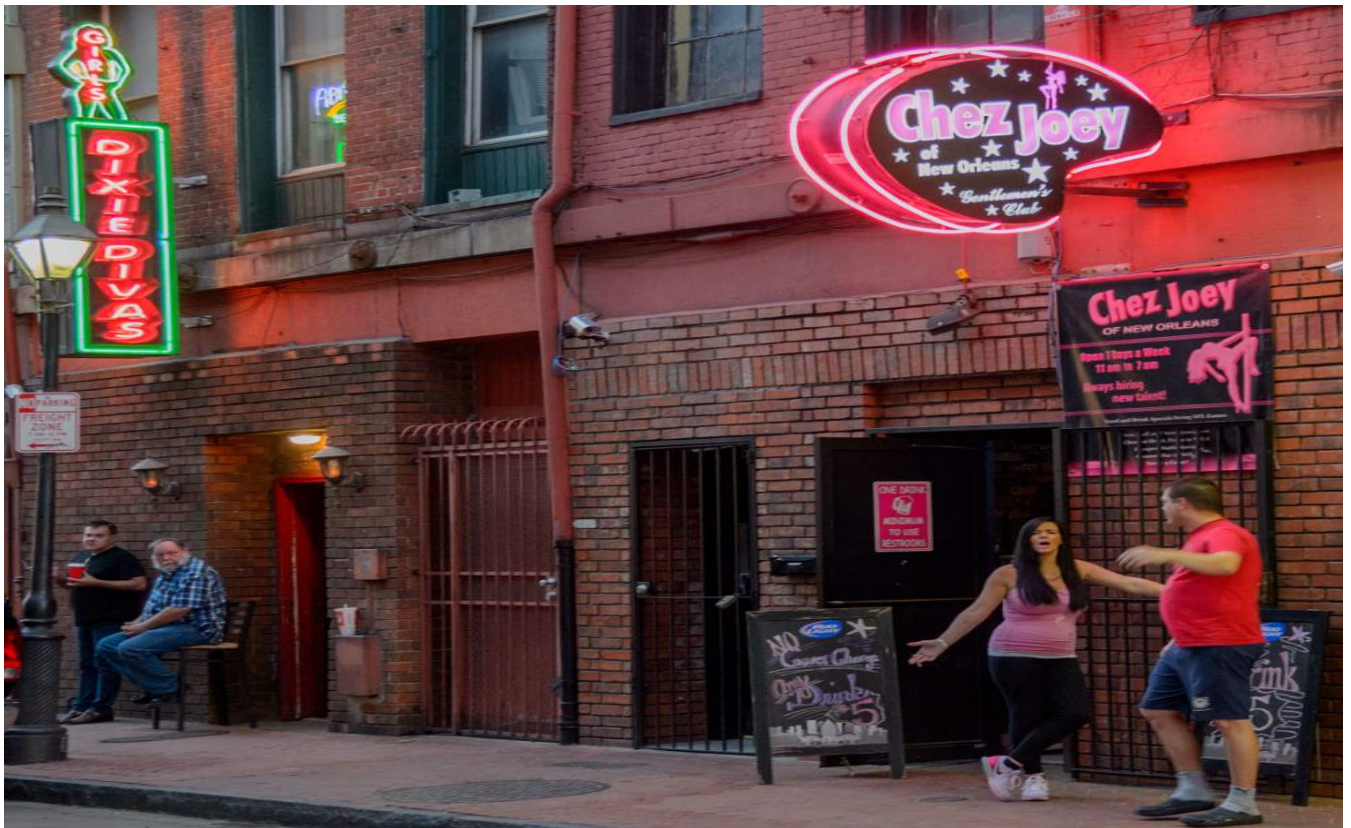
- 1) The number of strip clubs should be carefully calibrated. When there are too many strip clubs on a block, the street begins to become imbalanced in terms of its orientation, amenities, and commercial offerings. Simply put, strip clubs weaken efforts to diversify the retail environment and options on Bourbon Street.
- 2) If the city wants to create a family-friendly or at least a family-neutral environment, allowing strip clubs to open next to each other or near another harms public policy.
 - a. Quote from City Councilmember Kristin Palmer's January 18th 2012 Opinion-Editorial advocating a tighter curfew for minors in the French Quarter: "No other neighborhood in the city, state or nation sized at .66 square miles, just 12 blocks wide, contains more than 350 alcohol beverage outlets, and includes adult entertainment establishments and numerous strip clubs."
- 3) The excess number of strip clubs on Bourbon Street constitute a visible portion of the 350+ alcohol beverage outlets in the French Quarter and particularly exemplify how the neighborhood has become so imbalanced that it needs a tighter curfew for minors than other parts of the city.

Negative Visual/Aesthetic Effects:

- 1) Some of the Bourbon Street strip clubs are very aggressive about peddling their entertainers, liquor, and sexual themes.
 - a. According to the French Quarter Management District, visiting families and convention planners deciding whether to hold a meeting in New Orleans have complained about scantily clad women and explicit posters visible from the sidewalk and the public right-of-way.
 - b. I walk on the 200 to 500 blocks of Bourbon Street everyday. I have heard barkers from Bourbon Street strip clubs loudly yell the following things on the street and sidewalk in earshot of families, children, and ordinary people:
 - i. "It's ti**y time."
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 - iii. "Anything goes."
 - iv. "We have chicks with big t*ts."

- 2) The lighting, signage, and outdoor advertising for strip clubs in the French Quarter are generally intrusive, overbearing, and lurid. The exterior pictures of French Quarter strip clubs below speak for themselves.

DIXIE DIVAS AND CHEZ JOEY (STRIP CLUB AT 608 IBERVILLE STREET)



LARRY FLYNT'S HUSTLER CLUB (STRIP CLUB AT 225 BOURBON STREET)





DÉJÀ VU SHOWGIRLS (STRIP CLUB AT 226 BOURBON STREET)



Conclusion: I have written my assessment on the impact and potential regulation of strip clubs in the French Quarter trying to use an economics-based and land-use focused perspective. Moreover, as a resident who loves the French Quarter and wishes to raise a family in the neighborhood, I am obligated to provide my educated and relevant opinion on this important matter of public policy.

I have no malice toward strip clubs, but it is not an accident that strip clubs in the French Quarter tend to concentrate and cluster along Bourbon Street and Iberville Street. I experience the negative effects that flow from strip clubs opening next door to one another or near each other everyday.

As a French Quarter resident and business owner with establishments that happen to neighbor or be located near strip clubs in the neighborhood, my opinion is that the concentration of strips clubs along Bourbon Street and Iberville Street tend to exert significant harmful effects (i.e. negative externalities) on residents, customers, other types of businesses, and the overall neighborhood.

When strip clubs are allowed to cluster, they generate negative operational, environmental, and aesthetic effects; these effects tend to intensify as new strip clubs emerge. In fact, the negative externalities of strip clubs tend to encourage other strip clubs to open up nearby, to displace non-adult oriented businesses, and to promote riskier—perhaps illegal—activity.

For at least three decades (30 years), the city of New Orleans has allowed strip clubs to proliferate on Bourbon Street and Iberville Street and to open very closely near existing strip clubs. The end results of the city's insufficient regulation of strip clubs in the French Quarter include: (1) a concentration and clustering of strip clubs, (2) an economic/land-use configuration that is tilted toward adult-entertainment and nighttime establishments, (3) the crowding out and displacement of businesses that are low-margin, resident-oriented, and/or family-friendly, (4) a tighter curfew for minors in the French Quarter, (5) a less favorable environment for families and a growing negative perception of the French Quarter, and (6) an irreversible loss of residents.

An outright ban on new strip clubs in the French Quarter probably would not pass constitutional muster, but there is a solution. The constitutional and legally permissible way to restrict new strip clubs from opening in the French Quarter would be through a "spacing" requirement, which was successfully employed in New York City. A spacing requirement that limited how close strip clubs could be to one another and to houses of worship, homes, and day-care centers was effectively used by the New York City Council in the 1990's. In 1998, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld zoning regulations that prohibited sex-oriented theaters, bookstores, massage parlors and dance clubs from operating within 500 feet of homes, houses of worship, schools or each other.

It's time for some common-sense and rationally-based limitations on how close new strip clubs can open near existing ones. The city should prevent strip clubs from opening next to one another or near each other by enacting a spacing requirement for strip clubs, which could restore some balance to the street, revive daytime commerce in surrounding areas, and forestall the downward spiral that led to the moratorium on French Quarter strip clubs in the first place.

William Khan (wkhan@utexas.edu)

Voter, Resident, and Entrepreneur in the French Quarter
JD/MBA Graduate of the University of Texas at Austin



Dominican
Sisters of Peace
Sisters and Associates
in Mission

April 2, 2016

City of New Orleans
City Planning Commission
1300 Perdido Street, 7th Floor
New Orleans, LA , 70112

APR 6 '16 11:22AM

Dear Members of the City Planning Commission:

I understand that your Commission plans several meetings in the near future to investigate the impact of strip clubs on our youth and our visitors.

According to the Loyola study of Covenant House teens, 14 per cent – 87 of them during the course of one year had been victims of human trafficking. Without a chance to escape, that equals the equivalent of 87 slaves sold at the block, sold into long time slavery. That is what trafficking amounts to, and strip clubs are a starting place for such activity. In our current economy, this use of human beings as commerce has burgeoned into the millions. Why is our city contributing to it?

The City Council is to be lauded for any attempt to limit the dancing age at strip clubs to 21 even when some individuals demand an earlier age crying “financial need.” If crime is immoral, why can strip club crimes persist? Please use the power of your office to save teens from themselves and to offer visitors to our city entertainment of a more wholesome venue than is found at strip clubs.

May God bless you and all of your work for the common good.

Sincerely,

Rose Bowen, O.P.

Sr. Rose Bowen, O.P.

Sr. Marjorie Millet, O.P.

Sr. Dorothy Lorio, O.P.

Sr. Betty Dosbey, O.P.

Mary Ann Cullotta, O.P.

Sr. Marlene Berthelot, O.P.

Sister Denise Bourgeois, O.P.

Sister Judith Lillis, O.P.

Sr. Binh Nguyen, O.P.

Sister Lorraine Torres, O.P.

Sister Melita Bealinger, O.P.

Sister Francine Schwaninger, O.P.



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To: The New Orleans City Council and the City Planning Commission

RE: Regulating Strip Clubs in the French Quarter

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- 1) Strip clubs on Bourbon Street and in the French Quarter tend to be closed between 7AM to 1PM. When these businesses are closed during the morning time and just past noon, their closure and non-activity tend to create a “dead zone” on the street during the daytime in which few pedestrians walk nearby, vagrants congregate to fill the vacuum created by the lack of pedestrian activity, traditional businesses suffer, and opportunities for crime and public disorder abound.
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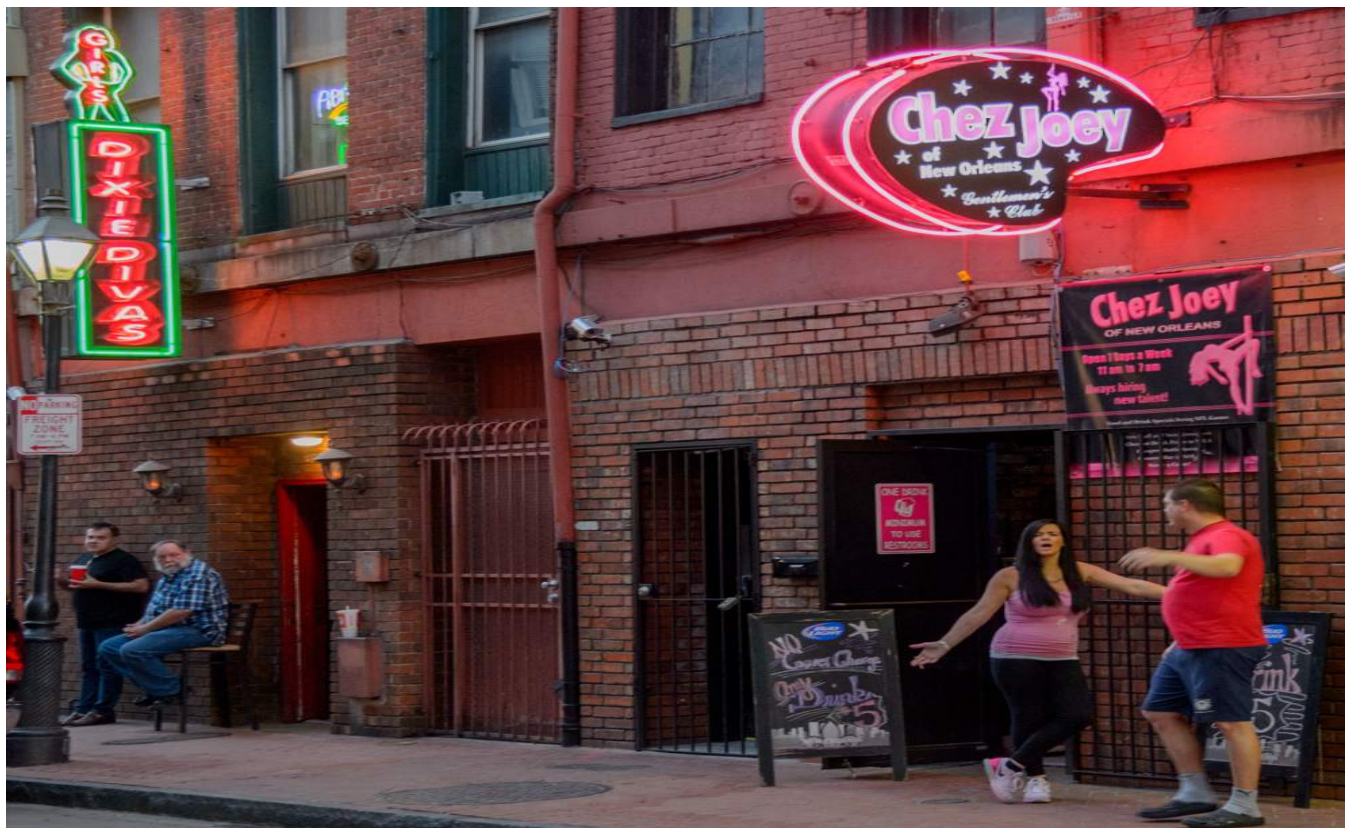
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As a French Quarter resident and business owner with establishments that happen to neighbor or be located near strip clubs in the neighborhood, my opinion is that the concentration of strips clubs along Bourbon Street and Iberville Street tend to exert significant harmful effects (i.e. negative externalities) on residents, customers, other types of businesses, and the overall neighborhood.

When strip clubs are allowed to cluster, they generate negative operational, environmental, and aesthetic effects; these effects tend to intensify as new strip clubs emerge. In fact, the negative externalities of strip clubs tend to encourage other strip clubs to open up nearby, to displace non-adult oriented businesses, and to promote riskier—perhaps illegal—activity.

For at least three decades (30 years), the city of New Orleans has allowed strip clubs to proliferate on Bourbon Street and Iberville Street and to open very closely near existing strip clubs. The end results of the city's insufficient regulation of strip clubs in the French Quarter include: (1) a concentration and clustering of strip clubs, (2) an economic/land-use configuration that is tilted toward adult-entertainment and nighttime establishments, (3) the crowding out and displacement of businesses that are low-margin, resident-oriented, and/or family-friendly, (4) a tighter curfew for minors in the French Quarter, (5) a less favorable environment for families and a growing negative perception of the French Quarter, and (6) an irreversible loss of residents.

An outright ban on new strip clubs in the French Quarter probably would not pass constitutional muster, but there is a solution. The constitutional and legally permissible way to restrict new strip clubs from opening in the French Quarter would be through a "spacing" requirement, which was successfully employed in New York City. A spacing requirement that limited how close strip clubs could be to one another and to houses of worship, homes, and day-care centers was effectively used by the New York City Council in the 1990's. In 1998, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld zoning regulations that prohibited sex-oriented theaters, bookstores, massage parlors and dance clubs from operating within 500 feet of homes, houses of worship, schools or each other.

It's time for some common-sense and rationally-based limitations on how close new strip clubs can open near existing ones. The city should prevent strip clubs from opening next to one another or near each other by enacting a spacing requirement for strip clubs, which could restore some balance to the street, revive daytime commerce in surrounding areas, and forestall the downward spiral that led to the moratorium on French Quarter strip clubs in the first place.

William Khan (wkhan@utexas.edu)

Voter, Resident, and Entrepreneur in the French Quarter
JD/MBA Graduate of the University of Texas at Austin

Sabine E. Lebailleur

From: Robert D. Rivers
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 10:47 AM
To: Cameron D. Bonnett; Sabine E. Lebailleur
Subject: FW: Analysis of Strip Club Effects on French Quarter for City Planning Commission
Attachments: Regulating Strip Clubs in the French Quarter.pdf

From: William Khan [<mailto:wkhan@utexas.edu>]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 11:51 AM
To: Leslie T. Alley; Dubravka Gilic; Paul Cramer; CPCInfo; Robert D. Rivers; nkindel@nola.gov; Kenneth Butler; bdesrocher@nola.gov; lmasey@nola.gov
Cc: James A. Gray; Stacy S. Head; Susan G. Guidry; qramsey@nola.gov; LaToya Cantrell; Jared C. Brossett; Jason R. Williams; Jason R. Williams; Jonathan T. Harris; Barbara L. Keller; Catrina M. Simmons; Lauren R. Hotard; Carla D. Gendusa; Aaron A. Clark-Rizzio; Katie D. Hunter-Lowrey; Connolly A. Reed; Clarence J. Williams III; Vanessa A. Spinazola; Tyler L. Gibson; Mary B. Cunningham; Leatrice Dupre; T. Gordon McLeod; Marilyn B. Wood; Julius Feltus; Bryon Cornelison; John D. Pourciau; Anna N. Nguyen; Kara Y. Johnson; Lena Stewart; Aylin A. Maklansky; Freddie King; Sandra G. Thomas; Miles L. Granderson; CouncilDistrictD; Tanya D. Nettles-Evans; Domonique C. Dickerson; Peter C. Waggoner; Erin C. Spears; Mary N. Fontenot-Smith; Maurice C. Baird; Maria M. Tio; bmoliver@nola.gov
Subject: Analysis of Strip Club Effects on French Quarter for City Planning Commission

Dear City Planning Commission:

On January 7th, the New Orleans City Council passed a motion directing the City Planning Commission to hold a public hearing on strip clubs in the French Quarter within 60 days. The City Council motion to the City Planning Commission to study this issue and establish regulations for strip clubs has granted broad authority to the CPC in proposing regulations for such venues.

Language from New Orleans City Council Motion M-16-21 (directing the CPC to analyze strip clubs in the French Quarter and propose regulations):

"That in the process of studying and reviewing the Adult Live Performance Venue Interim Zoning District, the City Planning Commission staff is directed and granted the flexibility to make all appropriate changes to the proposed regulations and any existing corresponding regulations in the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance..."

http://cityofno.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=3&clip_id=2251&meta_id=314277

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I have written a report and analysis of strip club effects on the French Quarter. It is attached in PDF format. My analysis is grounded in economics, real estate, and public policy, and it buttresses the argument for further regulating strip clubs in the French Quarter. I will be supplying a hard-copy version of my report to each City Councilmember and the City Planning Commission.

The operational impact and negative effects of strip clubs in the French Quarter are poorly understood and rarely examined methodically; why else would city zoning allow strip clubs to open door-to-door, block-by-block, or facing one another in the French Quarter prior to the recently passed moratorium?

Let me share my perspective as a full-time French Quarter resident, voter, and business owner with graduate degrees and coursework in law, business administration, real estate, and economics.

Respectfully,

William Khan
French Quarter business owner, resident, and voter

Sabine E. Lebailleux

From: Robert D. Rivers
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 10:47 AM
To: Cameron D. Bonnett; Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: FW: Statistics and Research for Adult Live Performance Venue Study

From: William Khan [<mailto:wkhan@utexas.edu>]

Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 9:33 AM

To: Cameron D. Bonnett

Cc: CPCInfo; Robert D. Rivers; Leslie T. Alley; James A. Gray; Stacy S. Head; Susan G. Guidry; qramsey@nola.gov; LaToya Cantrell; Jared C. Brossett; Jason R. Williams; Jason R. Williams; Vanessa A. Spinazola; DistrictC; Andrew D. Kopplin; rberni@nola.gov; Mitchell J. Landrieu; Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu

Subject: Statistics and Research for Adult Live Performance Venue Study

Dear Cameron:

As a full-time French Quarter resident, voter, and family-friendly business owner on Bourbon Street, I stopped by City Hall yesterday, and I gave the City Planner on Duty seven (7) documents, research reports, and news articles about strip clubs (adult live performance venues) in the French Quarter.

The City Planner on Duty told me that you are tasked with the City Planning Commission's Adult Live Performance Venue study.

As one of the few young professionals in the French Quarter, I am passionate about this matter because I want to continue raising my family here.

In my research report (titled "Statistical Facts and History of Strip Clubs in the French Quarter"), I included several statistics, including a comparison of how the concentration of strip clubs in the French Quarter is far greater than the entire city of Portland (the city with the greatest number of strip clubs on a per capita basis).

I am glad that regulating strip clubs in the French Quarter is finally a priority of city hall. Frankly, strip clubs in our city's most historic neighborhood and tourism center should have been regulated and limited at least a decade ago. When the city bans new hotels, new t-shirt shops, and new food carts (other than Lucky Dog) but allows new strip clubs to open, you can see that the city has shown misplaced priorities in protecting the French Quarter.

Statement 1: According to an urban research study, Portland, OR has the highest number of strip clubs per capita in the country with nearly 9 strip clubs per 100,000 people.

Source: "Why Does Portland Have so Many Strip Clubs?"

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clubs in the neighborhood as a justification for a harsher curfew for minors:
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Statement 7: History of violations at Bourbon Street strip clubs
http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2015/11/in_bourbon_street_strip_clubs.html

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

William Khan

French Quarter resident and business owner

Sabine E. Lebailleur

From: Robert D. Rivers
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 10:46 AM
To: Cameron D. Bonnett; Sabine E. Lebailleur
Subject: FW: Study on Reforming French Quarter Strip Clubs

From: William Khan [mailto:wkhan@utexas.edu]
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2016 12:05 PM
To: Robert D. Rivers; CPCinfo
Subject: Study on Reforming French Quarter Strip Clubs

"The strip-club moratorium is just a first step; much more needs to be done"

<http://thelensnola.org/2016/01/14/the-strip-club-moratorium-is-just-a-first-step-much-more-needs-to-be-done/>

While I applaud the City Council's decision to pass a one-year moratorium on strip clubs in the French Quarter and to commission a study by the City Planning Commission, City Hall should consider long-lasting and more robust reforms.

Keep in mind that state authorities previously documented illegal drug sales, prostitution, and lewd conduct at several strip clubs. Why are new strip clubs or adult entertainment venues still allowed to proliferate in the Vieux Carre after the moratorium expires? In contrast, new hotels, food trucks, and T-shirt shops are prohibited from ever opening in the French Quarter.

I want to continue raising my family here in the Quarter, but the door-to-door and block-by-block concentration of strip clubs has significant and negative spillover effects throughout the neighborhood.

Strip clubs in the French Quarter are mostly clustered next to or near one another on Bourbon and Iberville streets. On the 300 and 400 blocks of Bourbon Street alone, there are no fewer than seven strip clubs facing or near the Royal Sonesta Hotel. When strip clubs are allowed to open within feet of each other or even door-to-door (as current law permitted prior to the moratorium), the concentration has a blighting impact on residents, visitors, businesses and the general environment.

As just one example of this negative impact, French Quarter strip clubs are usually closed between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m., creating a daytime "dead zone" in which pedestrians sidestep the area, businesses suffer and vagrants congregate to fill the vacuum. Opportunities for crime and public disorder abound. The effect is metastatic; new strip clubs and unsavory adult-oriented businesses spring up to fill the vacuum, displacing businesses that were low-margin, resident-oriented, and/or family-friendly.

And of course what goes on inside clubs under pressure to offer greater thrills than neighboring strip clubs is as deleterious as their impact on nearby non-adult businesses. A business model centered on competitive one-upmanship and the use of nudity and lap dances to boost alcohol sales (or vice versa) creates a breeding ground for risky personal behavior and outright criminality. In October 2015, agents with the state Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control documented the following illegal and illicit activities at several Bourbon Street strip clubs: prostitution and drug-related offenses as well as lewd and improper acts.

When strip clubs are concentrated as they are on Bourbon Street, competitive pressure spreads and can intensify

the promotion of prostitution, drug sales, and lewd conduct from one to the next.

And even when strip clubs do not allow criminal activities on the premises, customers and employees tend to be magnets for crime. Studies have shown that sex-oriented businesses attract “perfect” victims: cash-carrying men predisposed to party and drink heavily. They attract prostitutes, pimps, drug-dealers, hustlers, and scam artists — and because the victims are drunk, they may be incapable of summoning or cooperating with police. With some strip clubs open as late as 5 a.m., it’s no mere coincidence that French Quarter crime tends to skyrocket shortly before dawn.

Nor is the negative impact of strip clubs limited to their patrons. Any resident who happens to live or walk near a strip club becomes more susceptible to criminals preying on customers or haunting the daytime dead zone the clubs create.

In a January 2012 editorial, City Councilmember Kristin Palmer, advocating a tighter curfew for minors in the French Quarter, wrote: “No other neighborhood in the city, state or nation sized at .66 square miles, just 12 blocks wide, contains more than 350 alcohol beverage outlets, and includes adult entertainment establishments and numerous strip clubs.”

That a neighborhood needs a special curfew for minors is, in and of itself, symptomatic of a grave imbalance in that neighborhood’s business climate.

I have no malice toward strip clubs in their proper place. But as a French Quarter resident with businesses nearby, every day I experience the negative effects that flow from allowing strip clubs to cluster and open side by side, as they have.

What to do? Obviously the strip club industry is not about to disappear. Strip clubs are part of the French Quarter’s colorful fabric. But is it prudent public policy for the city to use blunt instruments like a harsher curfew for minors in the French Quarter and stopgap measures such as a one-year moratorium without addressing the underlying disease, the saturation of strip clubs?

The number of clubs and their conduct should be carefully calibrated. When there are too many strip clubs on a block, the street begins to become imbalanced in terms of its orientation, amenities, and commercial offerings. Simply put, strip clubs weaken efforts to diversify the options for retail and general tourism on Bourbon Street and surrounding areas. If the city wants to create a family-friendly or at least a family-neutral environment, allowing strip clubs to open next to or near each other subverts that goal.

An outright ban on new strip clubs in the French Quarter probably would not pass constitutional muster, but there is a solution. The legally permissible alternative would be a “spacing” requirement — a strategy already implemented successfully in New York City and upheld by the 1998 U.S. Supreme Court decision to reject a challenge to zoning regulations that prohibit sex-oriented businesses from operating within 500 feet of homes, houses of worship, schools — or each other.

It’s time for some common-sense and rationally-based limits on how close new strip clubs can open near existing ones. A spacing requirement could restore some balance to the street, revive daytime commerce in surrounding areas, and forestall the downward spiral that led to the moratorium on French Quarter strip clubs in the first place.

Sabine E. Lebailleur

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 9:33 AM
To: Cameron D. Bonnett
Cc: CPCinfo; Robert D. Rivers; Leslie T. Alley; James A. Gray; Stacy S. Head; Susan G. Guidry; nramsey@nola.gov; LaToya Cantrell; Jared C. Brossett; Jason R. Williams; Jason R. Williams; Vanessa A. Spinazola; DistrictC; Andrew D. Kopplin; rberni@nola.gov; Mitchell J. Landrieu; Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu
Subject: Statistics and Research for Adult Live Performance Venue Study

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

William Khan

French Quarter resident and business owner

CPCinfo

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 11:51 AM
To: Leslie T. Alley; Dubravka Gilic; Paul Cramer; CPCinfo; Robert D. Rivers; nkindel@nola.gov; Kenneth Butler; bdesrocher@nola.gov; Imassey@nola.gov
Cc: James A. Gray; Stacy S. Head; Susan G. Guidry; nramsey@nola.gov; LaToya Cantrell; Jared C. Brossett; Jason R. Williams; Jason R. Williams; Jonathan T. Harris; Barbara L. Keller; Catrina M. Simmons; Lauren R. Hotard; Carla D. Gendusa; Aaron A. Clark-Rizzio; Katie D. Hunter-Lowrey; Connolly A. Reed; Clarence J. Williams III; Vanessa A. Spinazola; Tyler L. Gibson; Mary B. Cunningham; Leatrice Dupre; T. Gordon McLeod; Marilyn B. Wood; Julius Feltus; Bryon Cornelison; John D. Pourciau; Anna N. Nguyen; Kara Y. Johnson; Lena Stewart; Aylin A. Maklansky; Freddie King; Sandra G. Thomas; Miles L. Granderson; CouncilDistrictD; Tanya D. Nettles-Evans; Domonique C. Dickerson; Peter C. Waggonner; Erin C. Spears; Mary N. Fontenot-Smith; Maurice C. Baird; Maria M. Tio; bmoliver@nola.gob
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Attachments: Regulating Strip Clubs in the French Quarter.pdf

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Let me share my perspective as a full-time French Quarter resident, voter, and business owner with graduate degrees and coursework in law, business administration, real estate, and economics.

Respectfully,

William Khan
French Quarter business owner, resident, and voter

CPCinfo

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 2:20 PM
To: CPCinfo; Cameron D. Bonnett; Robert D. Rivers; Leslie T. Alley; Andrew D. Kopplin; rberni@nola.gov; Mitchell J. Landrieu; Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu; Dubravka Gilić; Paul Cramer; nkindel@nola.gov; Kenneth Butler; bdesrocher@nola.gov; Imassey@nola.gov
Subject: Attracting More Families for New Orleans Tourism and Reforming Bourbon Street

Dear New Orleans City Government Leadership:

One year ago, our city was blessed to hold the 2015 Grand Nationals event of the Worldwide Spirit Association, a youth oriented organization that brings together cheerleaders and gymnasts from high schools, middle schools, and recreational programs across the U.S.

The participants in the Worldwide Spirit Association were teenagers and children. The youths were accompanied by their parents, respectable citizens, and responsible adults.

Some of the visitors from the Worldwide Spirit Association patronized my family-friendly businesses on Bourbon Street. Our city wants to be a world-class city, but a world-class city should not have 56 more strip clubs per capita in its historic district and main tourism asset than Portland, OR (the city with the nation's largest number of strip clubs on a per capita basis).

I sometimes feel sorry for the disgraceful impression and image that the French Quarter, Bourbon Street, and New Orleans presents to visiting families, children, and ordinary citizens.

Are you not concerned that the first and most prominent billboards which greet visitors to New Orleans on their way downtown from the airport advertise Rick's Cabaret, Larry Flynt's Barely Legal club, and other Bourbon Street strip clubs?

The door-to-door and block-by-block concentration of strip clubs in the French Quarter has significant and negative spillover effects. It's time for some common-sense restrictions on how close new strip clubs could open near existing ones in the Vieux Carre.

I am a voter, resident, and business owner in the French Quarter. I was born and raised here, and I want my city as well as the Vieux Carre to thrive. I hope to raise a young family in the French Quarter, but we can all agree that parts of the French Quarter (especially the upper quarter and the 200-500 blocks of Bourbon Street) would not be an appropriate place for children.

I have lived in cities such as Austin, Atlanta, Houston, and Dallas. I most recently visited San Antonio. These are all "New South" cities that New Orleans aspires to be associated with and favorably compared to; none of these cities have strip clubs (also known as adult cabarets and/or adult live performance venues) in their historic districts and most well-known neighborhoods.

It's time for some limitations and restrictions on the strip clubs along Bourbon Street, which is the heart of our city and fundamentally shapes New Orleans' reputation and image in the region, nation, and world.

A spacing requirement that limited how close strip clubs could be to one another and to houses of worship, homes, and day-care centers was successfully employed by Mayor Rudy Giuliani in New York City. In 1998, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld zoning regulations that prohibited sex-oriented theaters, bookstores, massage

parlors and dance clubs from operating within 500 feet of homes, houses of worship, schools or each other.

New York City's crackdown on sexually-oriented businesses has been praised as "one of the prime reasons for the revival of the city in the sense that the city is a more decent place and a nicer place for people to visit."

We all know that New Orleans is the cultural capital of the U.S. and the world.

Let's clean up the French Quarter and New Orleans by adding some reasonable and long-overdue restrictions on "adult use" and "adult live performance venue" establishments in the VCE (which is governed by Article 10 of the CZO and Section 20.3.B Use Standards).

Respectfully submitted,

William Khan

Voter, Resident, and Entrepreneur in the French Quarter
JD/MBA Graduate of the University of Texas at Austin

Sabine E. Lebailleur

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 1:54 PM
To: Leslie T. Alley; Cameron D. Bonnett; Sabine E. Lebailleur; Brooke Perry; Danica C. Adams; CPCinfo; Robert D. Rivers; Nicholas J. Kindel; Kelly G. Butler; Nicolette P. Jones; Brittany B. DesRocher; Stosh A. Kozlowski; Larry W. Massey Jr.; Valerie A. McMillan
Cc: James Kelly; James A. Gray; Stacy S. Head; Susan G. Guidry; nramsey@nola.gov; LaToya Cantrell; Jared C. Brossett; Jason R. Williams; Jason R. Williams; Vanessa A. Spinazola; DistrictC; Andrew D. Kopplin; rberni@nola.gov; Mitchell J. Landrieu; Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu; Farris, Meg; Dominic Massa; jfrisard@wwltv.com; kmoore@wwltv.com; Monica Hernandez; pressrelease@wwltv.com; newsdesk@wdsu.com; kdavis@hearst.com; nparker@fox8live.com; swilson@fox8tv.net; swilson@fox8live.com; publicfile@fox8live.com; fox8news@fox8live.com; hhoffmeister@fox8live.com; mgatto@fox8live.com; Lee Zurik; Sprang, Curtis; Vanessa; news@wgno.com; Jeff Crouere; eric@wgso.com; john@wgso.com; james@wgso.com; Helen Centanni; tommy@wwl.com; scoot@wwl.com; garland@wwl.com; todd@wwl.com; leehardy10@yahoo.com; dmmack1@uno.edu; evetroeh@wwno.org; comments@wwno.org; underwriting@wwno.org; hsheck@wwno.org; gerryv@iheartmedia.com; jamesparker@iheartmedia.com; Clark, Harold; rmclendon@nola.com; rwebster@nola.com; rrainey@nola.com; Kevin Allman; owen@courregeslaw.com; Robert Hjortsberg
Subject: Best option for regulating strip clubs in the French Quarter
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear City Planning Commission:

Unfortunately, I will not be able to make tomorrow's CPC hearing on regulating strip clubs.

Restrictions and regulations that limit the spread of strip clubs on Bourbon Street and in the French Quarter are nearly 40 years overdue since the Vieux Carre Entertainment District was established in 1977. The permissive rules for the VCE, intended to support Bourbon Street's creativity and individuality, have been abused, leading to nine strip clubs becoming dens of prostitution, drug sales, and lewd & improper conduct in the present day.

New Orleans will not realize its utmost potential (or its goal of 13 million visitors annually for its 300th anniversary) by promoting debauchery, racing to the bottom, and sullyng its image with a concentration of strip clubs in its most historic and iconic neighborhood.

If most of us can agree that the French Quarter does not need any more strip clubs, the challenge for the City Planning Commission is to select the best option for regulating strip clubs in the French Quarter.

The best option is a spacing requirement (such as a minimum of 500 feet).

Before I explain why a spacing requirement is best, let me briefly elucidate how both a conditional use process and a moratorium would be flawed.

Conditional use rules are ripe for lawsuits; any strip club operator who is denied can always argue that the decision was arbitrary and capricious. Clear-cut rules, like a spacing requirement, are less vulnerable to lawsuits.

While I would prefer a permanent moratorium on new strip clubs, a moratorium could expose our city to tremendous legal fees and damage awards. In 2014, the City of Destin, Florida paid \$2.1 million to settle a First Amendment lawsuit brought by a prospective strip club owner. The lawsuit in Destin, Florida involved a blanket ban on new strip clubs, and a permanent moratorium on strip clubs is substantially similar to a "blanket ban."

One of the main goals of the Master Plan and the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance is to eliminate unpredictability, backroom deals, and "kiss the ring" processes in development decisions and zoning approvals. Because of its unsavory nature and massive profits involved in the strip club business, a conditional use process or a moratorium (whether temporary or permanent) is likely to invite bias, favoritism, or worse--perhaps corruption.

For the aforementioned reasons, a spacing requirement is the best option.

1) A spacing requirement is constitutional and legally ironclad. The U.S. Supreme Court approved New York City's spacing requirement for sex-oriented businesses and rejected a challenge to zoning regulations that prohibited sex-oriented businesses from opening within 500 feet of each other in 1998. A spacing requirement would not raise the legal risks posed by a permanent moratorium or the corruption/unfairness risks posed by a conditional use process for new strip clubs.

2) A spacing requirement is objective, impartial, well-defined, and transparent.

3) A spacing requirement poses zero risk of bribery, corruption, unfairness, and bias.

As one of the few young professionals in the French Quarter, I am passionate about this matter because I want to continue raising my family here.

In an effort to clean up the image of the French Quarter and put some reasonable limitations on strip clubs (which urban planning studies and the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco have shown are magnets for disorder and crime) in our neighborhood, I urge the City Planning Commission to establish a spacing requirement of 500 feet or more to limit how close new strip clubs could open near existing ones.

These articles might provide some helpful statistical, factual, and historical context.

"The strip-club moratorium is just a first step; much more needs to be done"

<http://thelensnola.org/2016/01/14/the-strip-club-moratorium-is-just-a-first-step-much-more-needs-to-be-done/>

"Letters: Strip clubs endanger New Orleans"

<http://www.theneworleansadvocate.com/opinion/14847854-123/letters-strip-clubs-endanger-new-orleans>

"Club moratorium offers protection for sex workers"

http://www.tulanehullabaloo.com/views/article_1b02b600-c552-11e5-803f-13467d39538e.html

"Mailbag: No More Strip Clubs on Bourbon"

<http://www.noladefender.com/content/mailbag-no-more-strip-clubs-bourbon>

"Guest columnist calls for moratorium on new strip clubs in New Orleans French Quarter following Louisiana Voice story"

<http://louisianavoice.com/2016/02/13/guest-columnist-calls-for-moratorium-on-new-strip-clubs-in-new-orleans-french-quarter-following-louisiana-voice-story/>

How Other Cities Regulate Strip Clubs and Nude Bars

<http://nine.pairlist.net/pipermail/kreweoftruth/2016-February/003266.html>

Public Comments for CPC February 23rd Hearing on Strip Clubs

<http://nine.pairlist.net/pipermail/kreweoftruth/2016-February/003275.html>

Prostitution, drug crimes, and lewd/improper conduct at strip clubs

http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2015/11/4_more_bourbon_street_clubs_bu.html

History of violations at Bourbon Street strip clubs

http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2015/11/in_bourbon_street_strip_clubs.html

Thank you,

William Khan

French Quarter resident, entrepreneur, and homeowner

Sabine E. Lebailleux

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 10:48 AM
To: CPCinfo; rmclendon@nola.com; Leslie T. Alley; Cameron D. Bonnett; Sabine E. Lebailleux; Brooke Perry; Danica C. Adams; Robert D. Rivers; Nicholas J. Kindel; Kelly G. Butler; Nicolette P. Jones; Brittany B. DesRocher; Stosh A. Kozlowski; Larry W. Massey Jr.; Valerie A. McMillan
Subject: Bourbon Street merchant offers his perspective for strip club study and restrictions
Attachments: Regulating Strip Clubs in the French Quarter.pdf

Dear City Planning Commission:

At the recent city planning hearing on limiting strip clubs in the French Quarter, I saw many organizations and individuals offer to share their research, statistical, and anecdotal findings with the City Planning Commission and staff.

The operational impact and negative effects of strip clubs in the French Quarter are poorly understood and rarely examined methodically; why else would city zoning allow strip clubs to open door-to-door, block-by-block, or facing one another in the French Quarter prior to the recently passed moratorium?

I would like to offer my perspective and opinion regarding the effects of Bourbon Street's strip clubs on the residential, business, and tourism climate of the French Quarter. Two of my businesses are next to strip clubs on Bourbon Street, and one of them is across the street from another strip club. With where I live and I work in the French Quarter, I have to walk by strip clubs everyday, witness their obscene solicitations, and pass through the gauntlet created by their very aggressive barkers.

My Academic Qualifications and Perspective as a French Quarter Resident and Neighboring Business: I hold a Juris Doctorate (Law) degree and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Texas at Austin. I graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in Economic History and Public Policy. I have completed coursework in urban real estate and land use regulation at Wharton, Tulane, the University of New Orleans, and the University of Texas at Austin.

My family's businesses on the 200, 400, and 500 blocks of Bourbon Street are one of the few remaining family-friendly and family-oriented establishments in the area. We have been in business at those locations for more than 30 years. Because I live in the French Quarter and I walk along Iberville Street and Bourbon Street every day to manage my family's shops, I have a reality-based, relevant, and ground-level perspective on the impact of strip clubs in the French Quarter. I feel the effects of strip clubs daily as I walk to work and try to maintain a family-friendly establishment on Bourbon Street.

I have written a report and analysis of strip club effects on the French Quarter. It is attached in PDF format. My analysis is grounded in economics, real estate, and public policy, and it buttresses the argument for further regulating strip clubs in the French Quarter. I will be supplying a hard-copy version of my report to each City Councilmember and the City Planning Commission.

If you have any questions, please contact me. I would like to help with understanding the operational impacts and negative effects (externalities) of strip clubs in the French Quarter.

William Khan
French Quarter business owner, resident, and voter

Sabine E. Lebailleux

From: Robert Simms <robertsimms@cox.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 9:21 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux; CPCinfo
Subject: Comments on Bourbon Street Strip Clubs

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear CPC,

I'm a French Quarter resident who is very active in the community and especially in helping NOPD keep the French Quarter safe.

It's a well known fact that virtually all crime in the Quarter starts on Bourbon Street. The various bars and strip clubs are a major reason why we have too many "person crimes". Customers are served with round after round of alcohol then leave the strip club highly intoxicated. Next thing they are a victim of a crime that usually occurs off Bourbon Street. Strip clubs whether high end or low end are frequented by prostitutes who often rob their client once out of the club.

In my view we have way too many strip clubs in a very small area and this high concentration is off putting to many visitors and residents. Many tourists bring young children to Bourbon Street and adults and children are exposed to offensive images and overly aggressive strippers and barkers on the sidewalks in the afternoon and evening hours. Convention business has been lost to other cities when we are evaluated against the competition - the strip clubs are a factor in our lost business. The strip clubs present a very negative image of the French Quarter and I've heard countless time "well I've seen Bourbon Street and once is enough". The Tourism folks did a survey that indicated that we have a very low return visitor ratio.

I strongly believe that the French Quarter and New Orleans in general would prosper more if we had a smaller concentration of strip clubs. One per block is enough. Limiting the number of strip clubs in a given area would be beneficial to other businesses and new businesses would take over any space vacated by a strip club that ceased operating. Bourbon Street would then become more of a multi use street and as such more appealing to a broader group of tourists and residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Simms
615 Dumaine Street
New Orleans
504-220-3704



611 North Rampart Street
New Orleans, LA 70112-3505
(504) 584-1102
www.covenanthouseNO.org

April 7, 2016

We would like to thank the City Council and the City Planning Commission for their recent efforts to study “Adult Live Entertainment Venues in the City of New Orleans.” We are pleased that the study will consider “limitations on the number of such establishments, best practices of other cities, land use regulatory mechanisms, use standards, and input from industry representatives and impacted businesses.”

We are concerned:

- In October 2015, law enforcement found drug dealing and prostitution taking place in 9 out of 14 strip clubs in a month long undercover investigation. Drug dealing and prostitution (male and female) is also known to take place in other kinds of clubs and venues.
- New Orleans is considered a major hub for human sex trafficking by national law enforcement and human trafficking experts (including the Polaris Project).
- A Loyola study estimates 87 Covenant House residents per year have been involved in human trafficking, increasing to 150 residents per year if the sex industry and strip clubs are included.
- According to a lawsuit, reported by the Times Picayune, dancers in strip clubs are often hired as independent contractors, not as employees with regular benefits. Dancers are constantly sexually harassed, and are forced to work in an environment that is neither safe, secure nor crime free.

We believe:

- The existing number of strip clubs leads to an increase in overall French Quarter crime including violence, prostitution, lewd/improper acts, petty crime and drug dealing – and therefore does not promote the public health, welfare and safety of the City.
- As we approach our 300th anniversary, the strip clubs’ affiliated crimes and negative reputations are completely out of sync with marketing New Orleans as a world-class destination.

We recommend:

- The existing laws associated with strip clubs’ liquor licenses/permits should be strictly and regularly enforced in each establishment including V.I.P. rooms.
- A special tax/fee should be levied on the strip clubs to pay for increased and dedicated law enforcement (NOPD, ATC and State Police) on Bourbon Street, and weekly inspections of the clubs.
- Strip clubs as business enterprises should have a particular set of rules, regulations, performance and safety standards (as adult live entertainment venues) which are regularly reported to the City.
- Dancers should be hired as regular employees with standard benefits, should be provided a safe, secure, crime free environment, and should not be allowed to be sexually harassed.
- Following the implementation of the above recommendations, the number of strip clubs in our City should consequently be reduced by 65%. Any future clubs should not be allowed outside of the “adult live performance venue IZD” or within 1000 feet of residences, schools, or houses of worship.
- (additional recommendations are under consideration)

From: James Kelly <jkelly@covenanthouse.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 4:01 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux; Robert D. Rivers
Cc: Manola Gonzalez; James Kelly
Subject: Dancers paying for college tuition

Sabine and Bob,

We have heard a couple of times the claim that strip clubs "allow" college students the financial opportunity to pay for tuition, room and board. Thought the commission would want to read a more realistic account of what actually happens.

Thanks,

Jim

Hi Jim,

I hope this email finds you well. At a recent lunch meeting we discussed some of your efforts to raise the age for exotic dancers, so I thought I would send along this story in case it is helpful to support your efforts.

During my freshman year at Tulane, my assigned roommate was an Architecture student from Florida (I think the first in her family to go to college – but not certain). While we all enjoyed New Orleans' nightlife (as college freshman are wont to do), or picked up an occasional service industry gig, working as a dancer in a strip club was *not* the same as selling shots on Bourbon St (which is a whole other story...).

Before she started at the strip club, she was already someone who went out a lot and frequently came home in the middle of the night (intoxicated). She was already going out more than the rest of us, and her grades were already slipping when she started at the strip club. Even when she was put on academic probation, she kept working – the money was too good to give up. Coming home late at night turned into not coming home at all, stealing, lying, getting in fights with our friends.

I don't know what ultimately happened to her, but I know she didn't come back sophomore year. She was a really naturally talented architect student, and no matter how good the money was – it wasn't worth it. She partied away her opportunity to get a college education – and while she certainly wasn't the only one going out all the time – the decision to work at a strip club was a terrible one. She may have made that decision anyways later in life, but at that moment in her life it completely derailed her.

Let me know if you need anything else (details, info, etc) – I hope this helps!

Best,

Anonymous

James R. Kelly
Executive Director
Covenant House
611 N. Rampart Street
Office: (504) 584 1102 Cell: (504) 975 0650



Opening Doors for Homeless Youth

Do something to help. Raise awareness.
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Sabine E. Lebailleux

From: Tom Bilderback <tombilderback@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 10:21 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: French Quarter Strip clubs

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern,

I find it offensive that alongside our airport we are advertising that people with pornography addictions can find satisfaction to a family destroying addiction in our city. Rick's Cabaret continues to push the envelope with their signage along with other sex businesses.

I have lived here for three years on Dauphine and have met several young men who are basically like lost boys in the city. They are lured into the strip clubs, told they can make money by just removing their shirts and dancing. The end is watching them turn tricks for \$5-\$10 around Bourbon to feed their Heroin addiction. These type businesses create the atmosphere for this type of situation.

We have an outreach to the homeless and have met several women who have been pimped on the side streets surrounding these businesses. When the men leave all worked up they look for outlets nearby and these women get taken advantage of due to their situation.

I can see no good these places do for our community. Although I realize they will never be done away with, I'd like to see regulations to discourage more of them from coming and police the ones who are here now.
thank you,

--

Tom Bilderback
Pastor Vieux Carre Church
711 Dauphine St. New Orleans, LA
Touching the heart of the city with the heart of God
www.theVieux.com

New Orleans Site Director for Kaleo Missions
www.kaleomissions.org

Sabine E. Lebailleux

From: Robert D. Rivers
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 5:16 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: FW: Attracting More Families for New Orleans Tourism and Reforming Bourbon Street

fyi

From: William Khan [<mailto:wkhan@utexas.edu>]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 2:20 PM
To: CPCinfo; Cameron D. Bonnett; Robert D. Rivers; Leslie T. Alley; Andrew D. Kopplin; rberni@nola.gov; Mitchell J. Landrieu; Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu; Dubravka Gilic; Paul Cramer; nkindel@nola.gov; Kenneth Butler; bdesrocher@nola.gov; lmasey@nola.gov
Subject: Attracting More Families for New Orleans Tourism and Reforming Bourbon Street

Dear New Orleans City Government Leadership:

One year ago, our city was blessed to hold the 2015 Grand Nationals event of the Worldwide Spirit Association, a youth oriented organization that brings together cheerleaders and gymnasts from high schools, middle schools, and recreational programs across the U.S.

The participants in the Worldwide Spirit Association were teenagers and children. The youths were accompanied by their parents, respectable citizens, and responsible adults.

Some of the visitors from the Worldwide Spirit Association patronized my family-friendly businesses on Bourbon Street. Our city wants to be a world-class city, but a world-class city should not have 56 more strip clubs per capita in its historic district and main tourism asset than Portland, OR (the city with the nation's largest number of strip clubs on a per capita basis).

I sometimes feel sorry for the disgraceful impression and image that the French Quarter, Bourbon Street, and New Orleans presents to visiting families, children, and ordinary citizens.

Are you not concerned that the first and most prominent billboards which greet visitors to New Orleans on their way downtown from the airport advertise Rick's Cabaret, Larry Flynt's Barely Legal club, and other Bourbon Street strip clubs?

The door-to-door and block-by-block concentration of strip clubs in the French Quarter has significant and negative spillover effects. It's time for some common-sense restrictions on how close new strip clubs could open near existing ones in the Vieux Carre.

I am a voter, resident, and business owner in the French Quarter. I was born and raised here, and I want my city as well as the Vieux Carre to thrive. I hope to raise a young family in the French Quarter, but we can all agree that parts of the French Quarter (especially the upper quarter and the 200-500 blocks of Bourbon Street) would not be an appropriate place for children.

I have lived in cities such as Austin, Atlanta, Houston, and Dallas. I most recently visited San Antonio. These are all "New South" cities that New Orleans aspires to be associated with and favorably compared to; none of these cities have strip clubs (also known as adult cabarets and/or adult live performance venues) in their historic districts and most well-known neighborhoods.

It's time for some limitations and restrictions on the strip clubs along Bourbon Street, which is the heart of our city and fundamentally shapes New Orleans' reputation and image in the region, nation, and world.

A spacing requirement that limited how close strip clubs could be to one another and to houses of worship, homes, and day-care centers was successfully employed by Mayor Rudy Giuliani in New York City. In 1998, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld zoning regulations that prohibited sex-oriented theaters, bookstores, massage parlors and dance clubs from operating within 500 feet of homes, houses of worship, schools or each other.

New York City's crackdown on sexually-oriented businesses has been praised as "one of the prime reasons for the revival of the city in the sense that the city is a more decent place and a nicer place for people to visit."

We all know that New Orleans is the cultural capital of the U.S. and the world.

Let's clean up the French Quarter and New Orleans by adding some reasonable and long-overdue restrictions on "adult use" and "adult live performance venue" establishments in the VCE (which is governed by Article 10 of the CZO and Section 20.3.B Use Standards).

Respectfully submitted,

William Khan

Voter, Resident, and Entrepreneur in the French Quarter
JD/MBA Graduate of the University of Texas at Austin

Sabine E. Lebailleux

From: Robert D. Rivers
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 12:05 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: FW: How Other Cities Regulate Strip Clubs and Nude Bars

From: William Khan [<mailto:wkhan@utexas.edu>]
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2016 2:12 PM
To: CPCinfo; Cameron D. Bonnett
Cc: James Kelly; Robert D. Rivers; Leslie T. Alley; James A. Gray; Stacy S. Head; Susan G. Guidry; qramsey@nola.gov; LaToya Cantrell; Jared C. Brossett; Jason R. Williams; Jason R. Williams; Vanessa A. Spinazola; DistrictC; Andrew D. Kopplin; rberni@nola.gov; Mitchell J. Landrieu; Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu
Subject: How Other Cities Regulate Strip Clubs and Nude Bars

As the City Planning Commission conducts its research, the following articles and sources about how other cities regulate strip clubs and nude bars might be helpful.

There is a website and research database devoted to studying the negative effects of strip clubs:
<http://secondaryeffectsresearch.com>

"Cities use local laws to curb strip clubs"
http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-03-13-strip-clubs_N.htm

"Stripping Away: Will tighter rules make strip clubs safer, or extinct?"
<http://www.pghcitypaper.com/pittsburgh/stripping-away-will-tighter-rules-make-strip-clubs-safer-or-extinct/Content?oid=1397490>

Some interesting tidbits from the above articles:

- 1) Conditional use rules are ripe for lawsuits; any strip club operator who is denied can always argue that the decision was arbitrary and capricious. Clear-cut rules, like a spacing requirement, are less vulnerable to lawsuits.
- 2) Strip clubs can be dangerous for police officers and alcohol beverage control officials. The most effective laws and enforceable regulations for strip clubs are designed to enable officers/regulators to walk in, make sure things are being run properly, and walk out.
- 3) Strip clubs are magnets for crime: both inside and outside. They attract a lot of easy marks--men who will not report crime because they don't want to admit where they've been or because they are under the influence of alcohol/drugs--to a place where the business wants these entertainers to go into closed rooms behind closed doors. The result is that both inside and outside the club there are a lot of ingredients for a regional crime node.
- 4) Despite the common perception that a woman can dance her way through school, many strippers report that their jobs take over their lives. Long and late hours, fatigue, drug and alcohol problems, and out-of-town bookings make it difficult to switch gears.
- 5) Strippers can be subjected to demeaning treatment by customers and club owners alike, ranging from insults and requests for sex to stalking and assault. Enduring sexual violence is part of the job description. Women in

stripping are expected to endure these abuses, degradations, and humiliations with a smile and a "Thank You."

New Orleans should update and modernize its 40-year old regulations for strip clubs in the French Quarter. The negative effects of strip clubs on quality of life are clear. In 2012, City Councilmember Kristin Palmer specifically pointed to the number of strip clubs in the French Quarter as a justification for tightening the curfew for minors in our city's oldest neighborhood. On the 300 and 400 blocks of Bourbon Street, there are at least seven strip clubs flanking the Royal Sonesta Hotel, and reportedly at least one convention rejected New Orleans as a destination because strippers were visible from the sidewalk.

William Khan

French Quarter resident and entrepreneur

Sabine E. Lebaillex

From: Brooke Perry
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 2:12 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebaillex
Subject: FW: Moratorium on Strip Clubs

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please see public comment below.

Brooke Perry

Senior City Planner
New Orleans City Planning Commission
1300 Perdido Street, Suite 7W03
New Orleans, LA 70112
Office: 504.658.7035
BTerry@nola.gov

From: G Kabode [<mailto:kabode77@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 2:11 PM
To: Brooke Perry <btperry@nola.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Moratorium on Strip Clubs

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "G Kabode" <kabode77@gmail.com>
Date: Mar 8, 2016 1:31 PM
Subject: Moratorium on Strip Clubs
To: <CPCINFO@nola.gov>
Cc:

Dear Board Members,

I am in favor of a moratorium on strip clubs, not only in the Vieux Carre, but the entire city of New Orleans. Strip clubs, massage parlors and similar establishments, in many cases are facades for sex trafficking. Sex trafficking is a threat to the safety, security, health, decency and destiny of every female in the New Orleans area. In addition, it exacerbates law enforcement in arresting drug traffickers, money laundering and illegal firearms dealers, because all of these form a web of criminal activity. If New Orleans desires to be progressive and a hub for medical innovation, medical research, healthcare and the movie industry, help secure it by a moratorium on strip clubs.

Thank you for a vote in favor of the safety, security, health and well being of the women of New Orleans.

Sincerely,
Gloria Moore
5656 Tullis Dr
New Orleans, LA 70131
[985 379 8295](tel:9853798295)

Sabine E. Lebailleux

From: Robert D. Rivers
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 12:04 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: FW: Public Comments for CPC February 23rd Hearing on Strip Clubs

From: William Khan [mailto:wkhan@utexas.edu]

Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 12:17 PM

To: CPCinfo; Cameron D. Bonnett; Robert D. Rivers; Leslie T. Alley; Andrew D. Kopplin; rberni@nola.gov; Mitchell J. Landrieu; Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu; Dubravka Gilic; Paul Cramer; nkindel@nola.gov; Kenneth Butler; bdesrocher@nola.gov; Imassey@nola.gov

Cc: James Kelly; James A. Gray; Stacy S. Head; Susan G. Guidry; nramsey@nola.gov; LaToya Cantrell; Jared C. Brossett; Jason R. Williams; Jason R. Williams; Vanessa A. Spinazola; DistrictC; Robert Hjortsberg; Cassandra Sharpe; Rosemary James; Patty Gay; janethoward@bgr.org; jparker@bgr.org; jschwartz@bgr.org; mkeating@bgr.org; Molly Davis; aglovinsky@bgr.org; aglovinsky@yahoo.com; ccarmon@noma.org; jeffsadowtheadvocate@yahoo.com; bluckett@cox.net; rsteeg@steeglaw.com; kbrownj@aol.com; cbmitchell@mitchellapl.com; pamelaa@octaviaartgallery.com; rduplessis@lasc.org; nmco1948@nmco.onmicrosoft.com; kwedberg@nocca.com; Robert Simms; mark@markgonzalezola.com; mark@nola-law.com; M. BButler; ninaneivens@yahoo.com; Randi Kaufman; gshotwelll@cox.net; marc.florman@gmail.com; madraisinface@yahoo.com; jim_eaton@me.com; brad benischek; swieland@live.com; anne gisleson; Michele White; Rhonda Findley; butcher@tulane.edu; Matthew Thompson; msjones2@my.uno.edu; mwawrzycki@rapllclaw.com; Arthur Cortner; yo4567@cox.net; Tyler Harwood; Blakervh@aol.com; arts 4work; rogermartintpt@yahoo.com; dl319dec@cox.net; taco king

Subject: Public Comments for CPC February 23rd Hearing on Strip Clubs

Dear City Planning Commission:

I am a French Quarter full-time resident, a homeowner in the French Quarter, an owner of businesses neighboring strip clubs, and a young professional with graduate degrees in business and law. I feel and experience the negative effects of strip clubs on quality of life everyday. More importantly, the saturation of strip clubs in the French Quarter is starting to harm New Orleans tourism growth, and the city scores poorly from visitor surveys on measures like cleanliness, family-friendliness, and personal safety.

Unfortunately, due to a scheduling conflict, I will not be able to attend the CPC's February 23rd hearing at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow on regulating strip clubs in the city.

In lieu of providing verbal comments, I am submitting written comments to be considered as my testimony and personal statement at the public hearing.

Public Comments from William Khan (French Quarter resident, business owner, and Bourbon Street merchant):

I am a young professional, a homeowner, a full-time resident of the French Quarter, and I'd like to raise a family in my neighborhood. I'm not typically involved in city planning matters, but I feel compelled to share my perspective as a young professional based in the French Quarter with businesses that neighbor strip clubs. I'm not against strip clubs in general, but I think that the French Quarter has enough of them and the objective for the City Planning Commission should be to limit the opening of new strip clubs.

1. Limiting new strip clubs from saturating the French Quarter should have been one of the city's main priorities.

I would like to start off by putting the city's permissive attitude toward French Quarter strip clubs in context. After the one-year moratorium on strip clubs expires, new strip clubs would be allowed to open in the French Quarter. In contrast, new hotels, T-shirt shops and food carts (other than Lucky Dog) are prohibited from ever opening in the French Quarter. Can someone tell me why new strip clubs are allowed to open in the French Quarter but new hotels and food trucks aren't? Where is city hall's sense of priorities?

As a resident of the French Quarter and a neighboring business owner, I feel and see the negative effects of strip clubs on quality of life everyday. When strip clubs are allowed to open within feet of each other or even door-to-door (as current law permitted prior to the moratorium), the concentration of strip clubs has a blighting effect on residents, visitors, businesses, and the general environment.

And you don't have to take my word for it.

If the French Quarter were its own city, it would have the nation's highest concentration of strip clubs on a per capita basis and per square mile, more than Portland, Oregon (the city with the nation's highest number of strip clubs per capita). The French Quarter has 56 times more strip clubs per capita than Portland (which is 220 times larger in area).

In 2012, City Councilmember Kristin Palmer specifically pointed to the number of strip clubs in the French Quarter as a justification for tightening the curfew for minors in our city's oldest neighborhood.

This is what Councilmember Palmer representing the French Quarter said in 2012 and I quote: "No other neighborhood in the city, state or nation sized at .66 square miles, just 12 blocks wide, contains more than 350 alcohol beverage outlets, and includes adult entertainment establishments and numerous strip clubs."

http://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2012/01/modified_new_orleans_curfew_ne.html

On the 300 and 400 blocks of Bourbon Street, there are at least seven strip clubs facing or near the Royal Sonesta Hotel, and reportedly at least one convention rejected New Orleans as a destination because strippers were visible from the sidewalk.

2. Tourism growth in New Orleans is slowing alarmingly, and the city scores poorly with visitors on family-friendliness, cleanliness, and public safety.

If you don't think that the overabundance of strip clubs in the French Quarter has a negative effect on New Orleans tourism, look at troubling statistics in New Orleans' tourism numbers. In 2014 (the latest year for which tourism statistics are available), New Orleans only saw a 2.6% increase in the number of tourists visiting the city. The 2014 numbers show slower growth from 2013, when New Orleans had an increase of 3 percent from the prior year. The growth rate of New Orleans tourism is slowing, and I would argue it is slowing because of city's low scores on cleanliness, family-friendliness, and safety.

Currently, the first and most prominent billboards that greet visitors to New Orleans on their way downtown from the airport advertise Rick's Cabaret, Larry Flynt's Barely Legal club, and other Bourbon Street strip clubs. Our city needs to present a better image of itself and its main attractions if New Orleans aspires to be a world-class city and a world-class destination.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu has set a goal of 13 million visitors to New Orleans annually by the time of our city's 300th anniversary in 2018. New Orleans is not going to hit this goal of 13 million visitors without cleaning up our city's image and attracting more business, cultural, and family visitors.

Why am I so concerned with this issue? Because this strip club study by the City Planning Commission is the first city action in addressing the effects of French Quarter strip clubs in nearly 40 years.

3. Bourbon Street's present day strip clubs—dominated by corporate chains and national companies—have nothing to do with Bourbon Street's heritage of vaudeville, burlesque, and theatrical flair.

Some people might say that the French Quarter is working or that Bourbon Street has always had strip clubs. Well, the French Quarter is not working; the French Quarter is losing residents and families everyday, and the downward spiral of the French Quarter is slowing the growth of tourism in New Orleans. As to the argument that Bourbon Street has always had strip joints, today's Bourbon Street is very different and a lot dirtier than the Bourbon Street of yesteryear.

The strip clubs today have nothing to do with the heritage of Bourbon Street. Many of today's French Quarter strip clubs are branches of national and corporate chains with out of town owners. In the 1970's, Bourbon Street's adult live performance venues focused on interesting and colorful specialties such as twirling champagne glasses or burlesque. Forty years ago, a Times-Picayune editor described Bourbon Street's venues as glamorous, magical places with theatrical flair. I don't think anyone could describe Bourbon Street in such glowing terms today.

Bourbon Street's present-day strip clubs are overly focused on lapdances and private champagne rooms. Some of them make obscene profits in obscene ways. Last October some of the newer strip clubs were cited by state authorities for promoting prostitution, drug-related crimes, and lewd & improper acts. Today's French Quarter

strip clubs are vastly different and more focused on sexually obscene material than Bourbon Street of the 1970's.

I'm not calling for the closure of a single existing strip club. I am just asking for some common-sense and reasonable rules for future strip clubs. If the French Quarter is our city's treasure, there is no reason why new strip clubs should be allowed to open next to or near existing strip clubs.

If most of us can agree that the French Quarter does not need any more strip clubs, the objective for the City Planning Commission should be to design rules that are clear-cut, enforceable, and constitutional.

There are three options for the City Planning Commission to limit new strip clubs in the French Quarter: a moratorium, the conditional use process, or a spacing requirement. While I would prefer an outright moratorium, moratoriums on strip clubs have been successfully challenged under the First Amendment and I don't think anyone wants to expose our city to significant legal liability. Although the conditional use process sounds good in theory, any conditions or denials imposed under a conditional use process are likely to be challenged as arbitrary or a denial of due process. In this legal area, a conditional use rule is likely to be toothless and powerless.

A spacing rule, which limits how close new strip clubs could open near existing ones, is the third option and in my opinion the best way to regulate strip clubs.

A spacing requirement is constitutional and legally ironclad. The U.S. Supreme Court approved New York City's spacing requirement for sex-oriented businesses and rejected a challenge to zoning regulations that prohibited sex-oriented businesses from opening within 500 feet of each other in 1998. A spacing requirement is objective, impartial, well-defined, and transparent.

New York City's clampdown on sexually-oriented businesses in the 1990's has been widely praised for launching the city's revival, making it a more decent place to live and to visit.

4. We have a once in a generation opportunity to reform the French Quarter and to rehabilitate the image of New Orleans.

New Orleans can still achieve Mayor Mitch Landrieu's goal of 13 million visitors to New Orleans annually in time for our city's 300th anniversary. But it is going to take more business, cultural, and family visitors. It is going to take a more balanced French Quarter. And it is going to take a better image for our city's main tourist asset and planning the right approach to regulating strip clubs in the French Quarter.

Putting some reasonable, long-overdue, and constitutionally acceptable restrictions on new strip clubs would be a major step in pulling the French Quarter and Bourbon Street out of the gutter.

William Khan

French Quarter resident, entrepreneur, and homeowner

Sabine E. Lebailleur

From: Robert D. Rivers
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 12:05 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleur
Subject: FW: Sad Statistical Facts and History of French Quarter Strip Clubs

From: William Khan [mailto:wkhan@utexas.edu]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 10:54 AM
To: Leslie T. Alley; Dubravka Gilic; Paul Cramer; CPCinfo; Robert D. Rivers; nkindel@nola.gov; Kenneth Butler; bdesrocher@nola.gov; Imassey@nola.gov
Cc: James A. Gray; Stacy S. Head; Susan G. Guidry; nramsey@nola.gov; LaToya Cantrell; Jared C. Brossett; Jason R. Williams; Jason R. Williams; Jonathan T. Harris; Barbara L. Keller; Catrina M. Simmons; Lauren R. Hotard; Carla D. Gendusa; Aaron A. Clark-Rizzio; Katie D. Hunter-Lowrey; Connolly A. Reed; Clarence J. Williams III; Vanessa A. Spinazola; Tyler L. Gibson; Mary B. Cunningham; Leatrice Dupre; T. Gordon McLeod; Marilyn B. Wood; Julius Feltus; Bryon Cornelison; John D. Pourciau; Anna N. Nguyen; Kara Y. Johnson; Lena Stewart; Aylin A. Maklansky; Freddie King; Sandra G. Thomas; Miles L. Granderson; CouncilDistrictD; Tanya D. Nettles-Evans; Domonique C. Dickerson; Peter C. Waggoner; Erin C. Spears; Mary N. Fontenot-Smith; Maurice C. Baird; Maria M. Tio; Brandon M. Oliver
Subject: Sad Statistical Facts and History of French Quarter Strip Clubs

After the one-year moratorium on new strip clubs expires, what's next for the French Quarter and the image of New Orleans? The French Quarter already has the nation's highest concentration of strip clubs on a per capita basis and per square mile. According to an urban research study, Portland, OR has the highest number of strip clubs per capita in the country with nearly 9 strip clubs per 100,000 people. With approximately 4,000 residents, roughly 20 strip clubs, and an area of only 0.66 square miles, the French Quarter has 56 times more strip clubs per capita than Portland (which is 220x larger in land area). The concentration of strip clubs in the Vieux Carre on a per capita basis sadly rises whenever a resident of the French Quarter permanently leaves because he or she cannot raise a family and enjoy a normal life in an increasingly unbalanced neighborhood.

Should new strip clubs or adult entertainment venues be allowed to proliferate in the Vieux Carre after the moratorium ends? In contrast, new hotels, t-shirt shops, and food carts (other than Lucky Dog) are prohibited from ever opening in the French Quarter. Why has city hall ignored or tolerated the harmful impacts of strip clubs in New Orleans' oldest neighborhood for decades?

In 1977, Mayor Moon Landrieu established the Bourbon Street Task Force with a blue-ribbon panel to study the strip and suggest improvements. The panel visited the adult-entertainment districts of Boston's "Combat Zone," New York City's Times Square, and Atlanta's red-light areas. Modeled on other cities but tailored to New Orleans' unique flavor, the Vieux Carre Entertainment District (otherwise known as Bourbon Street from Iberville to St. Ann) was created shortly thereafter. At the time, Bourbon Street's adult-entertainment venues were not dominated by the out-of-town owned and corporate chains of strip clubs that currently line the strip.

From its outset, the Vieux Carre Entertainment District offered vaudeville, burlesque shows, and theatrical glamour. The 1977 Bourbon Street Task Force's permissive rules, which were intended to encourage the street's creativity and individuality, have been abused, leading to the present-day marketing of lap dances and private champagne rooms. Since 1977, the cities that the task force considered as benchmarks for New Orleans have reformed their respective adult-entertainment districts. Boston's Combat Zone was transformed by civic activists into a family-friendly and mixed-use district. New York City's clampdown on sexually-oriented businesses in the 1990's has been widely praised for launching the city's revival, making it a more decent place to live and to visit. Atlanta's strip clubs today are not allowed to sell alcohol.

New Orleans should update and modernize its 40-year old regulations for strip clubs in the French Quarter. The negative effects of strip clubs on quality of life are clear. In 2012, City Councilmember Kristin Palmer specifically pointed to the number of strip clubs in the French Quarter as a justification for tightening the curfew for minors in our city's oldest neighborhood. On the 300 and 400 blocks of Bourbon Street, there are at least seven strip clubs flanking the Royal Sonesta Hotel, and reportedly at least one convention rejected New Orleans as a destination because strippers were visible from the sidewalk.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu has set a goal of attracting 13 million visitors annually to New Orleans by 2018. How can New Orleans achieve such a goal without promoting a cleaner and more balanced brand that appeals to more families, children, and ordinary people? It's time for some common-sense restrictions on how close new strip clubs could open near existing ones in the French Quarter.

The need for a buffer from strip clubs is not a foreign concept under current New Orleans zoning rules. Outside of the French Quarter, the New Orleans Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance prohibits strip clubs and nude cabarets from opening within 1,000 feet of residences, churches, schools, and parks. The exposé of prostitution, drug-related crimes, and lewd/improper acts at French Quarter strip clubs led to a temporary moratorium, but city hall should strive for more substantial reforms. To revamp the worsening environment of the French Quarter and to bolster the neighborhood's livability, the city should permanently limit how close future strip clubs can open near current ones.

William Khan
French Quarter resident and voter

Sabine E. Lebailleur

From: CPCinfo
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 12:07 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleur
Subject: FW: comments on Bourbon Street

-----Original Message-----

From: John Gallagher [<mailto:jgallag25@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2016 12:41 PM
To: CPCinfo <CPCinfo@nola.gov>
Cc: pfinney@clarionherald.org
Subject: comments on Bourbon Street

Dear City of New Orleans,

I am New Orleanian, born and raised. Please help curtail human trafficking in our city. We as a city should be known for living on good times; but prostitution and drugs (which go hand in hand) do not lead to a good time in the long run. They lead to slavery to vice, the debasement of the dignity of women, and even to death for some involved. Let's clean our city. And let's make it a tourist destination where people can enjoy the truly good things of life.

A concerned citizen,
John G. Gallagher
3020 Independence St., Apt. A
Metairie, LA 70006
(504) 919-4083
jgallag25@hotmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

Sabine E. Lebailleux

From: CPCinfo
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 12:12 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux; Cameron D. Bonnett
Subject: FW: End the Strip Club

From: pbellini@archdiocese-no.org [<mailto:pbellini@archdiocese-no.org>]

Sent: Friday, April 01, 2016 3:17 PM

To: CPCinfo <CPCinfo@nola.gov>

Subject: End the Strip Club

Dear City of New Orleans Planning Commission,

There is so much beauty to our city do we really need to offer strip clubs a place to operate? Shouldn't we be known for all of our positive attributes? Shouldn't we be known for Mardi Gras, the WWII Museum, City Park, the Saints, Museum of Art and so forth? Why drag our city into the gutter. I just read a report on what happens to the young girls who work in these strip clubs. They get involved in drugs and human trafficking. Some commit suicide, some battle drug addiction for the rest of their lives. For what? A few dollars? Isn't it time for New Orleans to wake up by growing up? Do we really need these clubs that exploit women, especially young women? Let's make our city a positive place for people who want to vacation here. Let's end this. Many of these type of places are no longer available in New York. Let's do the same. It's time to protect our youth.

Sincerely,
Phillip Bellini
New Orleans, LA

This message has been scanned by the Archdiocese of New Orleans Virus/Spam filter.

Sabine E. Lebailleux

From: CPCinfo
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 12:08 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux; Cameron D. Bonnett; Larry W. Massey Jr.
Subject: FW: Grow up, New Orleans

From: Barb McAtee [<mailto:bmcatee2@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2016 5:05 PM
To: CPCinfo <CPCinfo@nola.gov>
Subject: Grow up, New Orleans

Strip clubs only serve to make sure we have a prurient, low-class rep. We are better than that! Shutter our strip clubs and get rid of the industry that destroys men and women, instead of building them up! Re-think the message that these "clubs" send out about us!

Thank you,
Barbara McAtee

Sent via the Samsung GALAXY S®4, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Sabine E. Lebailleux

From: CPCinfo
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2016 10:09 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: FW: Study on Strip Clubs, Prostitution, Human Trafficking

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Mary Haar [<mailto:mtnhaar@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 8:58 PM
To: CPCinfo <CPCinfo@nola.gov>
Subject: Study on Strip Clubs, Prostitution, Human Trafficking

Ladies & Gentlemen,

It is time for New Orleans to take a stand against the victimization of the dancers in strip clubs who are forced into prostitution. This is human trafficking in our own city, and we need to rise above that. If New Orleans is going to continue to improve its image and reputation as a vacation destination, we need to do away with the strip clubs. There are no good, honorable or beneficial results for our city, the customers and especially the employees of these clubs.

I appreciate your consideration in this request to do the right thing for our city and most especially for these young victims.

Thank you,
Mary Haar

Sabine E. Lebailleur

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 3:06 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleur; CPCinfo
Subject: Re: Meeting This Week?

Terrific. See you then.

Please add these findings to the list of comments.

If you don't think the concentration of strip clubs in the French Quarter and along Bourbon Street poses harmful effects, just consider these issues:

1) Strip clubs in the French Quarter typically do not open until 1PM and do not close until 5AM or later. If a business primarily relies on daytime commerce (like tours or barber shops), wouldn't the concentration of strip clubs in the French Quarter and their effect on the neighborhood's culture harm daytime and ordinary businesses?

I argue that strip clubs depress and harm daytime business activity, commerce, and the neighborhood's normal dynamics.

<http://thelensnola.org/2016/01/14/the-strip-club-moratorium-is-just-a-first-step-much-more-needs-to-be-done/>

I have nothing personally against strip clubs, but it is undeniable that having too many strip clubs in the French Quarter and along Bourbon Street creates parasitic, cancerous, and irreversible problems, forcing ordinary & non-adult businesses out in favor of more strip clubs.

New strip clubs and unsavory adult-oriented businesses spring up to fill the commercial and economic vacuum caused by existing strip clubs, displacing businesses that are low-margin, resident-oriented, and/or family-friendly.

To test this hypothesis (that strip clubs repel daytime-oriented commerce and especially morning life), I visually checked whether any restaurants on Bourbon Street from Iberville Street to St. Ann Street were usually open for breakfast between 6AM and 11AM. Unless it was a special event like New Year's, Easter, or Mother's Day, all of the restaurants on Bourbon Street are typically closed for breakfast and remain closed to the public until 11AM.

I would argue that the excess concentration of strip clubs on Bourbon Street is artificially and destructively warping business patterns on that street and in surrounding corridors until nothing can survive unless a business becomes nighttime-oriented, liquor-focused, or party-themed.

Another consequence of the strip clubs' late operating hours until 5AM or 6AM: if you are a French Quarter resident, you know better not to go outside at 5AM or 6AM (which is a tragedy if you are into fitness and want to go to the gym before the work-day). Part of the reason the French Quarter is so dangerous is that criminals, hustlers, pimps, prostitutes, and scam artists are roaming the French Quarter after customers of strip clubs are staggering out around 5AM and 6AM. Studies have shown that strip clubs are magnets for crime and prostitution because their customers are unwilling or unable to cooperate with the police. After a long night of drinking and sexual stimulation, customers of strip clubs are also vulnerable to being robbed by criminals, hustlers, pimps, prostitutes, and sexual workers.

2) Strip clubs use sexually explicit and obscene displays, including scantily clad strippers and posters, to entice customers. Along with their displays and scantily clad strippers visible in plain sight from the street and sidewalk, strip clubs use overly aggressive barkers who say things like "it's ti**y time" and "hot pu**y and cold beer." If your customer has to pass through Bourbon Street or if you are a tour guide with families and children in tow, wouldn't these practices by strip clubs negatively affect your business?

3) Why is the French Quarter economy so oriented toward liquor, partying, and drinking? The French Quarter has 350+ alcohol beverage outlets, which is unparalleled for an area measuring only 0.66 square miles and far more concentrated than anywhere else in the United States. The negative effects of French Quarter strip clubs on quality of life are clear. In 2012, City Councilwoman Kristin Palmer specifically pointed to the number of strip clubs in the French Quarter as a justification for tightening the curfew for minors in our city's oldest neighborhood. On the 300 and 400 blocks of Bourbon Street, there are at least seven strip clubs facing or near the Royal Sonesta Hotel, and reportedly at least one convention rejected New Orleans as a destination because strippers were visible from the sidewalk.

Is it prudent public policy for the city to use blunt instruments like a harsher curfew for minors in the French Quarter and stopgap measures such as a one-year moratorium without addressing the underlying disease, the saturation of strip clubs?

4) When strip clubs are so concentrated, they begin to compete with each other harder and more aggressively, pushing the limits of what is legal and illegal (without regard to the harmful effects on the residential, tourism, and business climate of the French Quarter). What goes on inside clubs under pressure to offer greater thrills than neighboring strip clubs is as harmful as their impact on nearby non-adult businesses. A business model centered on competitive one-upmanship and the use of nudity and lap dances to boost alcohol sales (or vice versa) creates a breeding ground for risky personal behavior and outright criminality.

On Mon, Apr 4, 2016 at 3:00 PM, Sabine E. Lebailleur <selebailleur@nola.gov> wrote:

William,

I set up the meeting from 1 pm to 2pm tomorrow.

I am adding these two attachments to the list of comments we have received so far, which most of us have had a chance to look at, at least partially.

Best,

Sabine Lebailleur

City Planner

City of New Orleans Planning Commission

1300 Perdido Street, 7th Floor

New Orleans, LA 70112

[\(504\) 658-7008](tel:(504)658-7008)

selebailleux@nola.gov

From: William Khan [mailto:wkhan@utexas.edu]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 2:37 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: Re: Meeting This Week?

Hi Sabine:

Other non-adult business owners will not be joining me.

The meeting should be straightforward because I will be expounding upon my perspective and statements to the CPC about the negative effects of strip clubs.

Prior to our meeting, could you or the CPC staff kindly review the following documents and studies that I already forwarded?

It would make the meeting smoother and quicker if the CPC staff were aware of my findings beforehand.

- 1) Statistical Facts and History (attached as Word file)
- 2) Negative Effects of Strip Clubs in the French Quarter (attached as PDF file)
- 3) Strip Club Moratorium is just a first step
<http://thelensnola.org/2016/01/14/the-strip-club-moratorium-is-just-a-first-step-much-more-needs-to-be-done/>
- 4) Bourbon Street strip clubs' solicitation practices
http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/09/bourbon_street_strip_clubs_cou.html

<http://www.fox8live.com/story/26481023/bourbon-st-strip-clubs-could-face-crackdown-on-racy-soliciting>

5) History of violations at Bourbon Street strip clubs

http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2015/11/in_bourbon_street_strip_clubs.html

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

William Khan

On Mon, Apr 4, 2016 at 1:56 PM, Sabine E. Lebailleux <selebailleux@nola.gov> wrote:

Hi,

I am trying to set up the meeting for tomorrow afternoon at 1pm. Will other non-adult business owners join you?

Sabine Lebailleux

City Planner

City of New Orleans Planning Commission

1300 Perdido Street, 7th Floor

New Orleans, LA 70112

[\(504\) 658-7008](tel:(504)658-7008)

selebailleux@nola.gov

From: William Khan [mailto:wkhan@utexas.edu]

Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 12:08 PM

To: Sabine E. Lebailleux

Subject: Meeting This Week?

Good morning Sabine:

I can meet this week on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday.

The best days and times for me to meet this week are Tuesday or Wednesday at 11AM (or 10:30AM); I could also meet at 1PM. Tuesday or Wednesday would be preferred.

On Thursday, I could meet at 11AM.

As you know, I have businesses that are adjacent to or across from strip clubs in the French Quarter. I am also a full-time French Quarter resident and voter.

I look forward to sharing my thoughts and answering any questions from the City Planning Commission on the effects of strip clubs.

Sincerely,

William Khan

Sabine E. Lebailleux

From: Paul Cramer
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 4:20 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux; Cameron D. Bonnett
Subject: FW: Public Comments for CPC February 23rd Hearing on Strip Clubs

From: Rosemary James [mailto:faulkhouse@aol.com]

Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 4:19 PM

To: wkhan@utexas.edu; CPCInfo; Cameron D. Bonnett; Robert D. Rivers; Leslie T. Alley; Andrew D. Kopplin; rberni@nola.gov; Mitchell J. Landrieu; Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu; Dubravka Gilic; Paul Cramer; nkindel@nola.gov; Kenneth Butler; bdesrocher@nola.gov; lmassey@nola.gov

Cc: jkelly@covenanthouse.org; James A. Gray; Stacy S. Head; Susan G. Guidry; nramsey@nola.gov; LaToya Cantrell; Jared C. Brossett; Jason R. Williams; Jason R. Williams; Vanessa A. Spinazola; DistrictC; rwhlaw@gmail.com; sharperealestate@me.com; pgay@prcno.org; janethoward@bgr.org; jparker@bgr.org; jschwartz@bgr.org; mkeating@bgr.org; mkramer@bgr.org; aglovinsky@bgr.org; aglovinsky@yahoo.com; ccarmon@noma.org; jeffsadowtheadvocate@yahoo.com; bluckett@cox.net; rsteeg@steeglaw.com; kbrownj@aol.com; cbmitchell@mitchellapl.com; pamelaa@octaviaartgallery.com; rduplessis@lasc.org; nmco1948@nmco.onmicrosoft.com; kwedberg@nocca.com; robertsimms@cox.net; mark@markgonzaleznola.com; mark@nola-law.com; bethbutler.south@gmail.com; ninaneivens@yahoo.com; kaufman504@gmail.com; gshotwell@cox.net; marc.florman@gmail.com; madraisinface@yahoo.com; jim_eaton@me.com; benischek@gmail.com; swieland@live.com; agisleson@gmail.com; mwhite@michelewhite.org; popcitynola@gmail.com; butcher@tulane.edu; silvarum.llc@gmail.com; msjones2@my.uno.edu; mwawrzycki@rapllclaw.com; acortner@latterblum.com; yo4567@cox.net; stin-g@stin-g.com; Blakervh@aol.com; arts4work@yahoo.com; rogermartinpt@yahoo.com; dl319dec@cox.net; carolyn@sinclairstudios.com

Subject: Re: Public Comments for CPC February 23rd Hearing on Strip Clubs

My husband and I own a business and live at Faulkner House, 624 Pirate's Alley.

The direction in which Bourbon Street has gone since I moved here in 1964 is nothing short of appalling.

in the 60s, the street featured live burlesque instead of live blow-jobs and lap dances performed in full view of anyone walking the street. Instead of a street of

entertainment, it is today a street devoted to pornography, prostitution, pandering, illegal drug sales, murder, and other violent crimes, not to mention over amplified music which I can hear from my bedroom on Pirate's Alley into the wee hours.

If the City is going to promote the sex industry, then it's time to revisit the Storyville concept, and move it to a strip away from residences and families and businesses being damage by out of control sleaze.

Rosemary James,
faulkhouse@aol.com

-----Original Message-----

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>

To: CPCINFO <CPCINFO@nola.gov>; cdbonnett <cdbonnett@nola.gov>; rdrivers <rdrivers@nola.gov>; L. Talley <ltalley@nola.gov>; akopplin <akopplin@nola.gov>; rberni <rberni@nola.gov>; mjlandrieu <mjlandrieu@nola.gov>; Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu <mayor@nola.gov>; dgilic <dgilic@nola.gov>; Paul Curtis <pcramer@nola.gov>; nkindel <nkindel@nola.gov>; kbutler <kbutler@nola.gov>; bdesrocher <bdesrocher@nola.gov>; lmassey <lmassey@nola.gov>
Cc: James Kelly <jkelly@covenanthouse.org>; James A. Gray <jagray@nola.gov>; Stacy Head <shead@nola.gov>; Susan G. Guidry <sgguidry@nola.gov>; nramsey <nramsey@nola.gov>; LaToya Cantrell <lcantrell@nola.gov>; Jared C. Brossett <jcbrossett@nola.gov>; Jason R. Williams <jarwilliams@nola.gov>; jasonwilliams <jasonwilliams@nola.gov>; Vanessa A. Spinazola <vaspinazola@nola.gov>; DistrictC <districtc@nola.gov>; Robert Hjortsberg <rwhlaw@gmail.com>; Cassandra Sharpe <sharperealestate@me.com>; Rosemary James <faulkhouse@aol.com>; Patty Gay <pgay@prcno.org>; janethoward <janethoward@bgr.org>; jparker <jparker@bgr.org>; jschwartz <jschwartz@bgr.org>; mkeating <mkeating@bgr.org>; Molly Davis <mkramer@bgr.org>; aglovinsky

<aglovinsky@bgr.org>; aglovinsky <aglovinsky@yahoo.com>; ccarmon <ccarmon@noma.org>; jeffsadowtheadvocate <jeffsadowtheadvocate@yahoo.com>; bluckett <bluckett@cox.net>; rsteeg <rsteeg@steeglaw.com>; kbrownj <kbrownj@aol.com>; cbmitchell <cbmitchell@mitchellapl.com>; pamela <pamela@octaviaartgallery.com>; rduplessis <rduplessis@lasc.org>; nmco1948 <nmco1948@nmco.onmicrosoft.com>; kwedberg <kwedberg@nocca.com>; Robert Simms <robertsimms@cox.net>; mark <mark@markgonzalez.com>; mark <mark@nola-law.com>; M. BButler <bethbutler.south@gmail.com>; ninaneivens <ninaneivens@yahoo.com>; Randi Kaufman <kaufman504@gmail.com>; gshotwell <gshotwell@cox.net>; marc.florman <marc.florman@gmail.com>; madraisinface <madraisinface@yahoo.com>; jim_eaton <jim_eaton@me.com>; brad benischek <benischek@gmail.com>; swieland <swieland@live.com>; anne gisleson <agisleson@gmail.com>; Michele White <mwhite@michelewhite.org>; Rhonda Findley <popcitynola@gmail.com>; butcher <butcher@tulane.edu>; Matthew Thompson <silvarum.llc@gmail.com>; msjones2 <msjones2@my.uno.edu>; mwawrzycki <mwawrzycki@rapllclaw.com>; Arthur Cortner <acortner@latterblum.com>; yo4567 <yo4567@cox.net>; Tyler Harwood <stin-g@stin-g.com>; Blakervh <Blakervh@aol.com>; arts 4work <arts4work@yahoo.com>; rogermartinpt <rogermartinpt@yahoo.com>; dl319dec <dl319dec@cox.net>; taco king <carolyn@sinclairstudios.com>

Sent: Mon, Feb 22, 2016 12:16 pm

Subject: Public Comments for CPC February 23rd Hearing on Strip Clubs

Dear City Planning Commission:

I am a French Quarter full-time resident, a homeowner in the French Quarter, an owner of businesses neighboring strip clubs, and a young professional with graduate degrees in business and law. I feel and experience the negative effects of strip clubs on quality of life everyday. More importantly, the saturation of strip clubs in the French Quarter is starting to harm New Orleans tourism growth, and the city scores poorly from visitor surveys on measures like cleanliness, family-friendliness, and personal safety.

Unfortunately, due to a scheduling conflict, I will not be able to attend the CPC's February 23rd hearing at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow on regulating strip clubs in the city.

In lieu of providing verbal comments, I am submitting written comments to be considered as my testimony and personal statement at the public hearing.

Public Comments from William Khan (French Quarter resident, business owner, and Bourbon Street merchant):

I am a young professional, a homeowner, a full-time resident of the French Quarter, and I'd like to raise a family in my neighborhood. I'm not typically involved in city planning matters, but I feel compelled to share my perspective as a young professional based in the French Quarter with businesses that neighbor strip clubs. I'm not against strip clubs in general, but I think that the French Quarter has enough of them and the objective for the City Planning Commission should be to limit the opening of new strip clubs.

1. Limiting new strip clubs from saturating the French Quarter should have been one of the city's main priorities.

I would like to start off by putting the city's permissive attitude toward French Quarter strip clubs in context. After the one-year moratorium on strip clubs expires, new strip clubs would be allowed to open in the French Quarter. In contrast, new hotels, T-shirt shops and food carts (other than Lucky Dog) are prohibited from ever opening in the French Quarter. Can someone tell me why new strip clubs are allowed to open in the French Quarter but new hotels and food trucks aren't? Where is city hall's sense of priorities?

As a resident of the French Quarter and a neighboring business owner, I feel and see the negative effects of strip clubs on quality of life everyday. When strip clubs are allowed to open within feet of each other or even door-to-door (as current law permitted prior to the moratorium), the concentration of strip clubs has a blighting effect on residents, visitors, businesses, and the general environment.

And you don't have to take my word for it.

If the French Quarter were its own city, it would have the nation's highest concentration of strip clubs on a per capita basis and per square mile, more than Portland, Oregon (the city with the nation's highest number of strip clubs per capita). The French Quarter has 56 times more strip clubs per capita than Portland (which is 220 times larger in area).

In 2012, City Councilmember Kristin Palmer specifically pointed to the number of strip clubs in the French Quarter as a justification for tightening the curfew for minors in our city's oldest neighborhood.

This is what Councilmember Palmer representing the French Quarter said in 2012 and I quote: “No other neighborhood in the city, state or nation sized at .66 square miles, just 12 blocks wide, contains more than 350 alcohol beverage outlets, and includes adult entertainment establishments and numerous strip clubs.”
http://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2012/01/modified_new_orleans_curfew_ne.html

On the 300 and 400 blocks of Bourbon Street, there are at least seven strip clubs facing or near the Royal Sonesta Hotel, and reportedly at least one convention rejected New Orleans as a destination because strippers were visible from the sidewalk.

2. Tourism growth in New Orleans is slowing alarmingly, and the city scores poorly with visitors on family-friendliness, cleanliness, and public safety.

If you don't think that the overabundance of strip clubs in the French Quarter has a negative effect on New Orleans tourism, look at troubling statistics in New Orleans' tourism numbers. In 2014 (the latest year for which tourism statistics are available), New Orleans only saw a 2.6% increase in the number of tourists visiting the city. The 2014 numbers show slower growth from 2013, when New Orleans had an increase of 3 percent from the prior year. The growth rate of New Orleans tourism is slowing, and I would argue it is slowing because of city's low scores on cleanliness, family-friendliness, and safety.

Currently, the first and most prominent billboards that greet visitors to New Orleans on their way downtown from the airport advertise Rick's Cabaret, Larry Flynt's Barely Legal club, and other Bourbon Street strip clubs. Our city needs to present a better image of itself and its main attractions if New Orleans aspires to be a world-class city and a world-class destination.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu has set a goal of 13 million visitors to New Orleans annually by the time of our city's 300th anniversary in 2018. New Orleans is not going to hit this goal of 13 million visitors without cleaning up our city's image and attracting more business, cultural, and family visitors.

Why am I so concerned with this issue? Because this strip club study by the City Planning Commission is the first city action in addressing the effects of French Quarter strip clubs in nearly 40 years.

3. Bourbon Street's present day strip clubs—dominated by corporate chains and national companies—have nothing to do with Bourbon Street's heritage of vaudeville, burlesque, and theatrical flair.

Some people might say that the French Quarter is working or that Bourbon Street has always had strip clubs. Well, the French Quarter is not working; the French Quarter is losing residents and families everyday, and the downward spiral of the French Quarter is slowing the growth of tourism in New Orleans. As to the argument that Bourbon Street has always had strip joints, today's Bourbon Street is very different and a lot dirtier than the Bourbon Street of yesteryear.

The strip clubs today have nothing to do with the heritage of Bourbon Street. Many of today's French Quarter strip clubs are branches of national and corporate chains with out of town owners. In the 1970's, Bourbon Street's adult live performance venues focused on interesting and colorful specialties such as twirling champagne glasses or burlesque. Forty years ago, a Times-Picayune editor described Bourbon Street's venues as glamorous, magical places with theatrical flair. I don't think anyone could describe Bourbon Street in such glowing terms today.

Bourbon Street's present-day strip clubs are overly focused on lapdances and private champagne rooms. Some of them make obscene profits in obscene ways. Last October some of the newer strip clubs were cited by state authorities for promoting prostitution, drug-related crimes, and lewd & improper acts. Today's French Quarter strip clubs are vastly different and more focused on sexually obscene material than Bourbon Street of the 1970's.

I'm not calling for the closure of a single existing strip club. I am just asking for some common-sense and reasonable rules for future strip clubs. If the French Quarter is our city's treasure, there is no reason why new strip clubs should be allowed to open next to or near existing strip clubs.

If most of us can agree that the French Quarter does not need any more strip clubs, the objective for the City Planning Commission should be to design rules that are clear-cut, enforceable, and constitutional.

There are three options for the City Planning Commission to limit new strip clubs in the French Quarter: a moratorium, the conditional use process, or a spacing requirement. While I would prefer an outright moratorium, moratoriums on strip clubs have been successfully challenged under the First Amendment and I don't think anyone wants to expose our city to significant legal liability. Although the conditional use process sounds good in theory, any conditions or denials imposed under a conditional use process are likely to be challenged as arbitrary or a denial of due process. In this legal area, a conditional use rule is likely to be toothless and powerless.

A spacing rule, which limits how close new strip clubs could open near existing ones, is the third option and in my opinion the best way to regulate strip clubs.

A spacing requirement is constitutional and legally ironclad. The U.S. Supreme Court approved New York City's spacing requirement for sex-oriented businesses and rejected a challenge to zoning regulations that prohibited sex-oriented businesses from opening within 500 feet of each other in 1998. A spacing requirement is objective, impartial, well-defined, and transparent.

New York City's clampdown on sexually-oriented businesses in the 1990's has been widely praised for launching the city's revival, making it a more decent place to live and to visit.

4. We have a once in a generation opportunity to reform the French Quarter and to rehabilitate the image of New Orleans.

New Orleans can still achieve Mayor Mitch Landrieu's goal of 13 million visitors to New Orleans annually in time for our city's 300th anniversary. But it is going to take more business, cultural, and family visitors. It is going to take a more balanced French Quarter. And it is going to take a better image for our city's main tourist asset and planning the right approach to regulating strip clubs in the French Quarter.

Putting some reasonable, long-overdue, and constitutionally acceptable restrictions on new strip clubs would be a major step in pulling the French Quarter and Bourbon Street out of the gutter.

William Khan
French Quarter resident, entrepreneur, and homeowner

CPCinfo

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 9:33 AM
To: Cameron D. Bonnett
Cc: CPCinfo; Robert D. Rivers; Leslie T. Alley; James A. Gray; Stacy S. Head; Susan G. Guidry; nramsey@nola.gov; LaToya Cantrell; Jared C. Brossett; Jason R. Williams; Jason R. Williams; Vanessa A. Spinazola; DistrictC; Andrew D. Kopplin; rberni@nola.gov; Mitchell J. Landrieu; Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu
Subject: Statistics and Research for Adult Live Performance Venue Study

Dear Cameron:

As a full-time French Quarter resident, voter, and family-friendly business owner on Bourbon Street, I stopped by City Hall yesterday, and I gave the City Planner on Duty seven (7) documents, research reports, and news articles about strip clubs (adult live performance venues) in the French Quarter.

The City Planner on Duty told me that you are tasked with the City Planning Commission's Adult Live Performance Venue study.

As one of the few young professionals in the French Quarter, I am passionate about this matter because I want to continue raising my family here.

In my research report (titled "Statistical Facts and History of Strip Clubs in the French Quarter"), I included several statistics, including a comparison of how the concentration of strip clubs in the French Quarter is far greater than the entire city of Portland (the city with the greatest number of strip clubs on a per capita basis).

I am glad that regulating strip clubs in the French Quarter is finally a priority of city hall. Frankly, strip clubs in our city's most historic neighborhood and tourism center should have been regulated and limited at least a decade ago. When the city bans new hotels, new t-shirt shops, and new food carts (other than Lucky Dog) but allows new strip clubs to open, you can see that the city has shown misplaced priorities in protecting the French Quarter.

Statement 1: According to an urban research study, Portland, OR has the highest number of strip clubs per capita in the country with nearly 9 strip clubs per 100,000 people.

Source: "Why Does Portland Have so Many Strip Clubs?"
<http://priceconomics.com/why-does-portland-have-so-many-strip-clubs/>

Statement 2: The cleanup of Boston's Clean Zone (one of the cities used by the 1977 Bourbon Street Task Force in creating the Vieux Carre Entertainment District--Bourbon Street):
<http://www.bizjournals.com/boston/print-edition/2013/03/08/new-projects-wipe-away-more-vestiges.html>

Statement 3: City Councilmember Kristin Palmer NOLA.com Op-Ed which referred to the number of strip clubs in the neighborhood as a justification for a harsher curfew for minors:
http://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2012/01/modified_new_orleans_curfew_ne.html

Statement 4: Strip clubs repelled at least one convention from selecting NOLA
http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/09/bourbon_street_strip_clubs_cou.html

Statement 5: Mayor Mitch Landrieu's goal of 13 million visitors by 2018

http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2012/05/mayor_mitch_landrieu_calls_on.html

Statement 6: Prostitution, drug crimes, and lewd/improper conduct at strip clubs

http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2015/11/4_more_bourbon_street_clubs_bu.html

Statement 7: History of violations at Bourbon Street strip clubs

http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2015/11/in_bourbon_street_strip_clubs.html

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

William Khan

French Quarter resident and business owner

CPCinfo

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 3:38 PM
To: CPCinfo; Cameron D. Bonnett
Subject: Moratorium on new strip clubs in French Quarter advocated on Louisiana Voice

<http://louisianavoice.com/2016/02/13/guest-columnist-calls-for-moratorium-on-new-strip-clubs-in-new-orleans-french-quarter-following-louisiana-voice-story/>

Guest columnist calls for moratorium on new strip clubs in New Orleans French Quarter following Louisiana Voice story

Recently, LouisianaVoice ran a story concerning reported pressure on New Orleans strip clubs to make contributions to political candidates. Following the meeting with club owners and their subsequent contributions, a number of strip clubs were hit with surprise inspections by agents from the Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control. Several clubs lost liquor permits for violations including sales to minors, drugs and prostitution. None of the clubs who made political contributions were visited in the French Quarter sweep by ATC agents.

That story, however, did prompt the following contribution by guest columnist William Kahn. Kahn is a resident of the French Quarter a voter and entrepreneur.

By William Khan

New Orleans should limit new strip clubs in the French Quarter

On Tuesday, February 23rd, 2016, the New Orleans City Planning Commission (CPC) is going to hold a public hearing on strip clubs in the French Quarter. Pending the CPC study and proposed reforms, the New Orleans City Council enacted a one-year temporary moratorium on strip clubs after Louisiana State Police and state authorities documented illegal drug sales, prostitution, and lewd conduct at several strip clubs and a stripper who worked at one of the Bourbon Street venues was brutally murdered by her pimp [1],[9],[10].

After the one-year moratorium on new strip clubs expires, what's next for the French Quarter and the image of New Orleans? The French Quarter already has the nation's highest concentration of strip clubs on a per capita basis and per square mile. According to an urban research study, Portland, OR is the city with the highest number of strip clubs per capita in the country with nearly 9 strip clubs per 100,000 people. With approximately 4,000 residents, roughly 20 strip clubs, and an area of only 0.66 square miles, the French Quarter has 56 times more strip clubs per capita than Portland (which is 220x larger in land area). The concentration of strip clubs in the Vieux Carre on a per capita basis sadly rises whenever a resident of the French Quarter permanently leaves because he or she cannot raise a family and enjoy a normal life in an increasingly unbalanced neighborhood [2].

Should new strip clubs or adult entertainment venues be allowed to proliferate in the Vieux Carre after the moratorium ends? In contrast, new hotels, T-shirt shops, and food carts (other than Lucky Dog) are prohibited from ever opening in the French Quarter. Why has city hall ignored or tolerated the harmful impacts of strip clubs in New Orleans' oldest neighborhood for decades?

In 1977, Mayor Moon Landrieu established the Bourbon Street Task Force with a blue-ribbon panel to study the strip and suggest improvements. The panel visited the adult-entertainment districts of Boston's "Combat Zone,"

New York City's Times Square, and Atlanta's red-light areas. Modeled on other cities but tailored to New Orleans' unique flavor, the Vieux Carre Entertainment District (otherwise known as Bourbon Street from Iberville to St. Ann) was created shortly thereafter. At the time, Bourbon Street's adult-entertainment venues were not dominated by the out-of-town owned and corporate chains of strip clubs that currently line the strip. [3]

From its outset, the Vieux Carre Entertainment District offered vaudeville, burlesque shows, and theatrical glamour. The 1977 Bourbon Street Task Force's permissive rules, which were intended to encourage the street's creativity and individuality, have been abused, leading to the present-day marketing of lap dances and private champagne rooms. Since 1977, the cities that the task force considered as benchmarks for New Orleans have reformed their respective adult-entertainment districts. Boston's Combat Zone was transformed by civic activists into a family-friendly and mixed-use district. [4] New York City's clampdown on sexually-oriented businesses in the 1990's has been widely praised for launching the city's revival, making it a more decent place to live and to visit. Atlanta's strip clubs today are not allowed to sell alcohol. [5]

New Orleans should update and modernize its 40-year old regulations for strip clubs in the French Quarter. The negative effects of strip clubs on quality of life are clear. In 2012, City Councilmember Kristin Palmer specifically pointed to the number of strip clubs in the French Quarter as a justification for tightening the curfew for minors in our city's oldest neighborhood. On the 300 and 400 blocks of Bourbon Street, there are at least seven strip clubs flanking the Royal Sonesta Hotel, and reportedly at least one convention rejected New Orleans as a destination because strippers were visible from the sidewalk. [6],[7]

Mayor Mitch Landrieu has set a goal of attracting 13 million visitors annually to New Orleans by 2018. How can New Orleans achieve such a goal without promoting a cleaner and more balanced brand that appeals to more families, children, and ordinary people? It's time for some common-sense restrictions on how close new strip clubs could open near existing ones in the French Quarter. [8]

The need for a buffer from strip clubs is not a foreign concept under current New Orleans zoning rules. Outside of the French Quarter, the New Orleans Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance prohibits strip clubs and nude cabarets from opening within 1,000 feet of residences, churches, schools, and parks. The exposé of prostitution, drug-related crimes, and lewd/improper acts at French Quarter strip clubs led to a temporary moratorium, but city hall should strive for more substantial reforms. To revamp the worsening environment of the French Quarter and to bolster the neighborhood's livability, the city should permanently limit how close future strip clubs can open near current ones.

If you want to help in cleaning up New Orleans and do not want to see any more strip clubs opening in the French Quarter that ruin the image of the city, you can submit **written comments to the Planning Commission by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, February 15**, (use cpcinfo@nola.gov and CC cdbonnett@nola.gov) and you can also **attend the public meeting that will be held on Tuesday, February 23rd at 1:30 p.m. in City Council chambers.**

William Khan

French Quarter resident

Sources:

[1] Moratorium on new strip clubs approved for French Quarter

http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2016/01/moratorium_on_new_strip_clubs.html

[2] “Why Does Portland Have so Many Strip Clubs?” <http://priceconomics.com/why-does-portland-have-so-many-strip-clubs/>

[3] History and analysis of the 1977 Bourbon Street Task Force:

Richard Campanella, *Bourbon Street: A History* (2014), pp. 222-224, 238-239.

[4] The cleanup of Boston’s Clean Zone (one of the cities used by the 1977 Bourbon Street Task Force in creating the Vieux Carre Entertainment District–Bourbon Street): <http://www.bizjournals.com/boston/print-edition/2013/03/08/new-projects-wipe-away-more-vestiges.html>

[5] Atlanta’s ban on liquor in strip clubs: <http://www.atlnightspots.com/alcohol-banned-in-fulton-county-strip-clubs/>

[6] City Councilmember Kristin Palmer NOLA.com Op-Ed which referred to the number of strip clubs in the neighborhood as a justification for a harsher curfew for minors: http://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2012/01/modified_new_orleans_curfew_ne.html

[7] Strip clubs repelled at least one convention from selecting NOLA: http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/09/bourbon_street_strip_clubs_cou.html

[8] Mayor Mitch Landrieu’s goal of 13 million visitors by 2018: http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2012/05/mayor_mitch_landrieu_calls_on.html

[9] Prostitution, drug crimes, and lewd/improper conduct at strip clubs: http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2015/11/4_more_bourbon_street_clubs_bu.html

[10] History of violations at Bourbon Street strip clubs: http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2015/11/in_bourbon_street_strip_clubs.html

CPCinfo

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 10:54 AM
To: Leslie T. Alley; Dubravka Gilic; Paul Cramer; CPCinfo; Robert D. Rivers; nkindel@nola.gov; Kenneth Butler; bdesrocher@nola.gov; Imassey@nola.gov
Cc: James A. Gray; Stacy S. Head; Susan G. Guidry; nramsey@nola.gov; LaToya Cantrell; Jared C. Brossett; Jason R. Williams; Jason R. Williams; Jonathan T. Harris; Barbara L. Keller; Catrina M. Simmons; Lauren R. Hotard; Carla D. Gendusa; Aaron A. Clark-Rizzio; Katie D. Hunter-Lowrey; Connolly A. Reed; Clarence J. Williams III; Vanessa A. Spinazola; Tyler L. Gibson; Mary B. Cunningham; Leatrice Dupre; T. Gordon McLeod; Marilyn B. Wood; Julius Feltus; Bryon Cornelison; John D. Pourciau; Anna N. Nguyen; Kara Y. Johnson; Lena Stewart; Aylin A. Maklansky; Freddie King; Sandra G. Thomas; Miles L. Granderson; CouncilDistrictD; Tanya D. Nettles-Evans; Domonique C. Dickerson; Peter C. Waggoner; Erin C. Spears; Mary N. Fontenot-Smith; Maurice C. Baird; Maria M. Tio; Brandon M. Oliver
Subject: Sad Statistical Facts and History of French Quarter Strip Clubs

After the one-year moratorium on new strip clubs expires, what's next for the French Quarter and the image of New Orleans? The French Quarter already has the nation's highest concentration of strip clubs on a per capita basis and per square mile. According to an urban research study, Portland, OR has the highest number of strip clubs per capita in the country with nearly 9 strip clubs per 100,000 people. With approximately 4,000 residents, roughly 20 strip clubs, and an area of only 0.66 square miles, the French Quarter has 56 times more strip clubs per capita than Portland (which is 220x larger in land area). The concentration of strip clubs in the Vieux Carre on a per capita basis sadly rises whenever a resident of the French Quarter permanently leaves because he or she cannot raise a family and enjoy a normal life in an increasingly unbalanced neighborhood.

Should new strip clubs or adult entertainment venues be allowed to proliferate in the Vieux Carre after the moratorium ends? In contrast, new hotels, t-shirt shops, and food carts (other than Lucky Dog) are prohibited from ever opening in the French Quarter. Why has city hall ignored or tolerated the harmful impacts of strip clubs in New Orleans' oldest neighborhood for decades?

In 1977, Mayor Moon Landrieu established the Bourbon Street Task Force with a blue-ribbon panel to study the strip and suggest improvements. The panel visited the adult-entertainment districts of Boston's "Combat Zone," New York City's Times Square, and Atlanta's red-light areas. Modeled on other cities but tailored to New Orleans' unique flavor, the Vieux Carre Entertainment District (otherwise known as Bourbon Street from Iberville to St. Ann) was created shortly thereafter. At the time, Bourbon Street's adult-entertainment venues were not dominated by the out-of-town owned and corporate chains of strip clubs that currently line the strip.

From its outset, the Vieux Carre Entertainment District offered vaudeville, burlesque shows, and theatrical glamour. The 1977 Bourbon Street Task Force's permissive rules, which were intended to encourage the street's creativity and individuality, have been abused, leading to the present-day marketing of lap dances and private champagne rooms. Since 1977, the cities that the task force considered as benchmarks for New Orleans have reformed their respective adult-entertainment districts. Boston's Combat Zone was transformed by civic activists into a family-friendly and mixed-use district. New York City's clampdown on sexually-oriented businesses in the 1990's has been widely praised for launching the city's revival, making it a more decent place to live and to visit. Atlanta's strip clubs today are not allowed to sell alcohol.

New Orleans should update and modernize its 40-year old regulations for strip clubs in the French Quarter. The negative effects of strip clubs on quality of life are clear. In 2012, City Councilmember Kristin Palmer

specifically pointed to the number of strip clubs in the French Quarter as a justification for tightening the curfew for minors in our city's oldest neighborhood. On the 300 and 400 blocks of Bourbon Street, there are at least seven strip clubs flanking the Royal Sonesta Hotel, and reportedly at least one convention rejected New Orleans as a destination because strippers were visible from the sidewalk.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu has set a goal of attracting 13 million visitors annually to New Orleans by 2018. How can New Orleans achieve such a goal without promoting a cleaner and more balanced brand that appeals to more families, children, and ordinary people? It's time for some common-sense restrictions on how close new strip clubs could open near existing ones in the French Quarter.

The need for a buffer from strip clubs is not a foreign concept under current New Orleans zoning rules. Outside of the French Quarter, the New Orleans Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance prohibits strip clubs and nude cabarets from opening within 1,000 feet of residences, churches, schools, and parks. The exposé of prostitution, drug-related crimes, and lewd/improper acts at French Quarter strip clubs led to a temporary moratorium, but city hall should strive for more substantial reforms. To revamp the worsening environment of the French Quarter and to bolster the neighborhood's livability, the city should permanently limit how close future strip clubs can open near current ones.

William Khan
French Quarter resident and voter

From: William Khan (Resident, Voter, and Business Owner in the French Quarter with three family-friendly establishments on Bourbon Street that neighbor or are located near strip clubs)

To: The New Orleans City Council and the City Planning Commission

RE: Regulating Strip Clubs in the French Quarter

January 30, 2016

The operational impact and negative effects of strip clubs in the French Quarter are poorly understood and rarely examined methodically; why else would city zoning allow strip clubs to open door-to-door, block-by-block, or facing one another in the French Quarter prior to the recently passed moratorium?

Let me share my perspective as a full-time French Quarter resident, voter, and business owner with graduate degrees and coursework in law, business administration, real estate, and economics.

My Academic Qualifications and Perspective as a French Quarter Resident and Neighboring Business:

I hold a Juris Doctorate (Law) degree and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Texas at Austin. I graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in Economic History and Public Policy. I have completed coursework in urban real estate and land use regulation at Wharton, Tulane, the University of New Orleans, and the University of Texas at Austin.

My family's businesses on the 200, 400, and 500 blocks of Bourbon Street are one of the few remaining family-friendly and family-oriented establishments in the area. We have been in business at those locations for more than 30 years. Because I live in the French Quarter and I walk along Iberville Street and Bourbon Street every day to manage my family's shops, I have a reality-based, relevant, and ground-level perspective on the impact of strip clubs in the French Quarter. I feel the effects of strip clubs daily as I walk to work and try to maintain a family-friendly establishment on Bourbon Street.

I want to raise my family here in the French Quarter, but the door-to-door and block-by-block concentration of strip clubs has significant and negative spillover effects throughout the neighborhood.

Executive Summary: Strip clubs in the French Quarter are mostly clustered next to one another or near each other, and they are concentrated on Bourbon Street and Iberville Street. When strip clubs are allowed to open within feet of each other or even door-to-door (as current law permitted prior to the one-year moratorium), this concentration of strip clubs generally creates negative operational, environmental, and aesthetic effects—harmful externalities—for residents, visitors, pedestrians, onlookers, locals, other types of businesses, and for their neighbors. Because of these negative effects, strip clubs and other adult-oriented businesses tend to displace and eventually crowd out less-intensive and more-benign types of establishments.

One constitutionally legal solution for the New Orleans City Council to combat the negative, compounding effects of strip clubs in the French Quarter would be to enact a spacing requirement for any new strip clubs in the Vieux Carre, which would limit how close a new strip club could open near to existing ones. In the 1990s, New York City enacted a spacing requirement that effectively spread out sexually-oriented businesses and reduced their concentration in saturated areas. The U.S. Supreme Court approved the New York City requirement in 1998.

Negative Operational Effects:

- 1) Strip clubs on Bourbon Street and in the French Quarter tend to be closed between 7AM to 1PM. When these businesses are closed during the morning time and just past noon, their closure and non-activity tend to create a “dead zone” on the street during the daytime in which few pedestrians walk nearby, vagrants congregate to fill the vacuum created by the lack of pedestrian activity, traditional businesses suffer, and opportunities for crime and public disorder abound.
 - a. What do I mean by a “dead zone”? I mean an environment in which few pedestrians, visitors, or passers-by walk on a street because few businesses are open at that time.
 - b. When there are too many strip clubs on a block, their closure during the daytime and the resulting creation of a “dead zone” that deters customers from patronizing establishments makes it harder for non-adult oriented businesses and neighborhood stores to succeed on that block.
 - c. Once non-adult oriented businesses cannot survive on a block due to the negative effects of nearby strip clubs, the presence of strip clubs nearby encourages other strip clubs to cluster near each other and suffocate daytime life on that street.
 - d. Since strip clubs, bars, nightclubs, or other adult-oriented businesses collocate next to each other or cluster nearby, they tend to crowd out and eventually displace businesses that are low-margin, resident-oriented, and/or family-friendly.
- 2) In October 2015, agents with the Louisiana State Alcohol and Tobacco Control documented the following illegal and illicit activities at several Bourbon Street strip clubs: prostitution, drug-related offenses, lewd & improper acts.
 - a. By the very nature of their operations and their business model to sell alcohol with nudity and lap-dances, strip clubs arguably create breeding grounds for risky behavior to take root and for patrons or employees to slide into illegal activities.
 - b. When strip clubs are concentrated and located next to one another, the illegal activities that may occur at one strip club and the profits generated from such activity can create competitive pressures for neighboring strip clubs to promote prostitution, drug sales, and lewd conduct or risk losing business.
- 3) Since strip clubs displace businesses that derive their income during daytime hours and they crowd out businesses that offer items/services which are more locally tied to New Orleans itself, strip clubs could be considered a more intensive land use than an establishment such as a museum or a barber shop.
- 4) Even when strip clubs do not allow criminal activities within their premises, researchers have found that customers and employees of strip clubs tend to be magnets for crime.
 - a. Studies have shown that sexually-oriented businesses attract “perfect” victims: cash-carrying men predisposed to party and to drink. Especially when they have had a few drinks, they may not be enthusiastic about calling the cops if they can help it.
 - b. Because customers of strip clubs are sometimes inebriated or focused on sexual activity, they may attract prostitutes, pimps, drug-dealers, hustlers, or scam artists.
 - c. Some strip clubs stay open as late as 5AM or just before dawn; coincidentally, loitering of suspicious people (who may or may not be prostitutes, pimps, drug-dealers, or robbers) and criminal incidents within the French Quarter tend to skyrocket at these times.

- 5) Because strip clubs have a reinforcing, negative effect on the operating business hours of a street (they are closed in the daytime until 1PM but open until 5AM), their effect on land-usage and commercial/residential activity is significant and far-reaching.
 - a. Any resident who happens to live or walk near a strip club could inadvertently become the victim of criminal predators who are targeting strip club customers and employees.
- 6) Strip clubs on Bourbon Street and Iberville Street tend to use outdoor solicitation, barkers, spokespeople, and strippers, clogging a portion of the sidewalk and public right-of-way. The outdoor solicitation by strip clubs intensify their land usage and negatively affect surrounding businesses.
 - a. The sidewalks on Bourbon Street and Iberville Street are very narrow. When space on the sidewalk is occupied by a Bourbon Street barker or stripper, it disrupts the flow of pedestrians, delivery workers, residents, tourists, locals conducting business downtown and sometimes forces people to walk on the street and share the road with cars to pass.

Negative Environmental Effects:

- 1) The number of strip clubs should be carefully calibrated. When there are too many strip clubs on a block, the street begins to become imbalanced in terms of its orientation, amenities, and commercial offerings. Simply put, strip clubs weaken efforts to diversify the retail environment and options on Bourbon Street.
- 2) If the city wants to create a family-friendly or at least a family-neutral environment, allowing strip clubs to open next to each other or near another harms public policy.
 - a. Quote from City Councilmember Kristin Palmer's January 18th 2012 Opinion-Editorial advocating a tighter curfew for minors in the French Quarter: "No other neighborhood in the city, state or nation sized at .66 square miles, just 12 blocks wide, contains more than 350 alcohol beverage outlets, and includes adult entertainment establishments and numerous strip clubs."
- 3) The excess number of strip clubs on Bourbon Street constitute a visible portion of the 350+ alcohol beverage outlets in the French Quarter and particularly exemplify how the neighborhood has become so imbalanced that it needs a tighter curfew for minors than other parts of the city.

Negative Visual/Aesthetic Effects:

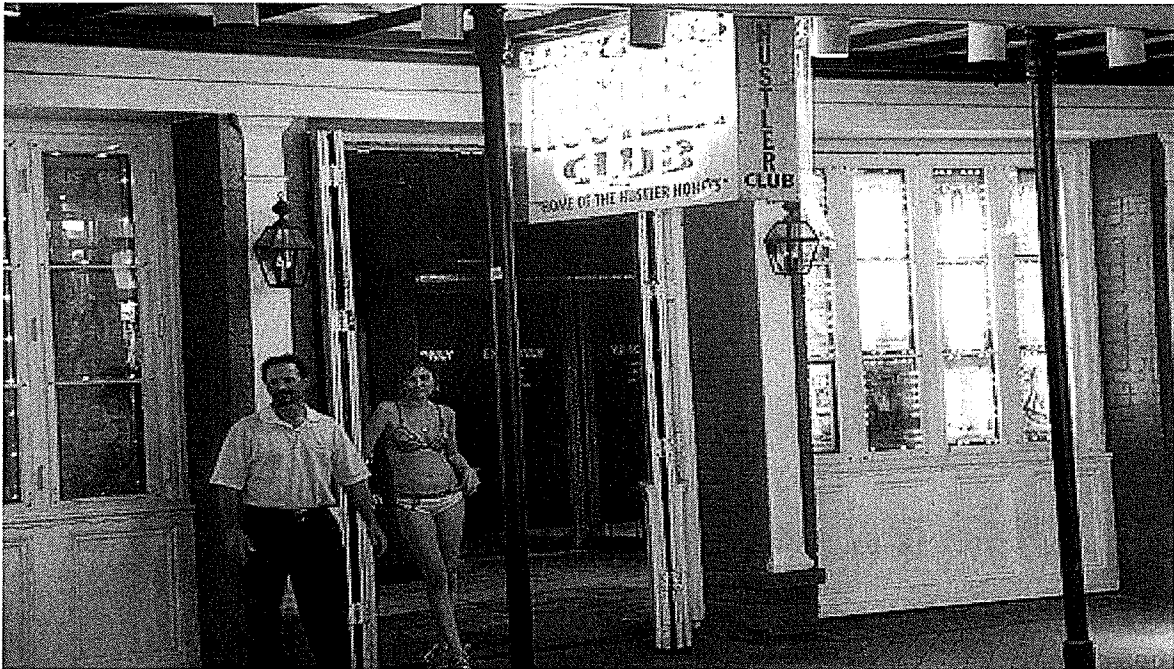
- 1) Some of the Bourbon Street strip clubs are very aggressive about peddling their entertainers, liquor, and sexual themes.
 - a. According to the French Quarter Management District, visiting families and convention planners deciding whether to hold a meeting in New Orleans have complained about scantily clad women and explicit posters visible from the sidewalk and the public right-of-way.
 - b. I walk on the 200 to 500 blocks of Bourbon Street everyday. I have heard barkers from Bourbon Street strip clubs loudly yell the following things on the street and sidewalk in earshot of families, children, and ordinary people:
 - i. "It's ti**y time."
 - ii. "Come inside for cold beer and hot pu**y."
 - iii. "Anything goes."
 - iv. "We have chicks with big t*ts."

2) The lighting, signage, and outdoor advertising for strip clubs in the French Quarter are generally intrusive, overbearing, and lurid. The exterior pictures of French Quarter strip clubs below speak for themselves.

DIXIE DIVAS AND CHEZ JOEY (STRIP CLUB AT 608 IBERVILLE STREET)

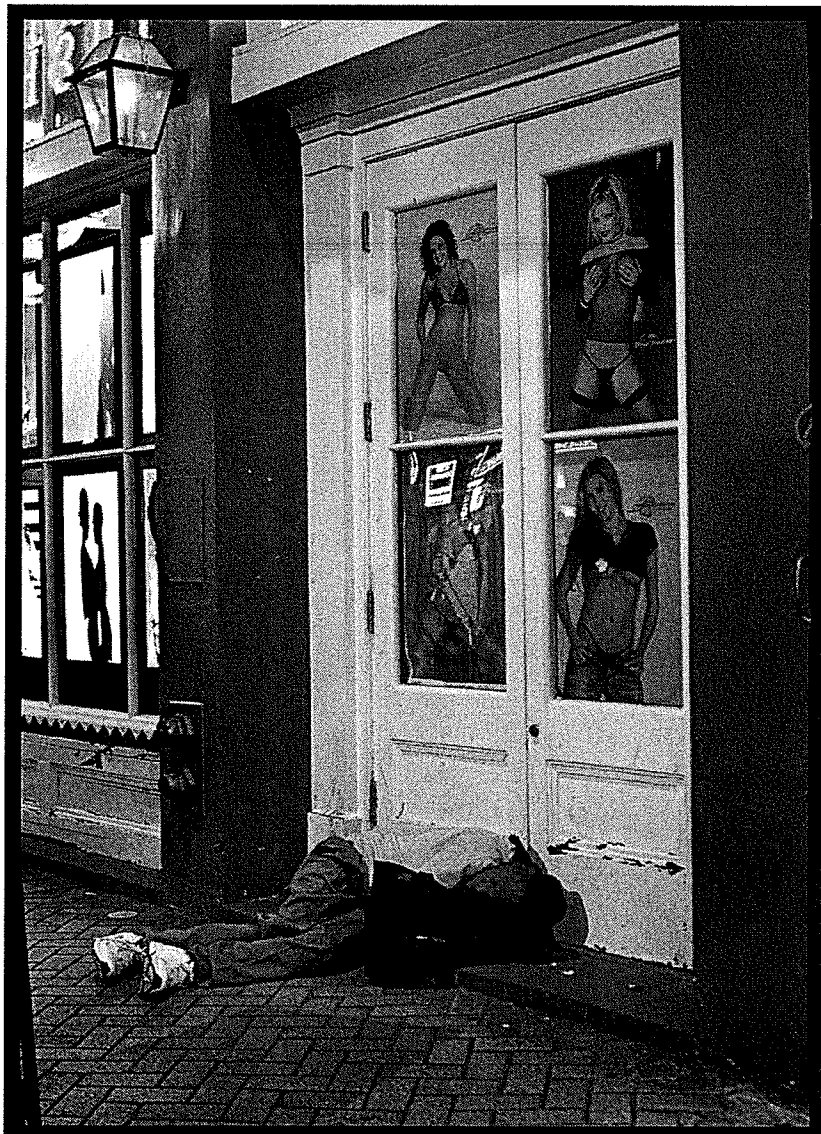
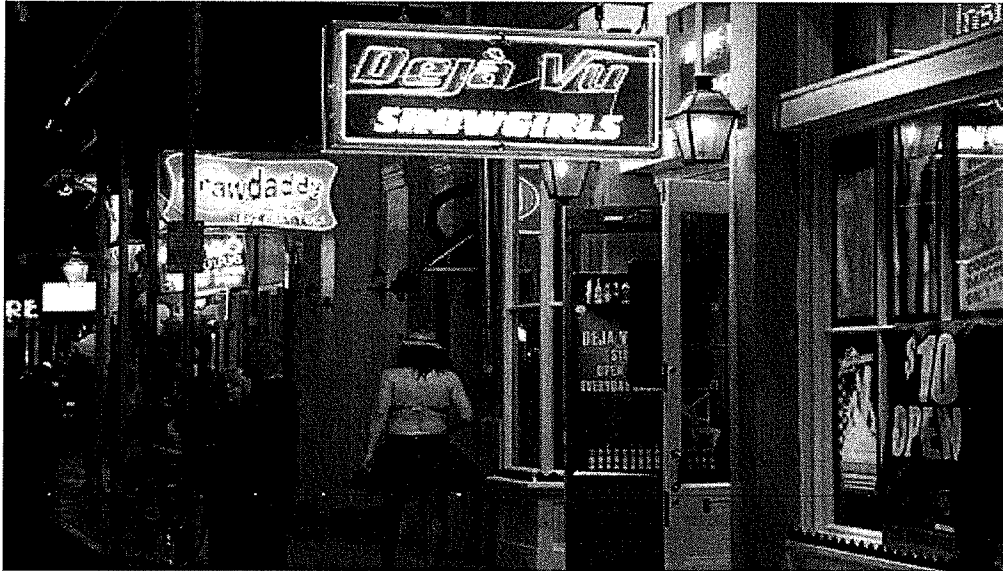


LARRY FLYNT'S HUSTLER CLUB (STRIP CLUB AT 225 BOURBON STREET)





DÉJÀ VU SHOWGIRLS (STRIP CLUB AT 226 BOURBON STREET)



Conclusion: I have written my assessment on the impact and potential regulation of strip clubs in the French Quarter trying to use an economics-based and land-use focused perspective. Moreover, as a resident who loves the French Quarter and wishes to raise a family in the neighborhood, I am obligated to provide my educated and relevant opinion on this important matter of public policy.

I have no malice toward strip clubs, but it is not an accident that strip clubs in the French Quarter tend to concentrate and cluster along Bourbon Street and Iberville Street. I experience the negative effects that flow from strip clubs opening next door to one another or near each other everyday.

As a French Quarter resident and business owner with establishments that happen to neighbor or be located near strip clubs in the neighborhood, my opinion is that the concentration of strips clubs along Bourbon Street and Iberville Street tend to exert significant harmful effects (i.e. negative externalities) on residents, customers, other types of businesses, and the overall neighborhood.

When strip clubs are allowed to cluster, they generate negative operational, environmental, and aesthetic effects; these effects tend to intensify as new strip clubs emerge. In fact, the negative externalities of strip clubs tend to encourage other strip clubs to open up nearby, to displace non-adult oriented businesses, and to promote riskier—perhaps illegal—activity.

For at least three decades (30 years), the city of New Orleans has allowed strip clubs to proliferate on Bourbon Street and Iberville Street and to open very closely near existing strip clubs. The end results of the city's insufficient regulation of strip clubs in the French Quarter include: (1) a concentration and clustering of strip clubs, (2) an economic/land-use configuration that is tilted toward adult-entertainment and nighttime establishments, (3) the crowding out and displacement of businesses that are low-margin, resident-oriented, and/or family-friendly, (4) a tighter curfew for minors in the French Quarter, (5) a less favorable environment for families and a growing negative perception of the French Quarter, and (6) an irreversible loss of residents.

An outright ban on new strip clubs in the French Quarter probably would not pass constitutional muster, but there is a solution. The constitutional and legally permissible way to restrict new strip clubs from opening in the French Quarter would be through a "spacing" requirement, which was successfully employed in New York City. A spacing requirement that limited how close strip clubs could be to one another and to houses of worship, homes, and day-care centers was effectively used by the New York City Council in the 1990's. In 1998, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld zoning regulations that prohibited sex-oriented theaters, bookstores, massage parlors and dance clubs from operating within 500 feet of homes, houses of worship, schools or each other.

It's time for some common-sense and rationally-based limitations on how close new strip clubs can open near existing ones. The city should prevent strip clubs from opening next to one another or near each other by enacting a spacing requirement for strip clubs, which could restore some balance to the street, revive daytime commerce in surrounding areas, and forestall the downward spiral that led to the moratorium on French Quarter strip clubs in the first place.

William Khan (wkhan@utexas.edu)

Voter, Resident, and Entrepreneur in the French Quarter
JD/MBA Graduate of the University of Texas at Austin

CPCinfo

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 11:51 AM
To: Leslie T. Alley; Dubravka Gilic; Paul Cramer; CPCinfo; Robert D. Rivers; nkindel@nola.gov; Kenneth Butler; bdesrocher@nola.gov; lmassey@nola.gov
Cc: James A. Gray; Stacy S. Head; Susan G. Guidry; nramsey@nola.gov; LaToya Cantrell; Jared C. Brossett; Jason R. Williams; Jason R. Williams; Jonathan T. Harris; Barbara L. Keller; Catrina M. Simmons; Lauren R. Hotard; Carla D. Gendusa; Aaron A. Clark-Rizzio; Katie D. Hunter-Lowrey; Connolly A. Reed; Clarence J. Williams III; Vanessa A. Spinazola; Tyler L. Gibson; Mary B. Cunningham; Leatrice Dupre; T. Gordon McLeod; Marilyn B. Wood; Julius Feltus; Bryon Cornelison; John D. Pourciau; Anna N. Nguyen; Kara Y. Johnson; Lena Stewart; Aylin A. Maklansky; Freddie King; Sandra G. Thomas; Miles L. Granderson; CouncilDistrictD; Tanya D. Nettles-Evans; Domonique C. Dickerson; Peter C. Waggoner; Erin C. Spears; Mary N. Fontenot-Smith; Maurice C. Baird; Maria M. Tio; bmoliver@nola.gov
Subject: Analysis of Strip Club Effects on French Quarter for City Planning Commission
Attachments: Regulating Strip Clubs in the French Quarter.pdf

Dear City Planning Commission:

On January 7th, the New Orleans City Council passed a motion directing the City Planning Commission to hold a public hearing on strip clubs in the French Quarter within 60 days. The City Council motion to the City Planning Commission to study this issue and establish regulations for strip clubs has granted broad authority to the CPC in proposing regulations for such venues.

Language from New Orleans City Council Motion M-16-21 (directing the CPC to analyze strip clubs in the French Quarter and propose regulations):

"That in the process of studying and reviewing the Adult Live Performance Venue Interim Zoning District, the City Planning Commission staff is directed and granted the flexibility to make all appropriate changes to the proposed regulations and any existing corresponding regulations in the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance..."
http://cityofno.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=3&clip_id=2251&meta_id=314277

To the City Planning Commission, I would like to propose a "spacing" requirement which would limit how close future strip clubs in the French Quarter could be next to each other. A "spacing" requirement (like 500 ft), which would grandfather in existing strip clubs but not allow new ones within 500 ft of existing ones, is likely to pass constitutional muster, while I am not sure an outright ban (permanent or temporary) would be legal.

I have written a report and analysis of strip club effects on the French Quarter. It is attached in PDF format. My analysis is grounded in economics, real estate, and public policy, and it buttresses the argument for further regulating strip clubs in the French Quarter. I will be supplying a hard-copy version of my report to each City Councilmember and the City Planning Commission.

The operational impact and negative effects of strip clubs in the French Quarter are poorly understood and rarely examined methodically; why else would city zoning allow strip clubs to open door-to-door, block-by-block, or facing one another in the French Quarter prior to the recently passed moratorium?

Let me share my perspective as a full-time French Quarter resident, voter, and business owner with graduate degrees and coursework in law, business administration, real estate, and economics.

Respectfully,

William Khan

French Quarter business owner, resident, and voter

CPCinfo

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 9:38 AM
To: CPCinfo; Cameron D. Bonnett
Subject: The New Orleans Advocate: French Quarter strip clubs endanger New Orleans

The New Orleans Advocate: French Quarter strip clubs endanger New Orleans

After the one-year moratorium on new strip clubs expires, what's next for the French Quarter and the image of New Orleans? The French Quarter already has the nation's highest concentration of strip clubs on a per capita basis and per square mile. According to an urban research study, Portland, Oregon, has the highest number of strip clubs per capita in the country with nearly nine strip clubs per 100,000 people. With approximately 4,000 residents, roughly 20 strip clubs and an area of only 0.66 square miles, the French Quarter has 56 times more strip clubs per capita than Portland (which is 220 times larger in area). The concentration of strip clubs in the Vieux Carre on a per capita basis sadly rises whenever a resident of the French Quarter permanently leaves because he or she cannot raise a family and enjoy a normal life in an increasingly unbalanced neighborhood.

Should new strip clubs or adult entertainment venues be allowed to proliferate in the Vieux Carre after the moratorium expires? In contrast, new hotels, T-shirt shops and food carts (other than Lucky Dog) are prohibited from ever opening in the French Quarter. Why has city hall ignored or even tolerated the harmful impacts of strip clubs in New Orleans' oldest neighborhood for decades?

The negative effects of French Quarter strip clubs on quality of life are clear. In 2012, City Councilwoman Kristin Palmer specifically pointed to the number of strip clubs in the French Quarter as a justification for tightening the curfew for minors in our city's oldest neighborhood. On the 300 and 400 blocks of Bourbon Street, there are at least seven strip clubs facing or near the Royal Sonesta Hotel, and reportedly at least one convention rejected New Orleans as a destination because strippers were visible from the sidewalk.

The door-to-door and block-by-block concentration of strip clubs in the French Quarter has significant and negative spillover effects. It's time for some common-sense restrictions on how close new strip clubs could open near existing ones in the Vieux Carre.

The need for a buffer from strip clubs is not a foreign concept under current New Orleans zoning rules. Outside of the French Quarter, the New Orleans Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance prohibits strip clubs, adult entertainment venues and nude cabarets from opening within 1,000 feet of residences, churches, schools and parks. The exposé of prostitution, drug-related crimes and lewd/improper acts at French Quarter strip clubs led to a temporary moratorium, but City Hall should strive for a more permanent and substantial reform. To stop the downward spiral of the French Quarter and to bolster the neighborhood's livability, the city should limit how close new strip clubs can open near existing ones.

William Khan

business owner

New Orleans

<http://www.theneworleansadvocate.com/opinion/14847854-123/letters-strip-clubs-endanger-new-orleans>

CPCinfo

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2016 12:05 PM
To: Robert D. Rivers; CPCinfo
Subject: Study on Reforming French Quarter Strip Clubs

"The strip-club moratorium is just a first step; much more needs to be done"

<http://thelensnola.org/2016/01/14/the-strip-club-moratorium-is-just-a-first-step-much-more-needs-to-be-done/>

While I applaud the City Council's decision to pass a one-year moratorium on strip clubs in the French Quarter and to commission a study by the City Planning Commission, City Hall should consider long-lasting and more robust reforms.

Keep in mind that state authorities previously documented illegal drug sales, prostitution, and lewd conduct at several strip clubs. Why are new strip clubs or adult entertainment venues still allowed to proliferate in the Vieux Carre after the moratorium expires? In contrast, new hotels, food trucks, and T-shirt shops are prohibited from ever opening in the French Quarter.

I want to continue raising my family here in the Quarter, but the door-to-door and block-by-block concentration of strip clubs has significant and negative spillover effects throughout the neighborhood.

Strip clubs in the French Quarter are mostly clustered next to or near one another on Bourbon and Iberville streets. On the 300 and 400 blocks of Bourbon Street alone, there are no fewer than seven strip clubs facing or near the Royal Sonesta Hotel. When strip clubs are allowed to open within feet of each other or even door-to-door (as current law permitted prior to the moratorium), the concentration has a blighting impact on residents, visitors, businesses and the general environment.

As just one example of this negative impact, French Quarter strip clubs are usually closed between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m., creating a daytime "dead zone" in which pedestrians sidestep the area, businesses suffer and vagrants congregate to fill the vacuum. Opportunities for crime and public disorder abound. The effect is metastatic; new strip clubs and unsavory adult-oriented businesses spring up to fill the vacuum, displacing businesses that were low-margin, resident-oriented, and/or family-friendly.

And of course what goes on inside clubs under pressure to offer greater thrills than neighboring strip clubs is as deleterious as their impact on nearby non-adult businesses. A business model centered on competitive one-upmanship and the use of nudity and lap dances to boost alcohol sales (or vice versa) creates a breeding ground for risky personal behavior and outright criminality. In October 2015, agents with the state Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control documented the following illegal and illicit activities at several Bourbon Street strip clubs: prostitution and drug-related offenses as well as lewd and improper acts.

When strip clubs are concentrated as they are on Bourbon Street, competitive pressure spreads and can intensify the promotion of prostitution, drug sales, and lewd conduct from one to the next.

And even when strip clubs do not allow criminal activities on the premises, customers and employees tend to be magnets for crime. Studies have shown that sex-oriented businesses attract "perfect" victims: cash-carrying men predisposed to party and drink heavily. They attract prostitutes, pimps, drug-dealers, hustlers, and scam artists — and because the victims are drunk, they may be incapable of summoning or cooperating with police. With

some strip clubs open as late as 5 a.m., it's no mere coincidence that French Quarter crime tends to skyrocket shortly before dawn.

Nor is the negative impact of strip clubs limited to their patrons. Any resident who happens to live or walk near a strip club becomes more susceptible to criminals preying on customers or haunting the daytime dead zone the clubs create.

In a January 2012 editorial, City Councilmember Kristin Palmer, advocating a tighter curfew for minors in the French Quarter, wrote: "No other neighborhood in the city, state or nation sized at .66 square miles, just 12 blocks wide, contains more than 350 alcohol beverage outlets, and includes adult entertainment establishments and numerous strip clubs."

That a neighborhood needs a special curfew for minors is, in and of itself, symptomatic of a grave imbalance in that neighborhood's business climate.

I have no malice toward strip clubs in their proper place. But as a French Quarter resident with businesses nearby, every day I experience the negative effects that flow from allowing strip clubs to cluster and open side by side, as they have.

What to do? Obviously the strip club industry is not about to disappear. Strip clubs are part of the French Quarter's colorful fabric. But is it prudent public policy for the city to use blunt instruments like a harsher curfew for minors in the French Quarter and stopgap measures such as a one-year moratorium without addressing the underlying disease, the saturation of strip clubs?

The number of clubs and their conduct should be carefully calibrated. When there are too many strip clubs on a block, the street begins to become imbalanced in terms of its orientation, amenities, and commercial offerings. Simply put, strip clubs weaken efforts to diversify the options for retail and general tourism on Bourbon Street and surrounding areas. If the city wants to create a family-friendly or at least a family-neutral environment, allowing strip clubs to open next to or near each other subverts that goal.

An outright ban on new strip clubs in the French Quarter probably would not pass constitutional muster, but there is a solution. The legally permissible alternative would be a "spacing" requirement — a strategy already implemented successfully in New York City and upheld by the 1998 U.S. Supreme Court decision to reject a challenge to zoning regulations that prohibit sex-oriented businesses from operating within 500 feet of homes, houses of worship, schools — or each other.

It's time for some common-sense and rationally-based limits on how close new strip clubs can open near existing ones. A spacing requirement could restore some balance to the street, revive daytime commerce in surrounding areas, and forestall the downward spiral that led to the moratorium on French Quarter strip clubs in the first place.

CPCinfo

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 2:20 PM
To: CPCinfo; Cameron D. Bonnett; Robert D. Rivers; Leslie T. Alley; Andrew D. Kopplin; rberni@nola.gov; Mitchell J. Landrieu; Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu; Dubravka Gilic; Paul Cramer; nkindel@nola.gov; Kenneth Butler; bdesrocher@nola.gov; Imassey@nola.gov
Subject: Attracting More Families for New Orleans Tourism and Reforming Bourbon Street

Dear New Orleans City Government Leadership:

One year ago, our city was blessed to hold the 2015 Grand Nationals event of the Worldwide Spirit Association, a youth oriented organization that brings together cheerleaders and gymnasts from high schools, middle schools, and recreational programs across the U.S.

The participants in the Worldwide Spirit Association were teenagers and children. The youths were accompanied by their parents, respectable citizens, and responsible adults.

Some of the visitors from the Worldwide Spirit Association patronized my family-friendly businesses on Bourbon Street. Our city wants to be a world-class city, but a world-class city should not have 56 more strip clubs per capita in its historic district and main tourism asset than Portland, OR (the city with the nation's largest number of strip clubs on a per capita basis).

I sometimes feel sorry for the disgraceful impression and image that the French Quarter, Bourbon Street, and New Orleans presents to visiting families, children, and ordinary citizens.

Are you not concerned that the first and most prominent billboards which greet visitors to New Orleans on their way downtown from the airport advertise Rick's Cabaret, Larry Flynt's Barely Legal club, and other Bourbon Street strip clubs?

The door-to-door and block-by-block concentration of strip clubs in the French Quarter has significant and negative spillover effects. It's time for some common-sense restrictions on how close new strip clubs could open near existing ones in the Vieux Carre.

I am a voter, resident, and business owner in the French Quarter. I was born and raised here, and I want my city as well as the Vieux Carre to thrive. I hope to raise a young family in the French Quarter, but we can all agree that parts of the French Quarter (especially the upper quarter and the 200-500 blocks of Bourbon Street) would not be an appropriate place for children.

I have lived in cities such as Austin, Atlanta, Houston, and Dallas. I most recently visited San Antonio. These are all "New South" cities that New Orleans aspires to be associated with and favorably compared to; none of these cities have strip clubs (also known as adult cabarets and/or adult live performance venues) in their historic districts and most well-known neighborhoods.

It's time for some limitations and restrictions on the strip clubs along Bourbon Street, which is the heart of our city and fundamentally shapes New Orleans' reputation and image in the region, nation, and world.

A spacing requirement that limited how close strip clubs could be to one another and to houses of worship, homes, and day-care centers was successfully employed by Mayor Rudy Giuliani in New York City. In 1998, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld zoning regulations that prohibited sex-oriented theaters, bookstores, massage

parlors and dance clubs from operating within 500 feet of homes, houses of worship, schools or each other.

New York City's crackdown on sexually-oriented businesses has been praised as "one of the prime reasons for the revival of the city in the sense that the city is a more decent place and a nicer place for people to visit."

We all know that New Orleans is the cultural capital of the U.S. and the world.

Let's clean up the French Quarter and New Orleans by adding some reasonable and long-overdue restrictions on "adult use" and "adult live performance venue" establishments in the VCE (which is governed by Article 10 of the CZO and Section 20.3.B Use Standards).

Respectfully submitted,

William Khan

Voter, Resident, and Entrepreneur in the French Quarter
JD/MBA Graduate of the University of Texas at Austin

CPCinfo

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2016 2:12 PM
To: CPCinfo; Cameron D. Bonnett
Cc: James Kelly; Robert D. Rivers; Leslie T. Alley; James A. Gray; Stacy S. Head; Susan G. Guidry; nramsey@nola.gov; LaToya Cantrell; Jared C. Brossett; Jason R. Williams; Jason R. Williams; Vanessa A. Spinazola; DistrictC; Andrew D. Kopplin; rberni@nola.gov; Mitchell J. Landrieu; Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu
Subject: How Other Cities Regulate Strip Clubs and Nude Bars

As the City Planning Commission conducts its research, the following articles and sources about how other cities regulate strip clubs and nude bars might be helpful.

There is a website and research database devoted to studying the negative effects of strip clubs:
<http://secondaryeffectsresearch.com>

"Cities use local laws to curb strip clubs"
http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-03-13-strip-clubs_N.htm

"Stripping Away: Will tighter rules make strip clubs safer, or extinct?"
<http://www.pghcitypaper.com/pittsburgh/stripping-away-will-tighter-rules-make-strip-clubs-safer-or-extinct/Content?oid=1397490>

Some interesting tidbits from the above articles:

- 1) Conditional use rules are ripe for lawsuits; any strip club operator who is denied can always argue that the decision was arbitrary and capricious. Clear-cut rules, like a spacing requirement, are less vulnerable to lawsuits.
- 2) Strip clubs can be dangerous for police officers and alcohol beverage control officials. The most effective laws and enforceable regulations for strip clubs are designed to enable officers/regulators to walk in, make sure things are being run properly, and walk out.
- 3) Strip clubs are magnets for crime: both inside and outside. They attract a lot of easy marks--men who will not report crime because they don't want to admit where they've been or because they are under the influence of alcohol/drugs--to a place where the business wants these entertainers to go into closed rooms behind closed doors. The result is that both inside and outside the club there are a lot of ingredients for a regional crime node.
- 4) Despite the common perception that a woman can dance her way through school, many strippers report that their jobs take over their lives. Long and late hours, fatigue, drug and alcohol problems, and out-of-town bookings make it difficult to switch gears.
- 5) Strippers can be subjected to demeaning treatment by customers and club owners alike, ranging from insults and requests for sex to stalking and assault. Enduring sexual violence is part of the job description. Women in stripping are expected to endure these abuses, degradations, and humiliations with a smile and a "Thank You."

New Orleans should update and modernize its 40-year old regulations for strip clubs in the French Quarter. The negative effects of strip clubs on quality of life are clear. In 2012, City Councilmember Kristin Palmer specifically pointed to the number of strip clubs in the French Quarter as a justification for tightening the curfew

for minors in our city's oldest neighborhood. On the 300 and 400 blocks of Bourbon Street, there are at least seven strip clubs flanking the Royal Sonesta Hotel, and reportedly at least one convention rejected New Orleans as a destination because strippers were visible from the sidewalk.

William Khan

French Quarter resident and entrepreneur

CPCinfo

From: Fischer Gambino Metairie Road <landartllc@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 2:32 PM
To: CPCinfo
Cc: Bryan Drude
Subject: Strip Club Moratorium.

It has been brought to our attention that the current moratorium will be expiring. We would like to voice our concern over this matter. However, I do not think I could have said it any better than Mr William Khan expressed it in a recent letter to the French Quarter Advocates members. I am attaching a copy of this letter for your consideration.

Laurie L Labruzzo

William Khan

Statistical facts and history of French Quarter strip clubs

After the one-year moratorium on new strip clubs expires, what's next for the French Quarter and the image of New Orleans? The French Quarter already has the nation's highest concentration of strip clubs on a per capita basis and per square mile. According to an urban research study, Portland, OR has the highest number of strip clubs per capita in the country with nearly 9 strip clubs per 100,000 people. With approximately 4,000 residents, roughly 20 strip clubs, and an area of only 0.66 square miles, the French Quarter has 56 times more strip clubs per capita than Portland (which is 220x larger in land area). The concentration of strip clubs in the Vieux Carre on a per capita basis sadly rises whenever a resident of the French Quarter permanently leaves because he or she cannot raise a family and enjoy a normal life in an increasingly unbalanced neighborhood.

Should new strip clubs or adult entertainment venues be allowed to proliferate in the Vieux Carre after the moratorium ends? In contrast, new hotels, t-shirt shops, and food carts (other than Lucky Dog) are prohibited from ever opening in the French Quarter. Why has city hall ignored or tolerated the harmful impacts of strip clubs in New Orleans' oldest neighborhood for decades?

In 1977, Mayor Moon Landrieu established the Bourbon Street Task Force with a blue-ribbon panel to study the strip and suggest improvements. The panel visited the adult-entertainment districts of Boston's "Combat Zone," New York City's Times Square, and Atlanta's red-light areas. Modeled on other cities but tailored to New Orleans' unique flavor, the Vieux Carre Entertainment District (otherwise known as Bourbon Street from Iberville to St. Ann) was created shortly thereafter. At the time, Bourbon Street's adult-entertainment venues were not dominated by the out-of-town owned and corporate chains of strip clubs that currently line the strip.

From its outset, the Vieux Carre Entertainment District offered vaudeville, burlesque shows, and theatrical glamour. The 1977 Bourbon Street Task Force's permissive rules, which were intended to encourage the street's creativity and individuality, have been abused, leading to the present-day marketing of lap dances and private champagne rooms. Since 1977, the cities that the task force considered as benchmarks for New Orleans have reformed their respective adult-entertainment districts. Boston's Combat Zone was transformed by civic activists into a family-friendly and mixed-use district. New York City's clampdown on sexually-oriented businesses in the 1990's has been widely praised for launching the city's revival, making it a more decent place to live and to visit. Atlanta's strip clubs today are not allowed to sell alcohol.

New Orleans should update and modernize its 40-year old regulations for strip clubs in the French Quarter. The negative effects of strip clubs on quality of life are clear. In 2012, City Councilmember Kristin Palmer specifically pointed to the number of strip clubs in the French Quarter as a justification for tightening the curfew for minors in our city's oldest neighborhood. On the 300 and 400 blocks of Bourbon Street, there are at least seven strip clubs flanking the Royal Sonesta Hotel, and reportedly at least one convention rejected New Orleans as a destination because strippers were visible from the sidewalk.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu has set a goal of attracting 13 million visitors annually to New Orleans by 2018. How can New Orleans achieve such a goal without promoting a cleaner and more balanced brand that appeals to more families, children, and ordinary people? It's time for some common-sense restrictions on how close new strip clubs could open near existing ones in the French Quarter.

The need for a buffer from strip clubs is not a foreign concept under current New Orleans zoning rules. Outside of the French Quarter, the New Orleans Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance prohibits strip clubs and nude cabarets from opening within 1,000 feet of residences, churches, schools, and parks. The exposé of prostitution, drug-related crimes, and lewd/improper acts at French Quarter strip clubs led to a temporary moratorium, but city hall should strive for more substantial reforms. To revamp the worsening environment of the French Quarter and to bolster the neighborhood's livability, the city should permanently limit how close future strip clubs can open near current ones.

William Khan



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www.lightingneworleans.com

Sabine E. Lebailleur

From: Paul Cramer
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 12:31 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleur; Cameron D. Bonnett
Subject: FW: Public Comments for CPC February 23rd Hearing on Strip Clubs

From: William Khan [mailto:wkhan@utexas.edu]

Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 12:17 PM

To: CPCinfo; Cameron D. Bonnett; Robert D. Rivers; Leslie T. Alley; Andrew D. Kopplin; rberni@nola.gov; Mitchell J. Landrieu; Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu; Dubravka Gilic; Paul Cramer; nkindel@nola.gov; Kenneth Butler; bdesrocher@nola.gov; lmassey@nola.gov

Cc: James Kelly; James A. Gray; Stacy S. Head; Susan G. Guidry; nramsey@nola.gov; LaToya Cantrell; Jared C. Brossett; Jason R. Williams; Jason R. Williams; Vanessa A. Spinazola; DistrictC; Robert Hjortsberg; Cassandra Sharpe; Rosemary James; Patty Gay; janethoward@bgr.org; jparker@bgr.org; jschwartz@bgr.org; mkeating@bgr.org; Molly Davis; aglovinsky@bgr.org; aglovinsky@yahoo.com; ccarmon@noma.org; jeffsadowtheadvocate@yahoo.com; bluckett@cox.net; rsteeg@steeglaw.com; kbrownj@aol.com; cbmitchell@mitchellapl.com; pamelaa@octaviaartgallery.com; rduplessis@lasc.org; nmco1948@nmco.onmicrosoft.com; kwedberg@nocca.com; Robert Simms; mark@markgonzaleznola.com; mark@nola-law.com; M. BButler; ninaneivens@yahoo.com; Randi Kaufman; gshotwell@cox.net; marc.florman@gmail.com; madraisinface@yahoo.com; jim_eaton@me.com; brad benischek; swieland@live.com; anne gisleson; Michele White; Rhonda Findley; butcher@tulane.edu; Matthew Thompson; msjones2@my.uno.edu; mwawrzycki@rapllclaw.com; Arthur Cortner; yo4567@cox.net; Tyler Harwood; Blakervh@aol.com; arts 4work; rogermartinpt@yahoo.com; dl319dec@cox.net; taco king

Subject: Public Comments for CPC February 23rd Hearing on Strip Clubs

Dear City Planning Commission:

I am a French Quarter full-time resident, a homeowner in the French Quarter, an owner of businesses neighboring strip clubs, and a young professional with graduate degrees in business and law. I feel and experience the negative effects of strip clubs on quality of life everyday. More importantly, the saturation of strip clubs in the French Quarter is starting to harm New Orleans tourism growth, and the city scores poorly from visitor surveys on measures like cleanliness, family-friendliness, and personal safety.

Unfortunately, due to a scheduling conflict, I will not be able to attend the CPC's February 23rd hearing at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow on regulating strip clubs in the city.

In lieu of providing verbal comments, I am submitting written comments to be considered as my testimony and personal statement at the public hearing.

Public Comments from William Khan (French Quarter resident, business owner, and Bourbon Street merchant):

I am a young professional, a homeowner, a full-time resident of the French Quarter, and I'd like to raise a family in my neighborhood. I'm not typically involved in city planning matters, but I feel compelled to share my perspective as a young professional based in the French Quarter with businesses that neighbor strip clubs. I'm not against strip clubs in general, but I think that the French Quarter has enough of them and the objective for the City Planning Commission should be to limit the opening of new strip clubs.

1. Limiting new strip clubs from saturating the French Quarter should have been one of the city's main priorities.

I would like to start off by putting the city's permissive attitude toward French Quarter strip clubs in context. After the one-year moratorium on strip clubs expires, new strip clubs would be allowed to open in the French Quarter. In contrast, new hotels, T-shirt shops and food carts (other than Lucky Dog) are prohibited from ever opening in the French Quarter. Can someone tell me why new strip clubs are allowed to open in the French Quarter but new hotels and food trucks aren't? Where is city hall's sense of priorities?

As a resident of the French Quarter and a neighboring business owner, I feel and see the negative effects of strip clubs on quality of life everyday. When strip clubs are allowed to open within feet of each other or even door-to-door (as current law permitted prior to the moratorium), the concentration of strip clubs has a blighting effect on residents, visitors, businesses, and the general environment.

And you don't have to take my word for it.

If the French Quarter were its own city, it would have the nation's highest concentration of strip clubs on a per capita basis and per square mile, more than Portland, Oregon (the city with the nation's highest number of strip clubs per capita). The French Quarter has 56 times more strip clubs per capita than Portland (which is 220 times larger in area).

In 2012, City Councilmember Kristin Palmer specifically pointed to the number of strip clubs in the French Quarter as a justification for tightening the curfew for minors in our city's oldest neighborhood.

This is what Councilmember Palmer representing the French Quarter said in 2012 and I quote: "No other neighborhood in the city, state or nation sized at .66 square miles, just 12 blocks wide, contains more than 350 alcohol beverage outlets, and includes adult entertainment establishments and numerous strip clubs."

http://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2012/01/modified_new_orleans_curfew_ne.html

On the 300 and 400 blocks of Bourbon Street, there are at least seven strip clubs facing or near the Royal Sonesta Hotel, and reportedly at least one convention rejected New Orleans as a destination because strippers were visible from the sidewalk.

2. Tourism growth in New Orleans is slowing alarmingly, and the city scores poorly with visitors on family-friendliness, cleanliness, and public safety.

If you don't think that the overabundance of strip clubs in the French Quarter has a negative effect on New Orleans tourism, look at troubling statistics in New Orleans' tourism numbers. In 2014 (the latest year for which tourism statistics are available), New Orleans only saw a 2.6% increase in the number of tourists visiting the city. The 2014 numbers show slower growth from 2013, when New Orleans had an increase of 3 percent from the prior year. The growth rate of New Orleans tourism is slowing, and I would argue it is slowing because of city's low scores on cleanliness, family-friendliness, and safety.

Currently, the first and most prominent billboards that greet visitors to New Orleans on their way downtown from the airport advertise Rick's Cabaret, Larry Flynt's Barely Legal club, and other Bourbon Street strip clubs. Our city needs to present a better image of itself and its main attractions if New Orleans aspires to be a world-class city and a world-class destination.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu has set a goal of 13 million visitors to New Orleans annually by the time of our city's 300th anniversary in 2018. New Orleans is not going to hit this goal of 13 million visitors without cleaning up our city's image and attracting more business, cultural, and family visitors.

Why am I so concerned with this issue? Because this strip club study by the City Planning Commission is the first city action in addressing the effects of French Quarter strip clubs in nearly 40 years.

3. Bourbon Street's present day strip clubs—dominated by corporate chains and national companies—have nothing to do with Bourbon Street's heritage of vaudeville, burlesque, and theatrical flair.

Some people might say that the French Quarter is working or that Bourbon Street has always had strip clubs. Well, the French Quarter is not working; the French Quarter is losing residents and families everyday, and the downward spiral of the French Quarter is slowing the growth of tourism in New Orleans. As to the argument that Bourbon Street has always had strip joints, today's Bourbon Street is very different and a lot dirtier than the Bourbon Street of yesteryear.

The strip clubs today have nothing to do with the heritage of Bourbon Street. Many of today's French Quarter strip clubs are branches of national and corporate chains with out of town owners. In the 1970's, Bourbon Street's adult live performance venues focused on interesting and colorful specialties such as twirling champagne glasses or burlesque. Forty years ago, a Times-Picayune editor described Bourbon Street's venues as glamorous, magical places with theatrical flair. I don't think anyone could describe Bourbon Street in such glowing terms today.

Bourbon Street's present-day strip clubs are overly focused on lapdances and private champagne rooms. Some of them make obscene profits in obscene ways. Last October some of the newer strip clubs were cited by state authorities for promoting prostitution, drug-related crimes, and lewd & improper acts. Today's French Quarter

strip clubs are vastly different and more focused on sexually obscene material than Bourbon Street of the 1970's.

I'm not calling for the closure of a single existing strip club. I am just asking for some common-sense and reasonable rules for future strip clubs. If the French Quarter is our city's treasure, there is no reason why new strip clubs should be allowed to open next to or near existing strip clubs.

If most of us can agree that the French Quarter does not need any more strip clubs, the objective for the City Planning Commission should be to design rules that are clear-cut, enforceable, and constitutional.

There are three options for the City Planning Commission to limit new strip clubs in the French Quarter: a moratorium, the conditional use process, or a spacing requirement. While I would prefer an outright moratorium, moratoriums on strip clubs have been successfully challenged under the First Amendment and I don't think anyone wants to expose our city to significant legal liability. Although the conditional use process sounds good in theory, any conditions or denials imposed under a conditional use process are likely to be challenged as arbitrary or a denial of due process. In this legal area, a conditional use rule is likely to be toothless and powerless.

A spacing rule, which limits how close new strip clubs could open near existing ones, is the third option and in my opinion the best way to regulate strip clubs.

A spacing requirement is constitutional and legally ironclad. The U.S. Supreme Court approved New York City's spacing requirement for sex-oriented businesses and rejected a challenge to zoning regulations that prohibited sex-oriented businesses from opening within 500 feet of each other in 1998. A spacing requirement is objective, impartial, well-defined, and transparent.

New York City's clampdown on sexually-oriented businesses in the 1990's has been widely praised for launching the city's revival, making it a more decent place to live and to visit.

4. We have a once in a generation opportunity to reform the French Quarter and to rehabilitate the image of New Orleans.

New Orleans can still achieve Mayor Mitch Landrieu's goal of 13 million visitors to New Orleans annually in time for our city's 300th anniversary. But it is going to take more business, cultural, and family visitors. It is going to take a more balanced French Quarter. And it is going to take a better image for our city's main tourist asset and planning the right approach to regulating strip clubs in the French Quarter.

Putting some reasonable, long-overdue, and constitutionally acceptable restrictions on new strip clubs would be a major step in pulling the French Quarter and Bourbon Street out of the gutter.

William Khan

French Quarter resident, entrepreneur, and homeowner

Sabine E. Lebailleux

From: James Kelly <jkelly@covenanthouse.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2016 10:26 AM
To: Robert D. Rivers; Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: Fwd: Adult Live Entertainment Venues in the City of New Orleans

Bob and Sabine,

I wanted to share the following letter from the Bishop for the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana that he sent out today to all his pastors.

Please add to your on-line file.

Peace,

Jim

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **The Rev. Rob Courtney** <rcourtney@stpauls-lakeview.org>
Date: Wed, Apr 6, 2016 at 10:01 AM
Subject: Fwd: Adult Live Entertainment Venues in the City of New Orleans
To: "jkelly@covenanthouse.org" <jkelly@covenanthouse.org>

Sent out to all clergy today.

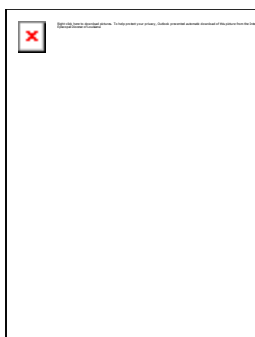
God's blessings,

rob+
[\(504\) 655-7756](tel:(504)655-7756)
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: The Bishop's Office <atownsend@edola.org>
Date: April 6, 2016 at 9:29:04 AM CDT
To: <rcourtney@stpauls-lakeview.org>
Subject: **Adult Live Entertainment Venues in the City of New Orleans**
Reply-To: <atownsend@edola.org>

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

A Message from the Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Jr.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Please read the following email from the Rev. Rob Courtney. Please consider signing this important petition.

Peace,



The Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Jr.
Bishop of Louisiana

Bishop,

This current push and petition is about cleaning up Bourbon Street. It's about enforcement of current laws, higher standards, and limits on future licensing for such clubs in the Quarter/city. The city planning commission is doing a study now with information to be considered in mid-April to early May by the council.

Please read the attached over. Also, here's a link to the online petition: <https://www.change.org/p/new-orleans-city-planning-commission-hearing-on-strip-club-regulations>.

For me, this is directly link to our baptismal promise to respect the dignity of every human being, which means particularly an at-risk, exploited population (especially youth) involved in the sex trade and human trafficking.

I hope you'll consider sharing it over email with the clergy. Thanks for considering! Let me know if you have questions.

God's blessings,
Rob+

The Rev. Rob Courtney
Rector
St. Paul's Episcopal Church & School
6249 Canal Boulevard
New Orleans, LA 70124
 [\(504\) 488-3749, ext. 122](tel:(504)488-3749) (o)
 [\(504\) 655-7756](tel:(504)655-7756) (c)
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rcourtney@stpauls-lakeview.org
www.facebook.com/rob.courtney
@FatherRobC

The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana | 1623 Seventh St, New Orleans, LA 70115
 [\(504\) 895-6634](tel:(504)895-6634) | news@edola.org | www.edola.org



Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, 1623 Seventh St, New Orleans, LA 70115

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rcourtney@stpauls-lakeview.org](#)

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Sent by atownsend@edola.org in collaboration with



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--

James R. Kelly

Executive Director

Covenant House

611 N. Rampart Street

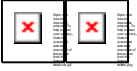
Office: [\(504\) 584 1102](tel:(504)584-1102) Cell: [\(504\) 975 0650](tel:(504)975-0650)



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Sabine E. Lebailleux

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2016 1:04 PM
To: DistrictC; Kara Y. Johnson; Jason R. Williams; LaToya Cantrell; Stacy S. Head; nramsey@nola.gov; Vanessa A. Spinazola; Aaron A. Clark-Rizzio; CouncilDistrictD; Erin C. Spears; George A. Guidry; Jonathan T. Harris; Mitchell J. Landrieu; Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu; Ryan F. Berni; Andrew D. Kopplin; CPCinfo; Cameron D. Bonnett; Robert D. Rivers; Leslie T. Alley; James A. Gray; Susan G. Guidry; Jared C. Brossett; Jason R. Williams; rberni@nola.gov; Sabine E. Lebailleux; KimCarver@gulfbank.com; brylskico; Chad Pellerin; James Kelly; kreweoftruth@kreweoftruth.net; leehardy10@yahoo.com; Justice And Beyond; Pat46; Tour@tourneworleans.com; info@edenhousenola.org; lmurphy@loyno.edu; modernslavery@loyno.edu; bfjobs@aol.com; damos@neworleansdreamcenter.org; cori.volunteer@yahoo.com; bethahinman@msn.com; Fred Brister; swhenry@nofjc.org; jtaylor@nofjc.org; sbrownwilkins@yahoo.com; bthibodeaux@nofjc.org; Naomi DUgar; New Orleans SART; info@lacaht.org; jbruce@casaneworleans.org; khenry@casaneworleans.org; tfranklin@casaneworleans.org; jsumter@casaneworleans.org; jmccoy@casaneworleans.org; blopez@casaneworleans.org; bdill@casaneworleans.org; methery@casaneworleans.org; msartisky@leh.org; ssimon7@tulane.edu; Tom Bilderback; cathedral@arch-no.org; anita@frenchquarterumc.org; staugustinenola@bellsouth.net; Denise Brister; Dennis Watson; blsoltis@cox.net; deborahc@celebrationchurch.org; olivierhousehotel@yahoo.com; John S Hunter; lmbcsgordon@bellsouth.net; shfranklin@bellsouth.net; MTZIONRAY@aol.com; Christianch@bellsouth.net; jessebilberry@mtpilgrim.org; Oil_71211@yahoo.com; hildaguillory@man.com; lastatebaptistypd@gmail.com; chunte3@bellsouth.net; barrypayton@aol.com; mmicle@mountcanaan.com; rbradley13@cox.net; melvinz@cox.net; pastor@mt.zionfirstbaptist.com; Milton Ceasar; Fernanza Browngilmore; Calvin W; David Crosby; fluter@franklinabc.com; wlloyd@franklinabc.com; gmack@franklinabc.com; jthomas@franklinabc.com; syoung@franklinabc.com; ljohnson@franklinabc.com; cccdean@aol.com; stevenroberts@cccnola.org; William Gayle; Travers Koerner; deacon@cccnola.org; jarrettfollette@cccnola.org; btierney@cccnola.org; lisawilkie@cccnola.org; carolbutcher@cccnola.org; Suzette Follette; Stephanie Martin; lcumc@bellsouth.net; a.barriere@householdoffaithchurch.com; craig trentecosta; jbonner@hnoc.org; dlewart@hotmail.com; Fcfontenot@aol.com; jporetto@hotmail.com; phorjus@yahoo.com; Lisa Caire; mmferry@cox.net; cperry@aol.com; Joy Mary; mfcrouch@bellsouth.net; lehuck@bellsouth.net; minman1@cbcworldwide.com; Lauren LaBorde; Tigermen Den; Mark Gonzalez; Amy Connolly; Patrick Knudsen; jolene@neworleansfilmsociety.org; ecizek@cox.net; Ronald Specht; Rosemary James
Subject: Loopholes and false arguments in strip club reform
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council:

After hearing different perspectives of communities impacted by French Quarter strip clubs, a general consensus is emerging: new strip clubs should be prohibited from opening in the French Quarter.

The challenge is to formulate an enforceable law and zoning rule that could not be evaded by loopholes. The city planning commission and city council should also be wary of false arguments raised by the strip club lobby.

Here is one loophole that could be abused to evade a prohibition against new strip clubs.

Strip clubs generate their profits substantially from alcohol, liquor, and beer sales.

A strip club proprietor, seeking to open a new strip club, could try to evade the strip club prohibition or conditional use process by applying for a bar occupational license. On paper, a strip club's occupational license would be a "bar," but it could be operated as a strip club. It might be easy to evade the Department of Safety & Permits for this zoning violation because Safety & Permits primarily operates during daytime and normal business hours.

If the city planning commission and city council decide to institute a permanent moratorium on strip clubs in the French Quarter, they should also consider a moratorium or conditional use process for new bars on Bourbon Street. Otherwise, all of the city planning commission's and city council's hard work on strip club reform could be undercut by strip club proprietors who apply for bar occupational licenses but intend to operate strip clubs.

One false argument raised by the strip club lobby is that a minimum size requirement or minimum square footage requirement for strip clubs would discourage prostitution, drug dealing, human trafficking, and lewd & improper conduct (these activities were all documented at Bourbon Street strip clubs).

John Kirkendoll of Penthouse Club has said that his establishment has "a 15,000 square-foot, four-story club, huge dressing room, 200 lockers, a lot of support for the entertainers and the staff."

<http://www.wdsu.com/news/local-news/new-orleans/new-orleans-considers-limits-regulations-on-french-quarter-strip-clubs/38412554>

Allowing mega strip clubs in the French Quarter would be catastrophic and would be more likely to encourage prostitution, drug dealing, human trafficking, and lewd & improper conduct.

First, strip clubs are already poorly monitored by regulators, police, and alcohol beverage control officers; larger strip clubs would allow for additional rooms, spaces, and hiding spots where illegal activities could take place without detection.

Second, because larger strip clubs would offer more lapdance areas and champagne rooms (the profit centers for adult entertainment), they would create bigger and more unregulated breeding grounds for risky behavior and outright criminality.

Third, the strip clubs in the French Quarter already create a poor image of the neighborhood and the city. New Orleans does not need mega strip clubs to further despoil our city's image; can you imagine the national and international headlines that would mar New Orleans' reputation if greater criminal activity were encouraged at mega strip clubs?

Fourth, if strip clubs negatively impact neighboring businesses, communities, and residents, allowing mega strip clubs would intensify these effects.

Respectfully submitted,

William Khan

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 3:38 PM
To: CPCinfo; Cameron D. Bonnett
Subject: Moratorium on new strip clubs in French Quarter advocated on Louisiana Voice

<http://louisianavoice.com/2016/02/13/guest-columnist-calls-for-moratorium-on-new-strip-clubs-in-new-orleans-french-quarter-following-louisiana-voice-story/>

Guest columnist calls for moratorium on new strip clubs in New Orleans French Quarter following Louisiana Voice story

Recently, LouisianaVoice ran a story concerning reported pressure on New Orleans strip clubs to make contributions to political candidates. Following the meeting with club owners and their subsequent contributions, a number of strip clubs were hit with surprise inspections by agents from the Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control. Several clubs lost liquor permits for violations including sales to minors, drugs and prostitution. None of the clubs who made political contributions were visited in the French Quarter sweep by ATC agents.

That story, however, did prompt the following contribution by guest columnist William Kahn. Kahn is a resident of the French Quarter a voter and entrepreneur.

By William Khan

New Orleans should limit new strip clubs in the French Quarter

On Tuesday, February 23rd, 2016, the New Orleans City Planning Commission (CPC) is going to hold a public hearing on strip clubs in the French Quarter. Pending the CPC study and proposed reforms, the New Orleans City Council enacted a one-year temporary moratorium on strip clubs after Louisiana State Police and state authorities documented illegal drug sales, prostitution, and lewd conduct at several strip clubs and a stripper who worked at one of the Bourbon Street venues was brutally murdered by her pimp [1],[9],[10].

After the one-year moratorium on new strip clubs expires, what's next for the French Quarter and the image of New Orleans? The French Quarter already has the nation's highest concentration of strip clubs on a per capita basis and per square mile. According to an urban research study, Portland, OR is the city with the highest number of strip clubs per capita in the country with nearly 9 strip clubs per 100,000 people. With approximately 4,000 residents, roughly 20 strip clubs, and an area of only 0.66 square miles, the French Quarter has 56 times more strip clubs per capita than Portland (which is 220x larger in land area). The concentration of strip clubs in the Vieux Carre on a per capita basis sadly rises whenever a resident of the French Quarter permanently leaves because he or she cannot raise a family and enjoy a normal life in an increasingly unbalanced neighborhood [2].

Should new strip clubs or adult entertainment venues be allowed to proliferate in the Vieux Carre after the moratorium ends? In contrast, new hotels, T-shirt shops, and food carts (other than Lucky Dog) are prohibited from ever opening in the French Quarter. Why has city hall ignored or tolerated the harmful impacts of strip clubs in New Orleans' oldest neighborhood for decades?

In 1977, Mayor Moon Landrieu established the Bourbon Street Task Force with a blue-ribbon panel to study the strip and suggest improvements. The panel visited the adult-entertainment districts of Boston's "Combat Zone,"

New York City's Times Square, and Atlanta's red-light areas. Modeled on other cities but tailored to New Orleans' unique flavor, the Vieux Carre Entertainment District (otherwise known as Bourbon Street from Iberville to St. Ann) was created shortly thereafter. At the time, Bourbon Street's adult-entertainment venues were not dominated by the out-of-town owned and corporate chains of strip clubs that currently line the strip. [3]

From its outset, the Vieux Carre Entertainment District offered vaudeville, burlesque shows, and theatrical glamour. The 1977 Bourbon Street Task Force's permissive rules, which were intended to encourage the street's creativity and individuality, have been abused, leading to the present-day marketing of lap dances and private champagne rooms. Since 1977, the cities that the task force considered as benchmarks for New Orleans have reformed their respective adult-entertainment districts. Boston's Combat Zone was transformed by civic activists into a family-friendly and mixed-use district. [4] New York City's clampdown on sexually-oriented businesses in the 1990's has been widely praised for launching the city's revival, making it a more decent place to live and to visit. Atlanta's strip clubs today are not allowed to sell alcohol. [5]

New Orleans should update and modernize its 40-year old regulations for strip clubs in the French Quarter. The negative effects of strip clubs on quality of life are clear. In 2012, City Councilmember Kristin Palmer specifically pointed to the number of strip clubs in the French Quarter as a justification for tightening the curfew for minors in our city's oldest neighborhood. On the 300 and 400 blocks of Bourbon Street, there are at least seven strip clubs flanking the Royal Sonesta Hotel, and reportedly at least one convention rejected New Orleans as a destination because strippers were visible from the sidewalk. [6],[7]

Mayor Mitch Landrieu has set a goal of attracting 13 million visitors annually to New Orleans by 2018. How can New Orleans achieve such a goal without promoting a cleaner and more balanced brand that appeals to more families, children, and ordinary people? It's time for some common-sense restrictions on how close new strip clubs could open near existing ones in the French Quarter. [8]

The need for a buffer from strip clubs is not a foreign concept under current New Orleans zoning rules. Outside of the French Quarter, the New Orleans Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance prohibits strip clubs and nude cabarets from opening within 1,000 feet of residences, churches, schools, and parks. The exposé of prostitution, drug-related crimes, and lewd/improper acts at French Quarter strip clubs led to a temporary moratorium, but city hall should strive for more substantial reforms. To revamp the worsening environment of the French Quarter and to bolster the neighborhood's livability, the city should permanently limit how close future strip clubs can open near current ones.

If you want to help in cleaning up New Orleans and do not want to see any more strip clubs opening in the French Quarter that ruin the image of the city, you can submit **written comments to the Planning Commission by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, February 15**, (use cpcinfo@nola.gov and CC cdbonnett@nola.gov) and you can also **attend the public meeting that will be held on Tuesday, February 23rd at 1:30 p.m. in City Council chambers.**

William Khan

French Quarter resident

Sources:

[1] Moratorium on new strip clubs approved for French Quarter

http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2016/01/moratorium_on_new_strip_clubs.html

[2] “Why Does Portland Have so Many Strip Clubs?” <http://priceconomics.com/why-does-portland-have-so-many-strip-clubs/>

[3] History and analysis of the 1977 Bourbon Street Task Force:

Richard Campanella, *Bourbon Street: A History* (2014), pp. 222-224, 238-239.

[4] The cleanup of Boston’s Clean Zone (one of the cities used by the 1977 Bourbon Street Task Force in creating the Vieux Carre Entertainment District–Bourbon Street): <http://www.bizjournals.com/boston/print-edition/2013/03/08/new-projects-wipe-away-more-vestiges.html>

[5] Atlanta’s ban on liquor in strip clubs: <http://www.atlnightspots.com/alcohol-banned-in-fulton-county-strip-clubs/>

[6] City Councilmember Kristin Palmer NOLA.com Op-Ed which referred to the number of strip clubs in the neighborhood as a justification for a harsher curfew for minors: http://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2012/01/modified_new_orleans_curfew_ne.html

[7] Strip clubs repelled at least one convention from selecting NOLA: http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/09/bourbon_street_strip_clubs_cou.html

[8] Mayor Mitch Landrieu’s goal of 13 million visitors by 2018: http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2012/05/mayor_mitch_landrieu_calls_on.html

[9] Prostitution, drug crimes, and lewd/improper conduct at strip clubs: http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2015/11/4_more_bourbon_street_clubs_bu.html

[10] History of violations at Bourbon Street strip clubs: http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2015/11/in_bourbon_street_strip_clubs.html

Sabine E. Lebailleux

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 9:15 AM
To: DistrictC; Kara Y. Johnson; Jason R. Williams; LaToya Cantrell; Stacy S. Head; nramsey@nola.gov; Vanessa A. Spinazola; Aaron A. Clark-Rizzio; CouncilDistrictD; Erin C. Spears; George A. Guidry; Jonathan T. Harris; Mitchell J. Landrieu; Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu; Ryan F. Berni; Andrew D. Kopplin; CPCinfo; Cameron D. Bonnett; Robert D. Rivers; Leslie T. Alley; James A. Gray; Susan G. Guidry; Jared C. Brossett; Jason R. Williams; rberni@nola.gov; Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: NOLA.com Article: For city's 300th anniversary, Bourbon Street needs limits

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Letter to the editor: For city's 300th anniversary, Bourbon Street needs limits

http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2016/03/bourbon_street_strip_clubs.html

When other cities decide to clean up their adult entertainment districts, proponents of the status quo typically defend their red-light districts by saying "it's not as bad as Bourbon Street." The main symbol and centerpiece of Bourbon Street's debased and debauched image are strip clubs--not restaurants, not bars, and not even t-shirt shops.

Recently, a broad and diverse coalition of social service groups, faith-based organizations, and residents urged the City Planning Commission to limit the number of strip clubs in the French Quarter. What is astounding is not how many parishioners, churches, and communities were represented at the meeting. What is remarkable is the coalition's general consensus that stressed how strippers are subjected to an inherently hazardous work environment and how strip clubs degrade the reputation of Bourbon Street, the French Quarter, and New Orleans.

I also found it ironic that Bourbon Street's strip club owners urged the City Planning Commission to include them in the process, but then the strip club owners departed the hearing early as the Commission's process began and communities impacted by strip clubs voiced their concerns.

Rather than face the human toll of how strip clubs negatively impact the community, representatives from Bourbon Street's strip clubs left the hearing after raising irrelevant issues like t-shirt shops. Maybe the next target for strip club owners will be bars, which are more numerous than t-shirt shops and compete with strip clubs for alcohol sales. The spokespeople for strip clubs failed to mention that today's Bourbon Street strip clubs, dominated by national and corporate chains, have nothing to do with the district's elegant tradition of theatrical entertainment, vaudeville, and burlesque.

Today, the first and most prominent billboards that greet visitors to New Orleans on their way downtown from the airport advertise Rick's Cabaret, the Barely Legal club, and other Bourbon Street strip clubs. Our city should present a better image of itself and its main attractions if New Orleans aspires to be a world-class city and a world-class destination. In visitor surveys, New Orleans currently scores poorly on measures like cleanliness, family-friendliness, and personal safety.

To attract 13 million visitors annually to New Orleans for its 300th anniversary, our city will need more family,

children, business, international, and cultural visitors. A major step toward this ambitious goal is to enact a permanent moratorium prohibiting new strip clubs from opening in the Vieux Carre.

William Khan

CPCinfo

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 12:17 PM
To: CPCinfo; Cameron D. Bonnett; Robert D. Rivers; Leslie T. Alley; Andrew D. Kopplin; rberni@nola.gov; Mitchell J. Landrieu; Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu; Dubravka Gilic; Paul Cramer; nkindel@nola.gov; Kenneth Butler; bdesrocher@nola.gov; Imassey@nola.gov
Cc: James Kelly; James A. Gray; Stacy S. Head; Susan G. Guidry; nramsey@nola.gov; LaToya Cantrell; Jared C. Brossett; Jason R. Williams; Jason R. Williams; Vanessa A. Spinazola; DistrictC; Robert Hjortsberg; Cassandra Sharpe; Rosemary James; Patty Gay; janethoward@bgr.org; jparker@bgr.org; jschwartz@bgr.org; mkeating@bgr.org; Molly Davis; aglovinsky@bgr.org; aglovinsky@yahoo.com; ccarmon@noma.org; jeffsadowtheadvocate@yahoo.com; bluckett@cox.net; rsteeg@steeglaw.com; kbrownj@aol.com; cbmitchell@mitchellapl.com; pamelaa@octaviaartgallery.com; rduplessis@lasc.org; nmco1948@nmco.onmicrosoft.com; kwedberg@nocca.com; Robert Simms; mark@markgonzalezno.com; mark@nola-law.com; M. BButler; ninaneivens@yahoo.com; Randi Kaufman; gshotwell@cox.net; marc.florman@gmail.com; madraisinface@yahoo.com; jim_eaton@me.com; brad benischek; swieland@live.com; anne gisleson; Michele White; Rhonda Findley; butcher@tulane.edu; Matthew Thompson; msjones2@my.uno.edu; mwawrzycki@rapllclaw.com; Arthur Cortner; yo4567@cox.net; Tyler Harwood; Blakervh@aol.com; arts 4work; rogermartintp@yahoo.com; dl319dec@cox.net; taco king
Subject: Public Comments for CPC February 23rd Hearing on Strip Clubs

Dear City Planning Commission:

I am a French Quarter full-time resident, a homeowner in the French Quarter, an owner of businesses neighboring strip clubs, and a young professional with graduate degrees in business and law. I feel and experience the negative effects of strip clubs on quality of life everyday. More importantly, the saturation of strip clubs in the French Quarter is starting to harm New Orleans tourism growth, and the city scores poorly from visitor surveys on measures like cleanliness, family-friendliness, and personal safety.

Unfortunately, due to a scheduling conflict, I will not be able to attend the CPC's February 23rd hearing at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow on regulating strip clubs in the city.

In lieu of providing verbal comments, I am submitting written comments to be considered as my testimony and personal statement at the public hearing.

Public Comments from William Khan (French Quarter resident, business owner, and Bourbon Street merchant):

I am a young professional, a homeowner, a full-time resident of the French Quarter, and I'd like to raise a family in my neighborhood. I'm not typically involved in city planning matters, but I feel compelled to share my perspective as a young professional based in the French Quarter with businesses that neighbor strip clubs. I'm not against strip clubs in general, but I think that the French Quarter has enough of them and the objective for the City Planning Commission should be to limit the opening of new strip clubs.

1. Limiting new strip clubs from saturating the French Quarter should have been one of the city's main priorities.

I would like to start off by putting the city's permissive attitude toward French Quarter strip clubs in context. After the one-year moratorium on strip clubs expires, new strip clubs would be allowed to open in the French Quarter. In contrast, new hotels, T-shirt shops and food carts (other than Lucky Dog) are prohibited from ever opening in the French Quarter. Can someone tell me why new strip clubs are allowed to open in the French Quarter but new hotels and food trucks aren't? Where is city hall's sense of priorities?

As a resident of the French Quarter and a neighboring business owner, I feel and see the negative effects of strip clubs on quality of life everyday. When strip clubs are allowed to open within feet of each other or even door-to-door (as current law permitted prior to the moratorium), the concentration of strip clubs has a blighting effect on residents, visitors, businesses, and the general environment.

And you don't have to take my word for it.

If the French Quarter were its own city, it would have the nation's highest concentration of strip clubs on a per capita basis and per square mile, more than Portland, Oregon (the city with the nation's highest number of strip clubs per capita). The French Quarter has 56 times more strip clubs per capita than Portland (which is 220 times larger in area).

In 2012, City Councilmember Kristin Palmer specifically pointed to the number of strip clubs in the French Quarter as a justification for tightening the curfew for minors in our city's oldest neighborhood.

This is what Councilmember Palmer representing the French Quarter said in 2012 and I quote: "No other neighborhood in the city, state or nation sized at .66 square miles, just 12 blocks wide, contains more than 350 alcohol beverage outlets, and includes adult entertainment establishments and numerous strip clubs."

http://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2012/01/modified_new_orleans_curfew_ne.html

On the 300 and 400 blocks of Bourbon Street, there are at least seven strip clubs facing or near the Royal Sonesta Hotel, and reportedly at least one convention rejected New Orleans as a destination because strippers were visible from the sidewalk.

2. Tourism growth in New Orleans is slowing alarmingly, and the city scores poorly with visitors on family-friendliness, cleanliness, and public safety.

If you don't think that the overabundance of strip clubs in the French Quarter has a negative effect on New Orleans tourism, look at troubling statistics in New Orleans' tourism numbers. In 2014 (the latest year for which tourism statistics are available), New Orleans only saw a 2.6% increase in the number of tourists visiting the city. The 2014 numbers show slower growth from 2013, when New Orleans had an increase of 3 percent from the prior year. The growth rate of New Orleans tourism is slowing, and I would argue it is slowing because of city's low scores on cleanliness, family-friendliness, and safety.

Currently, the first and most prominent billboards that greet visitors to New Orleans on their way downtown from the airport advertise Rick's Cabaret, Larry Flynt's Barely Legal club, and other Bourbon Street strip clubs. Our city needs to present a better image of itself and its main attractions if New Orleans aspires to be a world-class city and a world-class destination.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu has set a goal of 13 million visitors to New Orleans annually by the time of our city's 300th anniversary in 2018. New Orleans is not going to hit this goal of 13 million visitors without cleaning up our city's image and attracting more business, cultural, and family visitors.

Why am I so concerned with this issue? Because this strip club study by the City Planning Commission is the first city action in addressing the effects of French Quarter strip clubs in nearly 40 years.

3. Bourbon Street's present day strip clubs—dominated by corporate chains and national companies—have nothing to do with Bourbon Street's heritage of vaudeville, burlesque, and theatrical flair.

Some people might say that the French Quarter is working or that Bourbon Street has always had strip clubs. Well, the French Quarter is not working; the French Quarter is losing residents and families everyday, and the downward spiral of the French Quarter is slowing the growth of tourism in New Orleans. As to the argument that Bourbon Street has always had strip joints, today's Bourbon Street is very different and a lot dirtier than the Bourbon Street of yesteryear.

The strip clubs today have nothing to do with the heritage of Bourbon Street. Many of today's French Quarter strip clubs are branches of national and corporate chains with out of town owners. In the 1970's, Bourbon Street's adult live performance venues focused on interesting and colorful specialties such as twirling champagne glasses or burlesque. Forty years ago, a Times-Picayune editor described Bourbon Street's venues as glamorous, magical places with theatrical flair. I don't think anyone could describe Bourbon Street in such glowing terms today.

Bourbon Street's present-day strip clubs are overly focused on lapdances and private champagne rooms. Some of them make obscene profits in obscene ways. Last October some of the newer strip clubs were cited by state authorities for promoting prostitution, drug-related crimes, and lewd & improper acts. Today's French Quarter

strip clubs are vastly different and more focused on sexually obscene material than Bourbon Street of the 1970's.

I'm not calling for the closure of a single existing strip club. I am just asking for some common-sense and reasonable rules for future strip clubs. If the French Quarter is our city's treasure, there is no reason why new strip clubs should be allowed to open next to or near existing strip clubs.

If most of us can agree that the French Quarter does not need any more strip clubs, the objective for the City Planning Commission should be to design rules that are clear-cut, enforceable, and constitutional.

There are three options for the City Planning Commission to limit new strip clubs in the French Quarter: a moratorium, the conditional use process, or a spacing requirement. While I would prefer an outright moratorium, moratoriums on strip clubs have been successfully challenged under the First Amendment and I don't think anyone wants to expose our city to significant legal liability. Although the conditional use process sounds good in theory, any conditions or denials imposed under a conditional use process are likely to be challenged as arbitrary or a denial of due process. In this legal area, a conditional use rule is likely to be toothless and powerless.

A spacing rule, which limits how close new strip clubs could open near existing ones, is the third option and in my opinion the best way to regulate strip clubs.

A spacing requirement is constitutional and legally ironclad. The U.S. Supreme Court approved New York City's spacing requirement for sex-oriented businesses and rejected a challenge to zoning regulations that prohibited sex-oriented businesses from opening within 500 feet of each other in 1998. A spacing requirement is objective, impartial, well-defined, and transparent.

New York City's clampdown on sexually-oriented businesses in the 1990's has been widely praised for launching the city's revival, making it a more decent place to live and to visit.

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New Orleans can still achieve Mayor Mitch Landrieu's goal of 13 million visitors to New Orleans annually in time for our city's 300th anniversary. But it is going to take more business, cultural, and family visitors. It is going to take a more balanced French Quarter. And it is going to take a better image for our city's main tourist asset and planning the right approach to regulating strip clubs in the French Quarter.

Putting some reasonable, long-overdue, and constitutionally acceptable restrictions on new strip clubs would be a major step in pulling the French Quarter and Bourbon Street out of the gutter.

William Khan

French Quarter resident, entrepreneur, and homeowner

CPCinfo

From: Cassandra Sharpe <sharperealestate@me.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 1:20 PM
To: William Khan
Cc: CPCinfo; Cameron D. Bonnett; Robert D. Rivers; Leslie T. Alley; Andrew D. Kopplin; rberni@nola.gov; Mitchell J. Landrieu; Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu; Dubravka Gilic; Paul Cramer; nkindel@nola.gov; Kenneth Butler; bdesrocher@nola.gov; Imassey@nola.gov; James Kelly; James A. Gray; Stacy S. Head; Susan G. Guidry; Nadine Ramsey; LaToya Cantrell; Jared C. Brossett; Jason R. Williams; Jason R. Williams; Vanessa A. Spinazola; DistrictC; Robert Hjortsberg; Rosemary James; Patty Gay; janethoward@bgr.org; jparker@bgr.org; jschwartz@bgr.org; mkeating@bgr.org; Molly Davis; aglovinsky@bgr.org; aglovinsky@yahoo.com; ccarmon@noma.org; jeffsadowtheadvocate@yahoo.com; bluckett@cox.net; rsteeg@steeglaw.com; Kelly Brown; cbmitchell@mitchellapl.com; pamela@octaviaartgallery.com; rduplessis@lasc.org; nmco1948@nmco.onmicrosoft.com; kwedberg@nocca.com; Robert Simms; mark@markgonzalezno.com; mark@nola-law.com; M. BButler; ninaneivens@yahoo.com; Randi Kaufman; gshotwell@cox.net; marc.florman@gmail.com; madraisinface@yahoo.com; jim_eaton@me.com; brad benischek; swieland@live.com; anne gisleson; Michele White; Rhonda Findley; butcher@tulane.edu; Matthew Thompson; msjones2@my.uno.edu; mwawrzycki@rapllclaw.com; Arthur Cortner; yo4567@cox.net; Tyler Harwood; Blakervh@aol.com; arts 4work; rogermartinpt@yahoo.com; dl319dec@cox.net; taco king; Sal Pusateri; Ann & Jack Stewart Woodruff; Dan Macnamara
Subject: Re: Public Comments for CPC February 23rd Hearing on Strip Clubs

Dear Planning Commission

I am a property owner for twenty two years on Julia Street. I also lived in the French Quarter for twenty years. I would have been there longer if crime had not spiked and Bourbon Street would have had a net thrown over it. I agree with Mr. Kahn one hundred percent.

I can see the ill effects of strip clubs and drinking. It gets to the point that vendors don't want to do anything unless they can offer someone a drink, even if they sell cupcakes. We are constantly fighting the liquor adult business in our downtown. We want our downtown to be full of neighborhoods not joints.

We have to put the brakes on and Mr. Kahn describes doing that beautifully. So I advise that you take his lead.

Best
Cassandra Sharpe
610 Julia
NOLA 70130
460-7829

On Feb 22, 2016, at 12:16 PM, William Khan wrote:

Dear City Planning Commission:

I am a French Quarter full-time resident, a homeowner in the French Quarter, an owner of businesses neighboring strip clubs, and a young professional with graduate degrees in business and law. I feel and experience the negative effects of strip clubs on quality of life everyday. More importantly, the saturation of strip clubs in the French Quarter is starting to harm New Orleans tourism growth, and the city scores poorly from visitor surveys on measures like cleanliness, family-friendliness, and personal safety.

Unfortunately, due to a scheduling conflict, I will not be able to attend the CPC's February 23rd hearing at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow on regulating strip clubs in the city.

In lieu of providing verbal comments, I am submitting written comments to be considered as my testimony and personal statement at the public hearing.

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William Khan

French Quarter resident, entrepreneur, and homeowner

Sabine E. Lebailleux

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>
Sent: Saturday, April 02, 2016 1:27 PM
To: Chad Pellerin
Cc: Jason R. Williams; LaToya Cantrell; Stacy S. Head; Vanessa A. Spinazola; Aaron A. Clark-Rizzio; CouncilDistrictD; Erin C. Spears; George A. Guidry; Jonathan T. Harris; Mitchell J. Landrieu; Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu; Ryan F. Berni; Andrew D. Kopplin; CPCinfo; Cameron D. Bonnett; Robert D. Rivers; Leslie T. Alley; James A. Gray; Susan G. Guidry; Jared C. Brossett; Jason R. Williams; rberni@nola.gov; Sabine E. Lebailleux; KimCarver@gulfbank.com; James Kelly; leehardy10@yahoo.com; Justice And Beyond; Pat46; Tour@tourneworleans.com; info@edenhousenola.org; lmurphy@loyno.edu; modernslavery@loyno.edu; bfjobs@aol.com; damos@neworleansdreamcenter.org; cori.volunteer@yahoo.com; bethahinman@msn.com; Fred Brister; swhenry@nofjc.org; jtaylor@nofjc.org; sbrownwilkins@yahoo.com; bthibodeaux@nofjc.org; Naomi DUGar; New Orleans SART; info@lacaht.org; jbruce@casaneworleans.org; khenry@casaneworleans.org; tfranklin@casaneworleans.org; jsumter@casaneworleans.org; jmccoy@casaneworleans.org; blopez@casaneworleans.org; bdill@casaneworleans.org; methers@casaneworleans.org; msartisky@leh.org; ssimon7@tulane.edu; Tom Bilderback; cathedral@arch-no.org; anita@frenchquarterumc.org; staugustinenola@bellsouth.net; Denise Brister; Dennis Watson; bsoltis@cox.net; deborahc@celebrationchurch.org; olivierhousehotel@yahoo.com; John S Hunter; lmbescgordon@bellsouth.net; shfranklin@bellsouth.net; MTZIONRAY@aol.com; Christianch@bellsouth.net; jessebilberry@mtpilgrim.org; Oil_71211@yahoo.com; hildaguillory@man.com; lastatebaptistypd@gmail.com; chunte3@bellsouth.net; barrypayton@aol.com; mmicle@mountcanaan.com; rbradley13@cox.net; melvinz@cox.net; pastor@mt.zionfirstbaptist.com; Milton Ceasar; Fernanza Browngilmore; Calvin W; David Crosby; fluter@franklinabc.com; wlloyd@franklinabc.com; gmack@franklinabc.com; jthomas@franklinabc.com; syoung@franklinabc.com; ljohnson@franklinabc.com; cccdean@aol.com; stevenroberts@cccnola.org; William Gayle; Travers Koerner; deacon@cccnola.org; jarrettfollette@cccnola.org; btierney@cccnola.org; lisawilkie@cccnola.org; carolbutcher@cccnola.org; Suzette Follette; Stephanie Martin; lcumc@bellsouth.net; a.barriere@householdoffaithchurch.com; craig trentecosta; jbonner@hnoc.org; dlewart@hotmail.com; Fcfontenot@aol.com; jporetto@hotmail.com; phorjus@yahoo.com; Lisa Caire; mmferry@cox.net; cperry@bellsouth.net; Joy Mary; mfcrouch@bellsouth.net; lehuck@bellsouth.net; minman1@cbcworldwide.com; Lauren LaBorde; Tigermen Den; Mark Gonzalez; Amy Connolly; Patrick Knudsen; jolene@neworleansfilmsociety.org; ecizek@cox.net; Ronald Specht; Rosemary James; Carolyn Dunn Goodwin; Rhonda Findley; Rhonda Findley; Lisa Shedlock; Meg Lousteau; Susan Guillot; Carol Gniady; patatvcpora@gmail.com; info@vcpora.org OFFICE; meglousteau@vcpora.org; French Quarter Citizens, Inc.; Barry J. Cooper, Jr.; stuart smith; ssmith@sch-llc.com; Brian Furness; Nathan Chapman; jeff.morgan@cbp.dhs.gov; karen sepko; Bob Simms; Ted Young

Subject: Re: Loopholes and false arguments in strip club reform

Dear Chad:

It is so important that you and your neighbors share your perspective and personal experiences with the City Planning Commission (selebailleux@nola.gov, CPCinfo@nola.gov), CM Williams, CM Head, and CM Ramsey.

It is also important that you inform the City Planning Commission that a permanent moratorium on new strip clubs in the French Quarter is not enough because strip club operators could get around the moratorium by applying for bar licenses or other alcohol-related licenses.

Did you know that the proposed CZO (before it was amended by CM Ramsey) wanted to change the zoning category for bars on Bourbon Street from "P" (Permitted) to "C" (Conditional)?

CM Ramsey eventually proposed an amendment to the CZO to designate bars as a Permitted Use instead of Conditional Use, and the amendment passed.

But this shows that there was at least some motivation from either the CPC or the mayor's office to designate bars on Bourbon Street as a Conditional Use in the CZO, and we should consider pushing for this change if we want a comprehensive solution to the problem of strip clubs in the French Quarter.

William Khan

On Apr 2, 2016 8:45 AM, "Chad Pellerin" <chadpellerin69@gmail.com> wrote:

Thanks for putting this in perspective. The Vive New Orleans club at 735 Bourbon has no liquor license (as we are told by the state ABO office) but is permitted to offer set ups and alcohol is consumed

During shows from midnight to 4:30 am. The leader operates on an occupational license only. Here's another loophole that the city's safety and permits and law department permits the club to operate. As soon as the leasee obtains the liquor license, it will be transferred to a strip club operated by the national strip club, Vive. Our neighbor's are disturbed from Wednesday through Sunday nights by extreme noise and aDJ on a loudspeaker.

The police do nothing.

Chad Pellerin

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 1, 2016, at 1:03 PM, William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu> wrote:

Dear City Planning Commission and City Council:

After hearing different perspectives of communities impacted by French Quarter strip clubs, a general consensus is emerging: new strip clubs should be prohibited from opening in the French Quarter.

The challenge is to formulate an enforceable law and zoning rule that could not be evaded by loopholes. The city planning commission and city council should also be wary of false arguments raised by the strip club lobby.

Here is one loophole that could be abused to evade a prohibition against new strip clubs.

Strip clubs generate their profits substantially from alcohol, liquor, and beer sales.

A strip club proprietor, seeking to open a new strip club, could try to evade the strip club prohibition or conditional use process by applying for a bar occupational license. On paper, a strip club's occupational license would be a "bar," but it could be operated as a strip club. It might be easy to evade the Department of Safety & Permits for this zoning violation because Safety & Permits primarily operates during daytime and normal business hours.

If the city planning commission and city council decide to institute a permanent moratorium on strip clubs in the French Quarter, they should also consider a moratorium or conditional use

process for new bars on Bourbon Street. Otherwise, all of the city planning commission's and city council's hard work on strip club reform could be undercut by strip club proprietors who apply for bar occupational licenses but intend to operate strip clubs.

One false argument raised by the strip club lobby is that a minimum size requirement or minimum square footage requirement for strip clubs would discourage prostitution, drug dealing, human trafficking, and lewd & improper conduct (these activities were all documented at Bourbon Street strip clubs).

John Kirkendoll of Penthouse Club has said that his establishment has "a 15,000 square-foot, four-story club, huge dressing room, 200 lockers, a lot of support for the entertainers and the staff."

<http://www.wdsu.com/news/local-news/new-orleans/new-orleans-considers-limits-regulations-on-french-quarter-strip-clubs/38412554>

Allowing mega strip clubs in the French Quarter would be catastrophic and would be more likely to encourage prostitution, drug dealing, human trafficking, and lewd & improper conduct.

First, strip clubs are already poorly monitored by regulators, police, and alcohol beverage control officers; larger strip clubs would allow for additional rooms, spaces, and hiding spots where illegal activities could take place without detection.

Second, because larger strip clubs would offer more lapdance areas and champagne rooms (the profit centers for adult entertainment), they would create bigger and more unregulated breeding grounds for risky behavior and outright criminality.

Third, the strip clubs in the French Quarter already create a poor image of the neighborhood and the city. New Orleans does not need mega strip clubs to further despoil our city's image; can you imagine the national and international headlines that would mar New Orleans' reputation if greater criminal activity were encouraged at mega strip clubs?

Fourth, if strip clubs negatively impact neighboring businesses, communities, and residents, allowing mega strip clubs would intensify these effects.

Respectfully submitted,

William Khan

CPCinfo

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 10:54 AM
To: Leslie T. Alley; Dubravka Gilic; Paul Cramer; CPCinfo; Robert D. Rivers; nkindel@nola.gov; Kenneth Butler; bdesrocher@nola.gov; Imassey@nola.gov
Cc: James A. Gray; Stacy S. Head; Susan G. Guidry; nramsey@nola.gov; LaToya Cantrell; Jared C. Brossett; Jason R. Williams; Jason R. Williams; Jonathan T. Harris; Barbara L. Keller; Catrina M. Simmons; Lauren R. Hotard; Carla D. Gendusa; Aaron A. Clark-Rizzio; Katie D. Hunter-Lowrey; Connolly A. Reed; Clarence J. Williams III; Vanessa A. Spinazola; Tyler L. Gibson; Mary B. Cunningham; Leatrice Dupre; T. Gordon McLeod; Marilyn B. Wood; Julius Feltus; Bryon Cornelison; John D. Pourciau; Anna N. Nguyen; Kara Y. Johnson; Lena Stewart; Aylin A. Maklansky; Freddie King; Sandra G. Thomas; Miles L. Granderson; CouncilDistrictD; Tanya D. Nettles-Evans; Domonique C. Dickerson; Peter C. Waggonner; Erin C. Spears; Mary N. Fontenot-Smith; Maurice C. Baird; Maria M. Tio; Brandon M. Oliver
Subject: Sad Statistical Facts and History of French Quarter Strip Clubs

After the one-year moratorium on new strip clubs expires, what's next for the French Quarter and the image of New Orleans? The French Quarter already has the nation's highest concentration of strip clubs on a per capita basis and per square mile. According to an urban research study, Portland, OR has the highest number of strip clubs per capita in the country with nearly 9 strip clubs per 100,000 people. With approximately 4,000 residents, roughly 20 strip clubs, and an area of only 0.66 square miles, the French Quarter has 56 times more strip clubs per capita than Portland (which is 220x larger in land area). The concentration of strip clubs in the Vieux Carre on a per capita basis sadly rises whenever a resident of the French Quarter permanently leaves because he or she cannot raise a family and enjoy a normal life in an increasingly unbalanced neighborhood.

Should new strip clubs or adult entertainment venues be allowed to proliferate in the Vieux Carre after the moratorium ends? In contrast, new hotels, t-shirt shops, and food carts (other than Lucky Dog) are prohibited from ever opening in the French Quarter. Why has city hall ignored or tolerated the harmful impacts of strip clubs in New Orleans' oldest neighborhood for decades?

In 1977, Mayor Moon Landrieu established the Bourbon Street Task Force with a blue-ribbon panel to study the strip and suggest improvements. The panel visited the adult-entertainment districts of Boston's "Combat Zone," New York City's Times Square, and Atlanta's red-light areas. Modeled on other cities but tailored to New Orleans' unique flavor, the Vieux Carre Entertainment District (otherwise known as Bourbon Street from Iberville to St. Ann) was created shortly thereafter. At the time, Bourbon Street's adult-entertainment venues were not dominated by the out-of-town owned and corporate chains of strip clubs that currently line the strip.

From its outset, the Vieux Carre Entertainment District offered vaudeville, burlesque shows, and theatrical glamour. The 1977 Bourbon Street Task Force's permissive rules, which were intended to encourage the street's creativity and individuality, have been abused, leading to the present-day marketing of lap dances and private champagne rooms. Since 1977, the cities that the task force considered as benchmarks for New Orleans have reformed their respective adult-entertainment districts. Boston's Combat Zone was transformed by civic activists into a family-friendly and mixed-use district. New York City's clampdown on sexually-oriented businesses in the 1990's has been widely praised for launching the city's revival, making it a more decent place to live and to visit. Atlanta's strip clubs today are not allowed to sell alcohol.

New Orleans should update and modernize its 40-year old regulations for strip clubs in the French Quarter. The negative effects of strip clubs on quality of life are clear. In 2012, City Councilmember Kristin Palmer

specifically pointed to the number of strip clubs in the French Quarter as a justification for tightening the curfew for minors in our city's oldest neighborhood. On the 300 and 400 blocks of Bourbon Street, there are at least seven strip clubs flanking the Royal Sonesta Hotel, and reportedly at least one convention rejected New Orleans as a destination because strippers were visible from the sidewalk.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu has set a goal of attracting 13 million visitors annually to New Orleans by 2018. How can New Orleans achieve such a goal without promoting a cleaner and more balanced brand that appeals to more families, children, and ordinary people? It's time for some common-sense restrictions on how close new strip clubs could open near existing ones in the French Quarter.

The need for a buffer from strip clubs is not a foreign concept under current New Orleans zoning rules. Outside of the French Quarter, the New Orleans Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance prohibits strip clubs and nude cabarets from opening within 1,000 feet of residences, churches, schools, and parks. The exposé of prostitution, drug-related crimes, and lewd/improper acts at French Quarter strip clubs led to a temporary moratorium, but city hall should strive for more substantial reforms. To revamp the worsening environment of the French Quarter and to bolster the neighborhood's livability, the city should permanently limit how close future strip clubs can open near current ones.

William Khan
French Quarter resident and voter

From: William Khan (Resident, Voter, and Business Owner in the French Quarter with three family-friendly establishments on Bourbon Street that neighbor or are located near strip clubs)

To: The New Orleans City Council and the City Planning Commission

RE: Statistical Facts and History of Strip Clubs in the French Quarter

February 11, 2016

On Tuesday, February 23rd, 2016, the New Orleans City Planning Commission (CPC) is going to hold a public hearing on strip clubs in the French Quarter. Pending the CPC study and proposed reforms, the New Orleans City Council enacted a one-year temporary moratorium on strip clubs after Louisiana State Police and state authorities documented illegal drug sales, prostitution, and lewd conduct at several strip clubs and a stripper working at one of the Bourbon Street venues was brutally murdered by her pimp.

After the one-year moratorium on new strip clubs expires, what's next for the French Quarter and the image of New Orleans? The French Quarter already has the nation's highest concentration of strip clubs on a per capita basis and per square mile. According to an urban research study, Portland, OR is the city with the highest number of strip clubs per capita in the country with nearly 9 strip clubs per 100,000 people. With approximately 4,000 residents, roughly 20 strip clubs, and an area of only 0.66 square miles, the French Quarter has 56 times more strip clubs per capita than Portland (which is 220x larger in land area). The concentration of strip clubs in the Vieux Carre on a per capita basis sadly rises whenever a resident of the French Quarter permanently leaves because he or she cannot raise a family and enjoy a normal life in an increasingly unbalanced neighborhood.

Should new strip clubs or adult entertainment venues be allowed to proliferate in the Vieux Carre after the moratorium ends? In contrast, new hotels, t-shirt shops, and food carts (other than Lucky Dog) are prohibited from ever opening in the French Quarter. Why has city hall ignored or tolerated the harmful impacts of strip clubs in New Orleans' oldest neighborhood for decades?

In 1977, Mayor Moon Landrieu established the Bourbon Street Task Force with a blue-ribbon panel to study the strip and suggest improvements. The panel visited the adult-entertainment districts of Boston's "Combat Zone," New York City's Times Square, and Atlanta's red-light areas. Modeled on other cities but tailored to

New Orleans' unique flavor, the Vieux Carre Entertainment District (otherwise known as Bourbon Street from Iberville to St. Ann) was created shortly thereafter. At the time, Bourbon Street's adult-entertainment venues were not dominated by the out-of-town owned and corporate chains of strip clubs that currently line the strip.

From its outset, the Vieux Carre Entertainment District offered vaudeville, burlesque shows, and theatrical glamour. The 1977 Bourbon Street Task Force's permissive rules, which were intended to encourage the street's creativity and individuality, have been abused, leading to the present-day marketing of lap dances and private champagne rooms. Since 1977, the cities that the task force considered as benchmarks for New Orleans have reformed their respective adult-entertainment districts. Boston's Combat Zone was transformed by civic activists into a family-friendly and mixed-use district. New York City's clampdown on sexually-oriented businesses in the 1990's has been widely praised for launching the city's revival, making it a more decent place to live and to visit. Atlanta's strip clubs today are not allowed to sell alcohol.

New Orleans should update and modernize its 40-year old regulations for strip clubs in the French Quarter. The negative effects of strip clubs on quality of life are clear. In 2012, City Councilmember Kristin Palmer specifically pointed to the number of strip clubs in the French Quarter as a justification for tightening the curfew for minors in our city's oldest neighborhood. On the 300 and 400 blocks of Bourbon Street, there are at least seven strip clubs flanking the Royal Sonesta Hotel, and reportedly at least one convention rejected New Orleans as a destination because strippers were visible from the sidewalk.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu has set a goal of attracting 13 million visitors annually to New Orleans by 2018. How can New Orleans achieve such a goal without promoting a cleaner and more balanced brand that appeals to more families, children, and ordinary people? It's time for some common-sense restrictions on how close new strip clubs could open near existing ones in the French Quarter.

The need for a buffer from strip clubs is not a foreign concept under current New Orleans zoning rules. Outside of the French Quarter, the New Orleans Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance prohibits strip clubs and nude cabarets from opening within 1,000 feet of residences, churches, schools, and parks. The exposé of prostitution, drug-related crimes, and lewd/improper acts at French Quarter strip clubs led to a temporary moratorium, but city hall should strive for more substantial reforms. To revamp the worsening environment of the French Quarter

and to bolster the neighborhood's livability, the city should permanently limit how close future strip clubs can open near current ones.

William Khan

French Quarter resident and Bourbon Street merchant

CPCinfo

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 9:33 AM
To: Cameron D. Bonnett
Cc: CPCinfo; Robert D. Rivers; Leslie T. Alley; James A. Gray; Stacy S. Head; Susan G. Guidry; nramsey@nola.gov; LaToya Cantrell; Jared C. Brossett; Jason R. Williams; Jason R. Williams; Vanessa A. Spinazola; DistrictC; Andrew D. Kopplin; rberni@nola.gov; Mitchell J. Landrieu; Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu
Subject: Statistics and Research for Adult Live Performance Venue Study

Dear Cameron:

As a full-time French Quarter resident, voter, and family-friendly business owner on Bourbon Street, I stopped by City Hall yesterday, and I gave the City Planner on Duty seven (7) documents, research reports, and news articles about strip clubs (adult live performance venues) in the French Quarter.

The City Planner on Duty told me that you are tasked with the City Planning Commission's Adult Live Performance Venue study.

As one of the few young professionals in the French Quarter, I am passionate about this matter because I want to continue raising my family here.

In my research report (titled "Statistical Facts and History of Strip Clubs in the French Quarter"), I included several statistics, including a comparison of how the concentration of strip clubs in the French Quarter is far greater than the entire city of Portland (the city with the greatest number of strip clubs on a per capita basis).

I am glad that regulating strip clubs in the French Quarter is finally a priority of city hall. Frankly, strip clubs in our city's most historic neighborhood and tourism center should have been regulated and limited at least a decade ago. When the city bans new hotels, new t-shirt shops, and new food carts (other than Lucky Dog) but allows new strip clubs to open, you can see that the city has shown misplaced priorities in protecting the French Quarter.

Statement 1: According to an urban research study, Portland, OR has the highest number of strip clubs per capita in the country with nearly 9 strip clubs per 100,000 people.

Source: "Why Does Portland Have so Many Strip Clubs?"

<http://priceconomics.com/why-does-portland-have-so-many-strip-clubs/>

Statement 2: The cleanup of Boston's Clean Zone (one of the cities used by the 1977 Bourbon Street Task Force in creating the Vieux Carre Entertainment District--Bourbon Street):

<http://www.bizjournals.com/boston/print-edition/2013/03/08/new-projects-wipe-away-more-vestiges.html>

Statement 3: City Councilmember Kristin Palmer NOLA.com Op-Ed which referred to the number of strip clubs in the neighborhood as a justification for a harsher curfew for minors:

http://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2012/01/modified_new_orleans_curfew_ne.html

Statement 4: Strip clubs repelled at least one convention from selecting NOLA

http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/09/bourbon_street_strip_clubs_cou.html

Statement 5: Mayor Mitch Landrieu's goal of 13 million visitors by 2018

http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2012/05/mayor_mitch_landrieu_calls_on.html

Statement 6: Prostitution, drug crimes, and lewd/improper conduct at strip clubs

http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2015/11/4_more_bourbon_street_clubs_bu.html

Statement 7: History of violations at Bourbon Street strip clubs

http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2015/11/in_bourbon_street_strip_clubs.html

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

William Khan

French Quarter resident and business owner

CPCinfo

From: Chad Pellerin <chadpellerin69@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 1:43 PM
To: CPCinfo; DistrictC; Sandra G. Thomas; Earl Bernhardt; Earl Bernhardt
Subject: Strip club legislation

Kindly note my objection to additional strip clubs in the French Quarter Entertainment Zone. I live at 819 Orleans Avenue and have been plagued with noise from the operations of Lucky Pierre's in the past and now the V-live New Orleans club that is operating without a liquor license. That club is a nuisance to this residential neighborhood and my neighbors almost call the police nightly. Because of the inclement weather I am not able to make this hearing today at the city council. Please note my objections on behalf of myself and several neighbors on 800 block of Orleans avenue. Many thanks. Chad Pellerin. 522-0880 (home phone).

Sent from my iPhone

CPCinfo

From: Fischer Gambino Metairie Road <landartllc@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 2:32 PM
To: CPCinfo
Cc: Bryan Drude
Subject: Strip Club Moratorium.

It has been brought to our attention that the current moratorium will be expiring. We would like to voice our concern over this matter. However, I do not think I could have said it any better than Mr William Khan expressed it in a recent letter to the French Quarter Advocates members. I am attaching a copy of this letter for your consideration.

Laurie L Labruzzo

William Khan

Statistical facts and history of French Quarter strip clubs

After the one-year moratorium on new strip clubs expires, what's next for the French Quarter and the image of New Orleans? The French Quarter already has the nation's highest concentration of strip clubs on a per capita basis and per square mile. According to an urban research study, Portland, OR has the highest number of strip clubs per capita in the country with nearly 9 strip clubs per 100,000 people. With approximately 4,000 residents, roughly 20 strip clubs, and an area of only 0.66 square miles, the French Quarter has 56 times more strip clubs per capita than Portland (which is 220x larger in land area). The concentration of strip clubs in the Vieux Carre on a per capita basis sadly rises whenever a resident of the French Quarter permanently leaves because he or she cannot raise a family and enjoy a normal life in an increasingly unbalanced neighborhood.

Should new strip clubs or adult entertainment venues be allowed to proliferate in the Vieux Carre after the moratorium ends? In contrast, new hotels, t-shirt shops, and food carts (other than Lucky Dog) are prohibited from ever opening in the French Quarter. Why has city hall ignored or tolerated the harmful impacts of strip clubs in New Orleans' oldest neighborhood for decades?

In 1977, Mayor Moon Landrieu established the Bourbon Street Task Force with a blue-ribbon panel to study the strip and suggest improvements. The panel visited the adult-entertainment districts of Boston's "Combat Zone," New York City's Times Square, and Atlanta's red-light areas. Modeled on other cities but tailored to New Orleans' unique flavor, the Vieux Carre Entertainment District (otherwise known as Bourbon Street from Iberville to St. Ann) was created shortly thereafter. At the time, Bourbon Street's adult-entertainment venues were not dominated by the out-of-town owned and corporate chains of strip clubs that currently line the strip.

From its outset, the Vieux Carre Entertainment District offered vaudeville, burlesque shows, and theatrical glamour. The 1977 Bourbon Street Task Force's permissive rules, which were intended to encourage the street's creativity and individuality, have been abused, leading to the present-day marketing of lap dances and private champagne rooms. Since 1977, the cities that the task force considered as benchmarks for New Orleans have reformed their respective adult-entertainment districts. Boston's Combat Zone was transformed by civic activists into a family-friendly and mixed-use district. New York City's clampdown on sexually-oriented businesses in the 1990's has been widely praised for launching the city's revival, making it a more decent place to live and to visit. Atlanta's strip clubs today are not allowed to sell alcohol.

New Orleans should update and modernize its 40-year old regulations for strip clubs in the French Quarter. The negative effects of strip clubs on quality of life are clear. In 2012, City Councilmember Kristin Palmer specifically pointed to the number of strip clubs in the French Quarter as a justification for tightening the curfew for minors in our city's oldest neighborhood. On the 300 and 400 blocks of Bourbon Street, there are at least seven strip clubs flanking the Royal Sonesta Hotel, and reportedly at least one convention rejected New Orleans as a destination because strippers were visible from the sidewalk.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu has set a goal of attracting 13 million visitors annually to New Orleans by 2018. How can New Orleans achieve such a goal without promoting a cleaner and more balanced brand that appeals to more families, children, and ordinary people? It's time for some common-sense restrictions on how close new strip clubs could open near existing ones in the French Quarter.

The need for a buffer from strip clubs is not a foreign concept under current New Orleans zoning rules. Outside of the French Quarter, the New Orleans Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance prohibits strip clubs and nude cabarets from opening within 1,000 feet of residences, churches, schools, and parks. The exposé of prostitution, drug-related crimes, and lewd/improper acts at French Quarter strip clubs led to a temporary moratorium, but city hall should strive for more substantial reforms. To revamp the worsening environment of the French Quarter and to bolster the neighborhood's livability, the city should permanently limit how close future strip clubs can open near current ones.

William Khan



Fischer-Gambino
637 Royal Street
New Orleans, LA 70130
504-524-9067
figam@aol.com
www.lightingneworleans.com

Sabine E. Lebailleux

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 11:47 PM
To: Bryan Drude; CPCinfo; rmclendon@nola.com; Leslie T. Alley; Cameron D. Bonnett; Sabine E. Lebailleux; Brooke Perry; Danica C. Adams; Robert D. Rivers; Nicholas J. Kindel; Kelly G. Butler; Nicolette P. Jones; Brittany B. DesRocher; Stosh A. Kozlowski; Larry W. Massey Jr.; Valerie A. McMillan
Subject: Strip club total undercounted in NOLA.com article

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear City Planning Commission:

In the latest NOLA.com article about strip club reform (How many strip clubs is too many in New Orleans: http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2016/03/how_many_strip_clubs_is_too_ma.html), I want to dispute the number of strip clubs provided by Robert Watters.

Mr. Watters has claimed that there are 12 strip clubs in the French Quarter, including 2 on Iberville Street. I dispute this undercounted claim of 12 strip clubs; there are roughly 20 strip clubs in the French Quarter.

Here is one example of the inaccuracy in the article. There are three strip clubs on Iberville Street, and I know this for a fact because I have to walk by them everyday, witness their obscene solicitations, and pass through the gauntlet created by their very aggressive barkers. The three strip clubs on Iberville Street are Dixie Divas, Chez Joey (which used to be Artist Cafe Strip Club), and Penthouse Club.

In my published Letter to the Editor of The New Orleans Advocate (Strip clubs endanger New Orleans: <http://www.theneworleansadvocate.com/opinion/14847854-123/letters-strip-clubs-endanger-new-orleans>), I claim that there are roughly twenty (20) strip clubs in the French Quarter, which would give the Vieux Carre a concentration of strip clubs more than 56 times that of Portland (the nation's strip club capital) on a per capita basis.

I derived my figure of 20 strip clubs in the French Quarter, using Google Maps and refining the Google Maps results based on my personal experience as a resident, property owner, and businessman in the French Quarter. I also did a visual and reality check of the results provided by Google Maps.

You can do a Google Maps search of strip clubs located in the French Quarter with this link: <https://www.google.com/maps/search/strip+club/@29.9576021,-90.0731579,15z/data=!3m1!4b1>

In his calculation of strip clubs in the French Quarter, Mr. Watters may have neglected to include strip clubs with male dancers or strip clubs that cater to gay clientele.

As I wrote before, New Orleans will not realize its utmost potential (or its goal of 13 million visitors annually for its 300th anniversary) by promoting debauchery, racing to the bottom, and sullyng its image with a concentration of strip clubs in its most historic and iconic neighborhood.

Today, the first and most prominent billboards that greet visitors to New Orleans on their way downtown from the airport advertise Rick's Cabaret, Larry Flynt's Barely Legal club, and other Bourbon Street strip clubs. Our

city needs to present a better image of itself and its main attractions if New Orleans aspires to be a world-class city and a world-class destination.

The future of New Orleans tourism should be focused on business, cultural, and family visitors. If you ask any resident or stakeholder of downtown New Orleans (including the French Quarter, the Warehouse District, the Central Business District, or the Lower Garden District), they can tell you firsthand that focusing on drunken tourism and debauchery is ruining quality of life, destroying the city's infrastructure, and yielding diminishing returns.

Let's work together to design enforceable and legal rules that can limit new strip clubs from opening in the French Quarter.

A permanent moratorium on new strip clubs in the French Quarter, combined with a conditional use process for new strip clubs in the LI Light Industrial and HI Heavy Industrial Districts, could pass constitutional muster.

Thank you,

William Khan

French Quarter resident, entrepreneur, and homeowner

Sabine E. Lebailleur

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 3:54 PM
To: brylskico; kreweoftruth@kreweoftruth.net; Sabine E. Lebailleur; CPCinfo; Cameron D. Bonnett
Cc: DistrictC; Kara Y. Johnson; Jason R. Williams; LaToya Cantrell; Stacy S. Head; nramsey@nola.gov; Vanessa A. Spinazola; Aaron A. Clark-Rizzio; CouncilDistrictD; Erin C. Spears; George A. Guidry; Jonathan T. Harris; Mitchell J. Landrieu; Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu; Ryan F. Berni; Andrew D. Kopplin; Robert D. Rivers; Leslie T. Alley; James A. Gray; Susan G. Guidry; Jared C. Brossett; Jason R. Williams; rberni@nola.gov; Chad Pellerin; KimCarver@gulfbank.com; James Kelly
Subject: Strip clubs distort the French Quarter economy and quality of life

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear City Planning Commission:

The City Planning Commission has requested input on how strip clubs in the French Quarter and on Bourbon Street affect non-adult businesses.

If you don't think the concentration of strip clubs in the French Quarter and along Bourbon Street poses harmful effects, just consider these issues:

1) Strip clubs in the French Quarter typically do not open until 1PM and do not close until 5AM or later. If a business primarily relies on daytime commerce (like tours or barber shops), wouldn't the concentration of strip clubs in the French Quarter and their effect on the neighborhood's culture harm daytime and ordinary businesses?

I argue that strip clubs depress and harm daytime business activity, commerce, and the neighborhood's normal dynamics.

<http://thelensnola.org/2016/01/14/the-strip-club-moratorium-is-just-a-first-step-much-more-needs-to-be-done/>

I have nothing personally against strip clubs, but it is undeniable that having too many strip clubs in the French Quarter and along Bourbon Street creates parasitic, cancerous, and irreversible problems, forcing ordinary & non-adult businesses out in favor of more strip clubs.

New strip clubs and unsavory adult-oriented businesses spring up to fill the commercial and economic vacuum caused by existing strip clubs, displacing businesses that are low-margin, resident-oriented, and/or family-friendly.

To test this hypothesis (that strip clubs repel daytime-oriented commerce and especially morning life), I visually checked whether any restaurants on Bourbon Street from Iberville Street to St. Ann Street were usually open for breakfast between 6AM and 11AM. Unless it was a special event like New Year's, Easter, or Mother's Day, all of the restaurants on Bourbon Street are typically closed for breakfast and remain closed to the public until 11AM.

I would argue that the excess concentration of strip clubs on Bourbon Street is artificially and destructively warping business patterns on that street and in surrounding corridors until nothing can survive unless a business becomes nighttime-oriented, liquor-focused, or party-themed.

Another consequence of the strip clubs' late operating hours until 5AM or 6AM: if you are a French Quarter resident, you know better not to go outside at 5AM or 6AM (which is a tragedy if you are into fitness and want to go to the gym before the work-day). Part of the reason the French Quarter is so dangerous is that criminals, hustlers, pimps, prostitutes, and scam artists are roaming the French Quarter after customers of strip clubs are staggering out around 5AM and 6AM. Studies have shown that strip clubs are magnets for crime and prostitution because their customers are unwilling or unable to cooperate with the police. After a long night of drinking and sexual stimulation, customers of strip clubs are also vulnerable to being robbed by criminals, hustlers, pimps, prostitutes, and sexual workers.

2) Strip clubs use sexually explicit and obscene displays, including scantily clad strippers and posters, to entice customers. Along with their displays and scantily clad strippers visible in plain sight from the street and sidewalk, strip clubs use overly aggressive barkers who say things like "it's ti**y time" and "hot pu**y and cold beer." If your customer has to pass through Bourbon Street or if you are a tour guide with families and children in tow, wouldn't these practices by strip clubs negatively affect your business?

3) Why is the French Quarter economy so oriented toward liquor, partying, and drinking? The French Quarter has 350+ alcohol beverage outlets, which is unparalleled for an area measuring only 0.66 square miles and far more concentrated than anywhere else in the United States. The negative effects of French Quarter strip clubs on quality of life are clear. In 2012, City Councilwoman Kristin Palmer specifically pointed to the number of strip clubs in the French Quarter as a justification for tightening the curfew for minors in our city's oldest neighborhood. On the 300 and 400 blocks of Bourbon Street, there are at least seven strip clubs facing or near the Royal Sonesta Hotel, and reportedly at least one convention rejected New Orleans as a destination because strippers were visible from the sidewalk.

Is it prudent public policy for the city to use blunt instruments like a harsher curfew for minors in the French Quarter and stopgap measures such as a one-year moratorium without addressing the underlying disease, the saturation of strip clubs?

4) When strip clubs are so concentrated, they begin to compete with each other harder and more aggressively, pushing the limits of what is legal and illegal (without regard to the harmful effects on the residential, tourism, and business climate of the French Quarter). What goes on inside clubs under pressure to offer greater thrills than neighboring strip clubs is as harmful as their impact on nearby non-adult businesses. A business model centered on competitive one-upmanship and the use of nudity and lap dances to boost alcohol sales (or vice versa) creates a breeding ground for risky personal behavior and outright criminality.

It's time for a permanent moratorium prohibiting new strip clubs from opening in the Vieux Carre.

William Khan
French Quarter resident, homeowner, and entrepreneur

CPCinfo

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2016 12:05 PM
To: Robert D. Rivers; CPCinfo
Subject: Study on Reforming French Quarter Strip Clubs

"The strip-club moratorium is just a first step; much more needs to be done"

<http://thelensnola.org/2016/01/14/the-strip-club-moratorium-is-just-a-first-step-much-more-needs-to-be-done/>

While I applaud the City Council's decision to pass a one-year moratorium on strip clubs in the French Quarter and to commission a study by the City Planning Commission, City Hall should consider long-lasting and more robust reforms.

Keep in mind that state authorities previously documented illegal drug sales, prostitution, and lewd conduct at several strip clubs. Why are new strip clubs or adult entertainment venues still allowed to proliferate in the Vieux Carre after the moratorium expires? In contrast, new hotels, food trucks, and T-shirt shops are prohibited from ever opening in the French Quarter.

I want to continue raising my family here in the Quarter, but the door-to-door and block-by-block concentration of strip clubs has significant and negative spillover effects throughout the neighborhood.

Strip clubs in the French Quarter are mostly clustered next to or near one another on Bourbon and Iberville streets. On the 300 and 400 blocks of Bourbon Street alone, there are no fewer than seven strip clubs facing or near the Royal Sonesta Hotel. When strip clubs are allowed to open within feet of each other or even door-to-door (as current law permitted prior to the moratorium), the concentration has a blighting impact on residents, visitors, businesses and the general environment.

As just one example of this negative impact, French Quarter strip clubs are usually closed between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m., creating a daytime "dead zone" in which pedestrians sidestep the area, businesses suffer and vagrants congregate to fill the vacuum. Opportunities for crime and public disorder abound. The effect is metastatic; new strip clubs and unsavory adult-oriented businesses spring up to fill the vacuum, displacing businesses that were low-margin, resident-oriented, and/or family-friendly.

And of course what goes on inside clubs under pressure to offer greater thrills than neighboring strip clubs is as deleterious as their impact on nearby non-adult businesses. A business model centered on competitive one-upmanship and the use of nudity and lap dances to boost alcohol sales (or vice versa) creates a breeding ground for risky personal behavior and outright criminality. In October 2015, agents with the state Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control documented the following illegal and illicit activities at several Bourbon Street strip clubs: prostitution and drug-related offenses as well as lewd and improper acts.

When strip clubs are concentrated as they are on Bourbon Street, competitive pressure spreads and can intensify the promotion of prostitution, drug sales, and lewd conduct from one to the next.

And even when strip clubs do not allow criminal activities on the premises, customers and employees tend to be magnets for crime. Studies have shown that sex-oriented businesses attract "perfect" victims: cash-carrying men predisposed to party and drink heavily. They attract prostitutes, pimps, drug-dealers, hustlers, and scam artists — and because the victims are drunk, they may be incapable of summoning or cooperating with police. With

some strip clubs open as late as 5 a.m., it's no mere coincidence that French Quarter crime tends to skyrocket shortly before dawn.

Nor is the negative impact of strip clubs limited to their patrons. Any resident who happens to live or walk near a strip club becomes more susceptible to criminals preying on customers or haunting the daytime dead zone the clubs create.

In a January 2012 editorial, City Councilmember Kristin Palmer, advocating a tighter curfew for minors in the French Quarter, wrote: "No other neighborhood in the city, state or nation sized at .66 square miles, just 12 blocks wide, contains more than 350 alcohol beverage outlets, and includes adult entertainment establishments and numerous strip clubs."

That a neighborhood needs a special curfew for minors is, in and of itself, symptomatic of a grave imbalance in that neighborhood's business climate.

I have no malice toward strip clubs in their proper place. But as a French Quarter resident with businesses nearby, every day I experience the negative effects that flow from allowing strip clubs to cluster and open side by side, as they have.

What to do? Obviously the strip club industry is not about to disappear. Strip clubs are part of the French Quarter's colorful fabric. But is it prudent public policy for the city to use blunt instruments like a harsher curfew for minors in the French Quarter and stopgap measures such as a one-year moratorium without addressing the underlying disease, the saturation of strip clubs?

The number of clubs and their conduct should be carefully calibrated. When there are too many strip clubs on a block, the street begins to become imbalanced in terms of its orientation, amenities, and commercial offerings. Simply put, strip clubs weaken efforts to diversify the options for retail and general tourism on Bourbon Street and surrounding areas. If the city wants to create a family-friendly or at least a family-neutral environment, allowing strip clubs to open next to or near each other subverts that goal.

An outright ban on new strip clubs in the French Quarter probably would not pass constitutional muster, but there is a solution. The legally permissible alternative would be a "spacing" requirement — a strategy already implemented successfully in New York City and upheld by the 1998 U.S. Supreme Court decision to reject a challenge to zoning regulations that prohibit sex-oriented businesses from operating within 500 feet of homes, houses of worship, schools — or each other.

It's time for some common-sense and rationally-based limits on how close new strip clubs can open near existing ones. A spacing requirement could restore some balance to the street, revive daytime commerce in surrounding areas, and forestall the downward spiral that led to the moratorium on French Quarter strip clubs in the first place.

CPCinfo

From: William Khan <wkhan@utexas.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 9:38 AM
To: CPCinfo; Cameron D. Bonnett
Subject: The New Orleans Advocate: French Quarter strip clubs endanger New Orleans

The New Orleans Advocate: French Quarter strip clubs endanger New Orleans

After the one-year moratorium on new strip clubs expires, what's next for the French Quarter and the image of New Orleans? The French Quarter already has the nation's highest concentration of strip clubs on a per capita basis and per square mile. According to an urban research study, Portland, Oregon, has the highest number of strip clubs per capita in the country with nearly nine strip clubs per 100,000 people. With approximately 4,000 residents, roughly 20 strip clubs and an area of only 0.66 square miles, the French Quarter has 56 times more strip clubs per capita than Portland (which is 220 times larger in area). The concentration of strip clubs in the Vieux Carre on a per capita basis sadly rises whenever a resident of the French Quarter permanently leaves because he or she cannot raise a family and enjoy a normal life in an increasingly unbalanced neighborhood.

Should new strip clubs or adult entertainment venues be allowed to proliferate in the Vieux Carre after the moratorium expires? In contrast, new hotels, T-shirt shops and food carts (other than Lucky Dog) are prohibited from ever opening in the French Quarter. Why has city hall ignored or even tolerated the harmful impacts of strip clubs in New Orleans' oldest neighborhood for decades?

The negative effects of French Quarter strip clubs on quality of life are clear. In 2012, City Councilwoman Kristin Palmer specifically pointed to the number of strip clubs in the French Quarter as a justification for tightening the curfew for minors in our city's oldest neighborhood. On the 300 and 400 blocks of Bourbon Street, there are at least seven strip clubs facing or near the Royal Sonesta Hotel, and reportedly at least one convention rejected New Orleans as a destination because strippers were visible from the sidewalk.

The door-to-door and block-by-block concentration of strip clubs in the French Quarter has significant and negative spillover effects. It's time for some common-sense restrictions on how close new strip clubs could open near existing ones in the Vieux Carre.

The need for a buffer from strip clubs is not a foreign concept under current New Orleans zoning rules. Outside of the French Quarter, the New Orleans Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance prohibits strip clubs, adult entertainment venues and nude cabarets from opening within 1,000 feet of residences, churches, schools and parks. The exposé of prostitution, drug-related crimes and lewd/improper acts at French Quarter strip clubs led to a temporary moratorium, but City Hall should strive for a more permanent and substantial reform. To stop the downward spiral of the French Quarter and to bolster the neighborhood's livability, the city should limit how close new strip clubs can open near existing ones.

William Khan

business owner

New Orleans

<http://www.theneworleansadvocate.com/opinion/14847854-123/letters-strip-clubs-endanger-new-orleans>

FROM: Jeannie Warino
1640 Hope Drive
Marrero, LA 70072

APR 11 16 03:30PM

April 6, 2016

City Planning Commission Office
1300 Perdido Street, 7th Floor
One Stop Shop
New Orleans, LA 70112

Ladies & Gentlemen:

Please scrutinize all adult live entertainment venues (strip clubs) within the city in response to recent criminal activity and public outcry. Such clubs are notoriously connected to Human Trafficking, something widely recognized by national law enforcement and Human Trafficking experts.

Your attention is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Jeannie Warino

cc: New Orleans City Council
1300 Perdido Street, 2nd Floor West
New Orleans, LA 70112

From: Suzan Patrick CMP <suzanpatrick@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 11:29 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: Adult Live Entertainment Petition

PETITION

City Planning Commission's Study of Adult Live Entertainment Venues

We thank the City Council and the City Planning Commission for their recent efforts to study "Adult Live Entertainment Venues in the City of New Orleans." We are pleased that "the study will consider: limitations on the number of such establishments, best practices of other cities, land use regulatory mechanisms, use standards, and input from industry representatives and impacted businesses."

It is known that:

In October 2015, law enforcement found drug dealing and prostitution taking place in 9 out of 14 strip clubs in a month long undercover investigation. Drug dealing and prostitution (male and female) is also known to take place in other kinds of clubs and venues.

New Orleans is considered a major hub for human sex trafficking by national law enforcement and human trafficking experts (including the Polaris Project).

According to a lawsuit, reported by the Times Picayune and Wall Street Journal, dancers in strip clubs are often hired as independent contractors, not as employees with regular benefits. Dancers are constantly sexually harassed, and are forced to work in an environment that is neither safe nor crime free.

A Loyola University study estimated 87 residents from Covenant House, a homeless youth shelter, were survivors of human trafficking each year and an estimated 150 residents per year if the sex industry and strip clubs were included.

We believe that:

The existing number of strip clubs leads to an increase in overall French Quarter crime including violence, prostitution, lewd/improper acts, petty crime and drug dealing – and therefore does not promote the public health, welfare and safety of the City.

We, the undersigned, recommend that:

- No one under the age of 21 should be allowed to work in any capacity within a strip club or adult entertainment venue.
- A special designation should be made that defines these establishments which would allow tighter restrictions and regulations, such as no one under 21 should be allowed to work within the premises.
- In accord with the Federal Labors Standards Act, dancers should be hired as regular employees with standard benefits, should be provided a safe, crime free environment, and should not be allowed to be sexually harassed.

- The number of strip clubs in our city needs to decrease by 65%, any new or re-opened clubs should not be allowed outside of the “adult live performance venue IZD” or within 1,000 feet of residences, schools, or houses of worship.
- A special tax/fee needs to be levied against the strip clubs to pay for increased law enforcement on Bourbon Street, and for weekly inspections of the clubs including VIP rooms.
- Enforcement of all regulations, existing and proposed, should be enforced by both NOPD and the State Police.

Respectfully,
Suzan Patrick, CMP
6405 Mitchell Avenue
Metairie, LA 70003
303-808-1980

From: Carol Allen <nolacarol@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 11:26 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: Kristin Palmer
Subject: Fwd: Adult Live Entertainment Study-- Petition -- Please sign-on by 4/26
Attachments: City Planning Adult Entertainment Petition.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Please add my name to the following petition. It has also come to my attention that some illegal short term rental sites are being used for further exploitation by some adult entertainment venues. This has got to stop. Thank you.

Carol Allen
530 Walnut St.
New Orleans, LA. 70118
504-451-2963

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.
MLK

--

THE GISLESON GROUP, LLC

KRISTIN GISLESON PALMER

504.388.0138
Kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
222 Vallette St., New Orleans, LA 70114

From: Jamie Peckenpaugh <jamie@nowfe.com>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 11:00 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Adult Live Entertainment Study-- Petition
Attachments: City Planning Adult Entertainment Petition.pdf

Please see the attached petition. Thanks

--

Jamie Peckenpaugh Hall
Executive Director
New Orleans Wine & Food Experience
504.858.0046 | jamie@nowfe.com | www.nowfe.com
NOWFE 2016: May 26-29

NOWFE is a NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

To date, the New Orleans Wine & Food Experience has raised over \$1 million for local non-profit organizations right here in our community. To submit your charitable organization for consideration as a future beneficiary of NOWFE, visit nowfe.com for more details.

From: anne gisleson <agisleson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 10:15 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: Kristin Palmer
Subject: Adult Live Entertainment Study
Attachments: City Planning Adult Entertainment Petition.pdf

Dear Ms. Lebailleux,

We have a problem in this country that permeates our society and our city. It is the objectification of women that leads to their exploitation. It is most egregious amongst those who are marginalized, who have no voice and no resources.

Nowhere is this more prevalent than in New Orleans Adult Entertainment/Strip Club industry. In a recent Times Picayune article, law enforcement found drug dealing and prostitution in 9 out of 14 clubs. These establishments create a culture of abuse against young women. Young women who lack the capacity and the resources are systematically abused. Covenant House, a homeless shelter for teens, found that 25% of our kids were victims of human trafficking and/or sexual labor.

I humbly ask that you read the attached petition and should you agree, please forward it to the City Planning Commission and copy myself so that we can track their impact. Also, please forward to your friends and colleagues that would be supportive.

By the time a girl turns 18 in the United States 1 in 4 will be sexually victimized. *National Sexual Violence Resource Center*

Over 5,000 Louisiana women per year will be victims of sexual abuse, *Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence*

Louisiana ranks #4 for women murdered by men, *Violence Policy*

Center

Louisiana Dead Last in U.S. social justice; “*Just South*” index,
Loyola University March 2016

“Equal Pay for Louisiana women still a century away report
says,” *Times Picayune, March 2015*

New Orleans is viewed nationally as a hub for human sex
trafficking

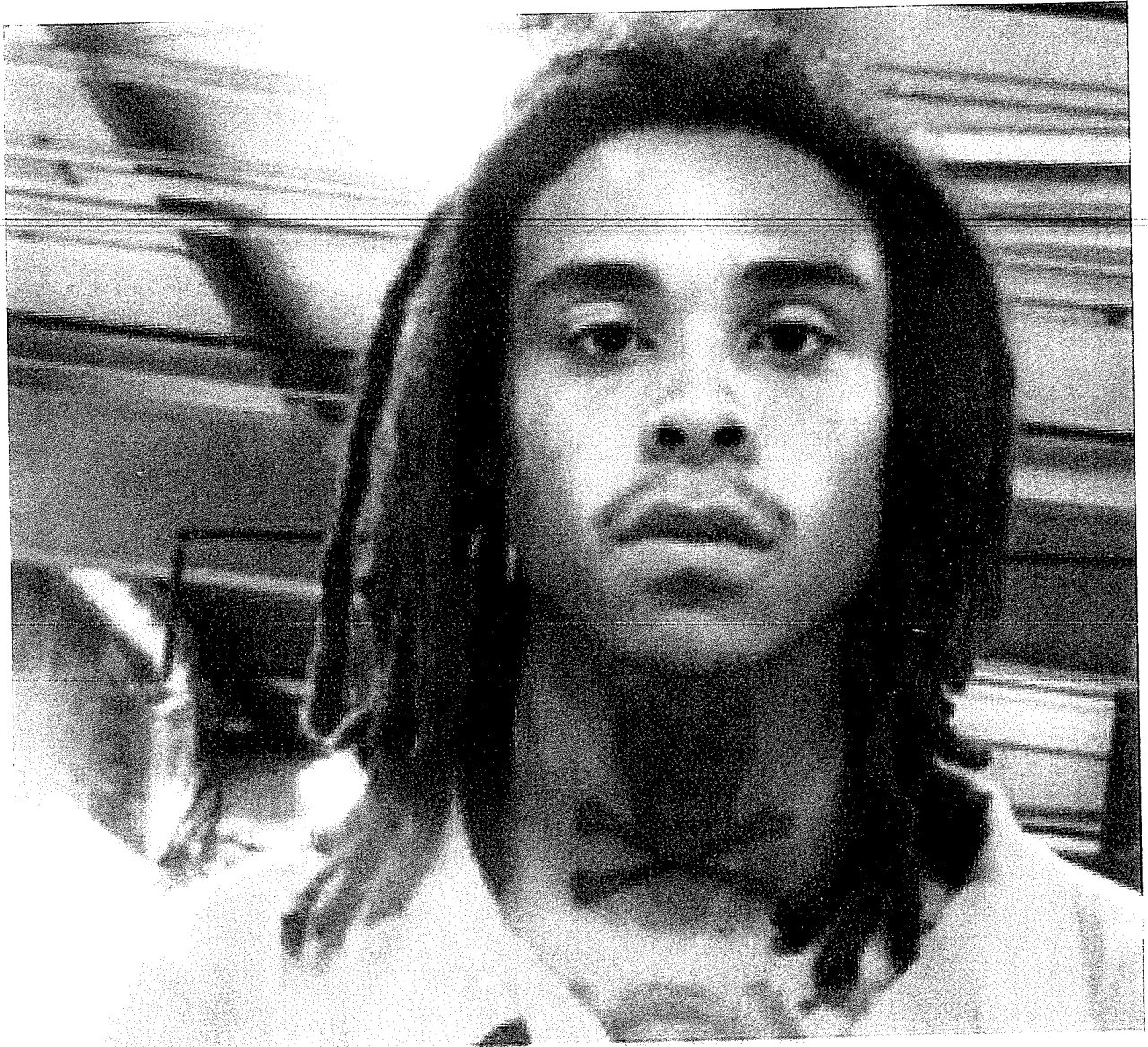
25% of Covenant House homeless youth have been the victims of
human sex trafficking and or sexual labor, Loyola
University’s *Modern Slavery Research Project*

--

Anne Gisleson
(504) 813-2818

**SPORTS ALERT: SAINTS LIVE CHAT: JOEL A. ERICKSON ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS; 9:30 A.M.
THURSDAY**

Alleged pimp charged with running down and killing Bourbon Street dancer Jasilas Wright on I-10



BY CHAD CALDER | CCALDER@THEADVOCATE.COM



The Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office has charged Adam "Sip" Littleton with manslaughter in the death of Jasilas Wright, a 19-year-old woman who had been riding in his car shortly before her body was found in pieces along Interstate 10 in Metairie this summer.

Littleton, 23, pleaded not guilty to the charge before a commissioner in 24th Judicial District Court and is being held in the Jefferson Parish Correctional Center.

Littleton surrendered **to authorities** in Shreveport on June 14, four days after Wright's remains were found, and was booked on kidnapping and murder counts.

State Police said at the time that **Wright's family said they had called Littleton** after her body was discovered, and that he first told them that he let Wright out of the car on the interstate after an argument, only to say later in the same conversation that Wright had jumped out of the vehicle.

Investigators said Littleton was Wright's pimp and would sometimes set her up on "dates," and that he kidnapped her from the Bourbon Street club where she worked.

In August, however, Orleans Parish District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro **decided not to prosecute the kidnapping charge**, and Littleton was transferred to Jefferson Parish Correctional Center and held on \$500,000 bail on the second-degree murder count lodged against him there.

A state trooper testified at the time that police were unable to find an eyewitness to a kidnapping or any texts sent by Wright that indicated she had been taken against her will.

Cannizzaro said he declined to accept the kidnapping charges not because the case was weak but to let Jefferson Parish pursue the second-degree murder case.

The bill of information charging Littleton in Jefferson, however, is for the lesser charge of manslaughter, which carries a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison, compared with an automatic life sentence for second-degree murder.

The document indicates prosecutors believe Littleton committed manslaughter by striking Wright with his car, then fleeing the scene.

Littleton's attorney, Nandi Campbell, said Wednesday that her client is no pimp, just a young man who lost his girlfriend. Campbell said she was disappointed he was even charged.

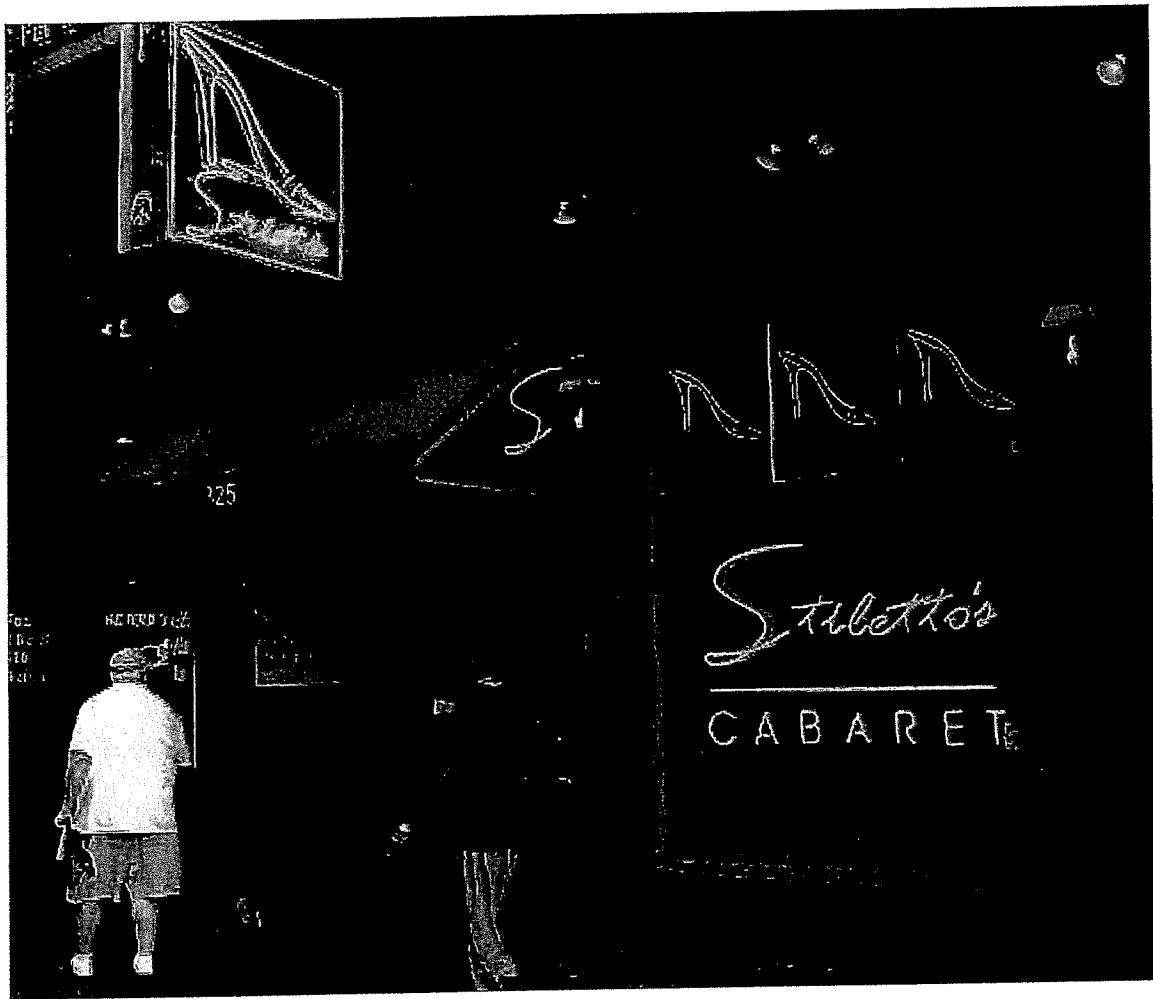
"He did not kidnap the young lady, he did not push the young lady and he did not hit her," Campbell said, adding she is eager to get on with the case. "Now that he has been charged, we have an opportunity to review the evidence against him," she said.

Campbell said Littleton has never given a statement to police about what happened that night.

Jefferson Parish District Attorney Paul Connick could not be reached Wednesday, though his office typically doesn't comment on the cases it prosecutes.

The trial has been assigned to 24th Judicial District Court Judge Lee Faulkner. A hearing has been scheduled for January.

Man described as pimp seen leaving Bourbon Street club with Jasilas Wright could hold key to dancer's death



Advocate staff photo by JOHN McCUSKER -- Stiletto's on Bourbon street Thursday, June 11, 2015. Jasilas Wright's body was found near the Veterans Boulevard exit from I-10 Wednesday. She was a dancer at Stiletto's.

Dancer for Stiletto's Jasilas Wright seen leaving with man

by ramon antonio vargas
rvargas@theadvocate.com

The last time her co-workers and one of her closest friends saw her alive, Jasilas "Chyna" Wright was leaving Stiletto's Cabaret late Tuesday night with a man.

Wright, 19, had previously introduced him to others as her boyfriend from Texas. But several friends of Wright's or co-workers at the Bourbon Street strip club where she danced for tips suspected he was — in their words — "a pimp" who would sometimes set her up on dates as an escort.

To some, it appeared Wright and the man were arguing as they departed.

About 5 a.m. Wednesday, a few hours after she left Stiletto's, Wright was found dead on Interstate 10 in Metairie, her body in multiple pieces.

Officials didn't release many new details about the death Thursday, other than to say she died of numerous blunt-force injuries. But employees at Stiletto's and friends of Wright said authorities had come around asking questions about the light-skinned, dreadlocked, mustachioed man who was with her shortly before she died.

No one The New Orleans Advocate interviewed about Wright wanted their names published out of fear for their safety as well as deference to the ongoing investigation into the death of their friend and co-worker, who leaves behind a 10-month-old son, Patrick. But all said it was their impression that authorities were trying to identify and locate the mysterious man who accompanied Wright as she left the club.

That man could be the key to discovering how Wright died: Was she, for instance, let out of the car and then inadvertently run over by another motorist as she walked along the highway? Or was she deliberately killed?

"My heart is caving in," one of Wright's closest friends said as she remembered the victim's quiet, bubbly demeanor. "She was a sweet human being."

Wright's body was discovered about five days after police found the corpse of 16-year-old Kaylan Ward on I-10 in New Orleans East.

Ward died of multiple blunt-force trauma injuries as well, possibly because a car struck her while she was on the interstate, police have said. Her body also was found in several pieces.

While authorities have noted the uncanny similarities in the two deaths, New Orleans Police Superintendent Michael Harrison said there is no evidence linking Ward to Wright, whose case is being investigated by State Police and the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office. At a news conference Thursday, Harrison discouraged speculation that the cases are related.

At a vigil Thursday in Central City in her honor, Wright was remembered as a member of the dance team at Walter L. Cohen High School. Friends said she was a devoted, loving daughter to her mother, Nedra.

An obituary run by The Times-Picayune suggests that Nedra's husband and Jasilas' father — Silas "Frog" Anderson — died in a shooting in New Orleans in 1997. Jasilas was about 1 at the time.

While they weren't entirely familiar with details about her formative years, two women identifying themselves as friends of Wright said she spent at least some time in Texas.

She first became known to people working in the establishments along the 300 and 400 blocks of Bourbon when she walked into the club Temptations and asked for a job within the past several months, they said.

The club didn't have any openings, but employees referred her to Stiletto's next door. Stiletto's gave her a job, and she also got some work at Centerfolds a block away from time to time.

Seen frequently with studs in her pierced cheeks, Wright was a mild-mannered, good worker, a pair of Stiletto's employees said.

"She was a pleasure to work with," another person who occasionally supervised her said.

It wasn't until recently that the man Wright was last seen with began picking her up after work. He would drive a gray, four-door sedan, one co-worker said.

While Wright would describe the man as her boyfriend, her co-workers and friends surmised the relationship was not strictly romantic.

For example, a pair of Wright's photographs had appeared on escort ads, one posted online as recently as late last month.

Nonetheless, no one anticipated the news that would come Wednesday morning. And when the news did make its way around, it badly shook those who knew Wright.

"It could've been me," one Stiletto's employee said.

"It's so close to home," the person who occasionally supervised Wright said. "It's so crazy ... (that) girls can get themselves into trouble and not even know it."

They also hoped authorities would work tirelessly to figure out how Wright died

and, if she was slain, to hold the killer accountable.

At the vigil, Wright's grandmother, Carol Bernard, directed a message at the man she believes is responsible for her granddaughter's death.

"Turn yourself in," Bernard said. "You may think that we don't know. But God knows."

*

Staff writers Matt Sledge and Jim Mustian contributed to this report.

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Greater New Orlear

4 more Bourbon Street clubs busted in 'Operation Trick or Treat'



By [Jonathan Bullington, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune](#)

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on November 05, 2015 at 3:30 PM, updated November 05, 2015 at 3:37 PM

Four more Bourbon Street clubs have had their alcohol and tobacco permits suspended in the state's ongoing "Operation Trick or Treat" investigation, officials said. That raises to nine the number of French Quarter strip clubs or bars accused of illegal activity in the investigation.

Babe's Cabaret, Big Daddy's, Bourbon Cowboy and The Swamp on Bourbon all received the emergency suspensions Thursday (Nov. 5), according to a release from the Louisiana Alcohol and Tobacco Control.

Authorities said their investigation found acts of prostitution and "drug activity" at the strip clubs Babe's Cabaret and Big Daddy's, as well as "lewd/improper acts."

Bourbon Cowboy and The Swamp on Bourbon were cited for illegal drug sales, the release said.

"We are in the second month of this operation and it will continue to run through the holidays," ATC Commissioner Troy Hebert said in the release. "ATC will continue to do its part to weed out criminal activity at locations that are given the privilege to sell alcohol and tobacco."

Late last month, five clubs on or near Bourbon Street had their licenses suspended in the state's investigation. Three of those clubs – The Mansion on Bourbon, Centerfolds and Lipstixx – **unsuccessfully tried** to have a judge block the suspensions.

Two bars also had their alcohol licenses suspended last month.

The Louisiana State Police is also involved in the investigation, and will determine if any criminal charges are warranted.

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James Kelly <jkelly@covenanthouse.org>

6 Bourbon Street clubs reach agreements with state authorities

1 message

Rich Arnold <richwarnold@gmail.com>
To: Jim Kelly <JKelly@covenanthouse.org>

Wed, Nov 11, 2015 at 9:07 PM

http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2015/11/six_bourbon_street_clubs_reach.html#incart_breaking

6 Bourbon Street clubs reach agreements with state authorities



By Ben Myers, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune

[Email the author](#) | [Follow on Twitter](#)

on November 11, 2015 at 8:39 PM, updated November 11, 2015 at 8:44 PM

State authorities have come to terms with six Bourbon Street clubs cited recently for a variety of violations, including those involving prostitution, drugs and other lewd or improper acts.

A total of 10 French Quarter strip clubs and bars were cited as a result of Louisiana Alcohol and Tobacco Control's "Operation Trick or Treat" investigation, and nine had their alcohol permits suspended.

The club that kept its license, Temptations, was among the six that reached a "consent agreement" with ATC, according to an ATC news release Wednesday (Nov. 11). The other five are Lipstixx, Centerfolds, The Mansion on Bourbon, Bourbon Cowboy and The Swamp on Bourbon.

The ATC news release does not say if or when these clubs' permits will be reinstated. The news release also says nothing about the other four clubs that received citations –

Chez Joey, Dixie Divas, Babe's Cabaret and Big Daddy's.

ATC Commissioner Troy Hebert did not immediately respond to inquiries on Wednesday evening.

The six clubs mentioned in the news release have agreed to eight corrective measures, including one-year probation periods, according to the news release. The terms of the probations were not included.

In addition to probation, the clubs have agreed to:

- Hire an outside security firm with ATC approval
- Hire an outside company to conduct mystery shopping at least twice per month, with results reported to ATC
- Install high-quality camera systems and make recordings available to ATC
- Terminate all employees identified in the investigation
- Ensure service and security staff are properly licensed and maintain employee records on premise
- Self-report any alcohol or tobacco violations and immediately terminate any offending employees
- Participate in the Club Operators Against Sex Trafficking program

Additionally, the clubs agreed to the following fines:

- Lipstixx: \$11,500
- Temptations: \$6,000
- Centerfolds: \$10,000
- The Mansion on Bourbon: \$12,500
- Bourbon Cowboy: \$3,000
- The Swamp on Bourbon: \$3,000

Greater New Orlear

In Bourbon Street strip clubs crackdown, four owned by family with history of violations



By [Richard A. Webster, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune](#)

[Email the author](#) | [Follow on Twitter](#)

on November 11, 2015 at 1:32 PM, updated November 12, 2015 at 12:34 PM

Four French Quarter strip clubs among ten **businesses cited** by state officials on accusations of peddling drugs and prostitution are well known names for Bourbon Street regulars: Lipstixxx, Centerfolds, Scores, and Temptations.

Not as well known is the name of the Olano family, whose members and their business interests control those four strip clubs, in addition to a fifth, Stiletto's. The recent violations are hardly the first time officials have been at odds with some of the family's businesses: Olano family members own the **Last Call Bar**, which state alcohol control officials shut down in July after a long history of complaints.

The family's properties also include strip clubs that employed dancer **Jaren Lockhart** and 19-year-old **Jasilas Wright**. Law enforcement authorities have said they suspected both women were involved in prostitution when they met grisly deaths in the past three years, though the clubs were not cited in connection to those cases.

That some of the family's businesses are back in the news because of alleged violations is not surprising, officials said.

The Olanos, through an attorney, declined to comment for this story while **administrative cases** against their recently-cited strip clubs are pending. In a 2013 lawsuit filed by the family against the city, attorney Scott Winstead said their businesses "do not have a history or reputation as establishments wherein illegal activities take place."

A review of business filings, police reports, and lawsuits filed on the family's behalf in Civil District Court paint a portrait of a defiant family that has maintained its innocence even as city and state officials have made mounting accusations of criminal activity at some of their establishments.

Troy Hebert, commissioner of the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control, has said the strip clubs cited fostered a dangerous atmosphere that put at risk employees, customers and the community.

"(Investigators) described a situation to where anything goes," Hebert said. "Basically they give you a menu: Sex? Drugs?"

Owning Bourbon Street

Some members of the Olano family have been tied to Bourbon Street businesses since at least 1997, records show, and over the years they have expanded to control numerous properties in the French Quarter and vicinity – including restaurants and bars.

In their 2013 lawsuit, the plaintiff was listed as "Fais Deaux Deaux et. al," which included the strip clubs Lipstixxx, Temptations, Stilettos and Platinum Bourbon, court records show. Guy Olano III is listed as president of Fais Deaux Deaux, Inc. in documents filed with the Louisiana Secretary of State. He is also owner of Bamboula's on Frenchmen Street, a restaurant the ATC

threatened to cite for failing to generate more than 50 percent of its revenue through food sales, as is required of licensed restaurants.

Olano's aunt, Pamela Olano, appears to be the main operator of the strip clubs, according to ATC records. She owns, operates or is an officer of Temptations, Centerfolds, Scores, Platinum Bourbon Inc., Silver Bourbon Inc., and the Bourbon Burlesque Club, ATC records show.

Winstead, in the 2013 lawsuit, said the Olano-run businesses "enjoy a good reputation among (their) neighbors and patrons. Indeed, after Hurricane Katrina the plaintiffs were encouraged (to open) in an effort to redevelop the locations as an aid in the recovery of the city, especially the French Quarter."

But leaders of several French Quarter resident associations have welcomed the crackdown on French Quarter establishments, including several Olano-controlled clubs.

"This is one small step in the right direction," Patricia Meadowcroft, the president of the Vieux Carre Property Owners Residents and Associates, said of ATC's actions.

Not first run in with regulators

The crackdown became public late last month, when the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control announced that a wide-ranging undercover investigation had found numerous instances of illegal drug activity, prostitution and "lewd conduct" at French Quarter strip clubs and bars.

As a result of "Operation Trick or Treat," Hebert temporarily suspended alcohol permits of nine establishments, including Lipstixxx, Centerfolds and Scores. Those three clubs were cited with a combined 14 counts of prostitution, eight drug-related violations, and 10 counts of lewd and improper acts, ATC said.

Temptations, another Olano club, was cited with three counts of prostitution, one drug violation and two lewd acts, ATC said. One of the citations for prostitution concerned an incident on Nov. 6, about a week and a half after the initial violations were announced.

At an administrative hearing Monday (Nov. 9), the Olanos' attorney, Carolyn Gill-Jefferson, said the clubs fired every employee named in the investigation and proposed additional measures that would allow the clubs to remain open. Those proposals included hiring an independent security firm for each of the cited clubs, and reporting to ATC any illegal activity the firms find. She said Centerfolds closed permanently the same day its license was suspended, though a manager for the clubs said that was a business decision.

This is not the first time the state has suspended the alcohol license of one of the Olanos' French Quarter businesses. In July, state alcohol officials revoked the liquor permit of Last Call, 806 Conti St., for not meeting the 50 percent revenue threshold for food sales.

But records and authorities show the license suspension came after years of problems with reported criminal activity at Last Call. The state cited the restaurant for selling alcohol to minors, allowing prostitution and committing 42 counts of improper conduct stemming from criminal activity, ATC said.

In a 2014 police report, NOPD described Last Call as a "known location frequented by prostitutes, panderers, johns, and where multiple arrests for drugs and weapons have been effected."

Dozens of police reports connected to Last Call in 2012 and 2013 included multiple counts of drugs, theft, simple battery, domestic battery, simple criminal damage, and aggravated battery by cutting, ATC records show.

Civil District Court Judge Tiffany Chase earlier this year rejected Last Call's appeal of its alcohol permit revocation. Afterwards

Civil District Court Judge Timmy Chase earlier this year rejected Last Call's appeal of its alcohol permit revocation. Afterwards, one of the Olanos' attorney, Julie Quinn, said the restaurant would not shut down. Instead, Last Call would continue to operate as a "fresh, gourmet, hand-tossed pizzeria. Regarding any allegation that (Last Call) allowed criminal activity to occur on the premises, such allegation proved to be unfounded," Quinn added at the time.

Four months later, Last Call remains closed.

Murder victims worked at clubs, authorities said

The current citations against some of the strip clubs are also not the first instances in which law enforcement officials have indicated women who worked at Olano-run businesses were connected with prostitution.

Two of the clubs, Stiletto's and Temptations, found themselves in the news in recent years after two women working there were victims of what police have said were gruesome murders. Authorities have indicated the victims may have been involved in prostitution.

The first case involved Jaren Lockhart, 24, who was a dancer at both clubs. She was last seen leaving her job at Temptations on June 6, 2012, with Terry Speaks and Margaret Sanchez. Lockhart told a coworker she was going with the couple to "make rent." Her dismembered body was discovered the next day in Bay St. Louis. Speaks was convicted in June of murdering Lockhart, and is serving a life sentence. Sanchez, who has pleaded not guilty, is set to face trial in December.

The second case involved Jasilas Wright, 19, a dancer at Stiletto's and at another Olano-connected club, Centerfolds. Wright's body was found in June along Interstate 10 in Metairie. Adam Littleton, whom authorities have described as Wright's pimp, is being held in Jefferson Parish on a second-degree murder charge. Authorities have accused him of trying to take Wright against her will to Dallas, and have said he pushed her off his car or she jumped as the vehicle traveled at high speed on I-10.

Police didn't issue any citations against the clubs in either incident, though the death of Wright has renewed concerns about strip clubs hiring dancers younger than 21.

Olanos vs. the city

The ongoing controversy is the latest face off involving the Olanos' Bourbon Street businesses and ATC, the city and the New Orleans Police Department. Olano businesses have been cited for multiple violations over the years including delinquencies regarding alcohol permits, occupational licenses and taxes, and failing to have managers on site, according to public records.

In response, family members have unsuccessfully sued the city and police department on multiple occasions, claiming they have been the victims of selective enforcement.

When the Olanos appealed the revocation of Last Call's liquor license, their attorney, Stavros Panagouloupoulos, said the ATC was deliberately attempting to "shut down (Last Call) while knowingly failing to prosecute other businesses in the area that are guilty of the same offense." In doing so, he argued, the state violated their rights under the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

In the 2013 lawsuit against the city and NOPD, attorney Scott Winstead accused the police of using "antiquated ordinances" to try and shut down Temptations, Stiletto's, and Lipstixxx after the clubs were cited for failing to pay their sales taxes and not having proper permits, among other violations.

"There are many other establishments that operate their businesses as plaintiffs do," Winstead said then, asking for a temporary restraining order and permanent injunction against the city. Judge Paulette Irons rejected their request.

In 2008, NOPD cited Fais Deaux Deaux Inc. for violating a city ordinance that prohibits selling alcohol through a door or window to a customer on the sidewalk. The citations were issued because of the company's two beer booths in the 300 block of Bourbon Street, both of which open directly onto the sidewalk. In response, the Olanos sued the city. While they "freely" admitted to the

conduct in a court motion, they said the city's action was yet another case of selective enforcement.

The court ruled in favor of the city in that case, but the Olanos have continued to operate the two Fais Deaux Deaux beer booths.

More recently, Guy Olano III sued the city after it rejected his request to have the license of his Frenchmen Street club, **Bamboula's**, switched from a restaurant to a cocktail lounge. The request came as Olano was unable to meet the 50 percent food sales requirement at Bamboula's, putting its liquor license at risk.

Olano claimed, like in previous cases, that he was the victim of selective enforcement. He also challenged the constitutionality of the entire Frenchmen Street zoning district that allows for the current mix of live music clubs and restaurants. In his lawsuit, Olano said if he can't operate Bamboula's as a bar, the city should shut down every Frenchmen Street restaurant operating as a nightclub.

This case is pending before Civil District Court Judge Ethel Julien.

Fate of strip clubs on Hebert's hands

The future of the three Olano strip clubs with suspended alcohol licenses is now in the hands of ATC Commissioner Hebert. He is expected to rule soon on whether the clubs' proposals to hire independent security firms, among other measures, will let them regain their license.

Some advocates who have supported the crackdown have said they hope the clubs will mend their ways.

Jim Kelly, director of the youth shelter Covenant House, said he's grateful for the ATC's investigation and that he has faith Hebert will hold the owners responsible and issue stiff penalties. But Kelly said he is not surprised by the findings of the investigation – or that one family controls such a large share of the strip club business.

"They make a lot of money," Kelly said, "and they don't care who is hurt, who they exploit."

He indicated the prostitution and drug violations ATC has cited in those clubs would not be tolerated elsewhere, and should not be tolerated on Bourbon Street.

"If this was taking place at a restaurant that was offering prostitution or drugs, or a retail business, or City Hall, would there be more outrage? Would we say, 'Ok, we've gotten their attention, let's let them reopen?', Kelly said. "I want to make sure in no way we're giving these strip joints a pass just because they're strip joints."

Reporters Emily Lane and Andy Grimm contributed to this story.

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James Kelly <jkelly@covenanthouse.org>

14 Louisiana strip clubs busted for prostitution and drugs

3 messages

Thu, Nov 26, 2015 at

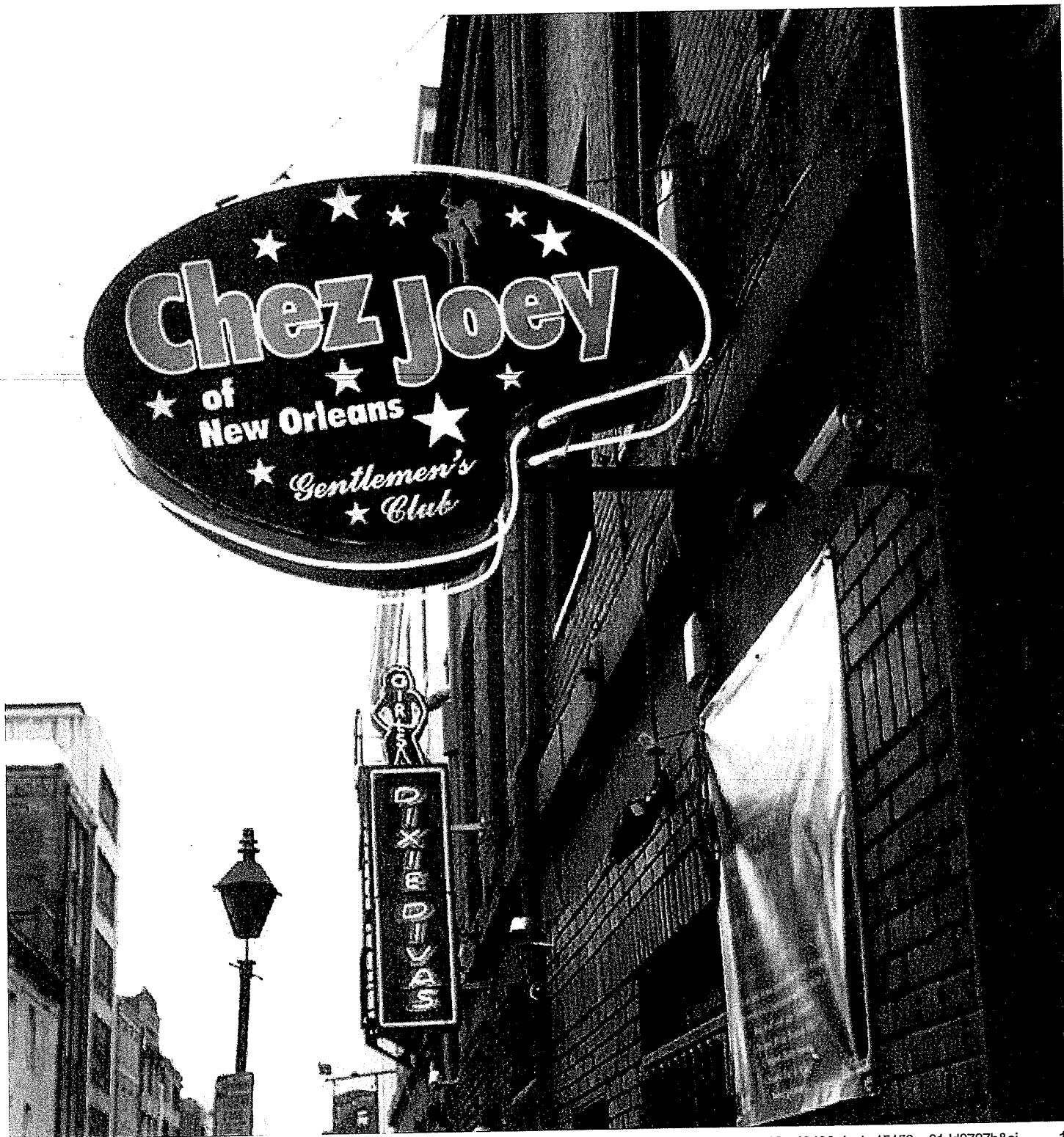
Ginny <vdomkell@bellsouth.net>

To: Jim Kelly <JKelly@covenanthouse.org>

14 Louisiana strip clubs busted for prostitution and drugs

The Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control has busted 14 more strip clubs statewide for prostitution, lewd conduct and illegal drug offenses. Authorities ordered six of them to immediately cease selling alcohol and tobacco "due to the threat to public safety," officials said

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Sent from my iPad

James Kelly <jkelly@covenanthouse.org>
 To: Tina Kelley <tkelley@covenanthouse.org>

Mon, Nov 30, 2015 at 8:29 AM

FYI -- might want to add a line/reference...

[Quoted text hidden]

--

James R. Kelly
 Executive Director
Covenant House
 611 N. Rampart Street
 Office: (504) 584 1102 Cell: (504) 975 0650



Opening Doors for Homeless Youth

Do something to help. Raise awareness.

Share our website with your friends: www.CovenantHouseNO.org



James Kelly <jkelly@covenanthouse.org>
 To: Manola Gonzalez <magonzalez@covenanthouse.org>, Caroline Keyes <ckeyes@covenanthouse.org>, Richard Arnold <RArnold@covenanthouse.org>, Andrew Lewis <andy.mainstreet@gmail.com>

Mon, Nov 30, 2015 at 8:47 AM

FYI.
[Quoted text hidden]

Greater New Orlear

Minimum age for New Orleans strippers wins critical support on City Council



[\[http://connect.nola.com/staff/RobertMcClendon/index.html\]](http://connect.nola.com/staff/RobertMcClendon/index.html) By [Robert McClendon, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune](#)
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 on January 06, 2016 at 6:44 PM, updated January 06, 2016 at 9:33 PM

A majority of the New Orleans **City Council** [\[http://topics.nola.com/tag/new%20orleans%20city%20council/\]](http://topics.nola.com/tag/new%20orleans%20city%20council/) voted Wednesday (Jan. 6) in favor of a rule that would require strip club workers to be at least 21, despite objections from club owners and an 18-year-old bartender, who said the move would only take jobs away from young people.

The proposal is scheduled to come before the full City Council Thursday, where it looks likely to pass. Councilwoman Nadine Ramsey cast the only vote against the measure at Wednesday's Governmental Affairs Committee meeting.

Representatives from three of Bourbon Street's high-end strip clubs — Rick's Cabaret, the Hustler Club and the Penthouse Club — told the committee that the measure would put young people in harms way rather than protect them. The owners also went on the attack against the proposal's most ardent supporter, the director of a shelter for homeless young people.

Cassidy Wall, an 18-year-old bartender at the Hustler Club, said her job was helping pay her way through the University of New Orleans. The notion that all strip clubs are seedy and expose workers to prostitution and drugs is misguided, she said. "I think that's completely wrong. At a regular club where I've worked, I felt less safe. And I felt more open to drugs and things like that than I work now."

The City Council began considering an age limit for strip club employees in July **at the request of Jim Kelly**, [\[http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2015/07/strip_clubs_ignoring_ban_on_yo.html\]](http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2015/07/strip_clubs_ignoring_ban_on_yo.html) director of Covenant House, a shelter for homeless youth.

Kelly's advocacy was sparked by the death of Jasilas Wright, a 19-year-old dancer who police say died at the hands of her pimp.

Pressure to impose an age limit increased this fall after authorities suspended the liquor licenses of nine French Quarter strip clubs, citing presence of prostitution and drug activity. Stiletto's Cabaret, the club where Wright danced and was last seen alive, was among the club's **cited in the sweep**.

[\[http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2015/11/in_bourbon_street_strip_clubs.html\]](http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2015/11/in_bourbon_street_strip_clubs.html)

Ike Spears, a lawyer for the strip club owners fighting the age limits, said the City Council's measure was "reactionary."

"We would like to get it right as opposed to get it done quickly and a feel good response to the tragic death of Jasilas Wright, who was killed by her pimp/boyfriend," he said. "There is nothing in this ordinance that would have prevented that very tragic death.

Spears also called into question a Loyola University study that Kelly had cited in his advocacy of age limits for dancers.

In interviews of nearly 100 residents, the researchers found that 10 young people at the shelter had worked as strippers and six of those who did had also sold sex. One girl in the study was trafficked into sex work while working at a strip club, and many others said that men had tried to recruit them while they were working.

Spears dismissed the study as unrepresentative of the larger industry, pointing out that it did not draw on any law enforcement or industry experts.

Robert Watters, owner of Rick's Cabaret, used the report to turn the tables on Covenant House. One girl in the study said she had been recruited into sex work by another girl staying at the shelter.

"This may need to be something that needs more supervision," he said. "Maybe there needs to be a police presence."

Kelly, speaking in a subsequent interview, responded by pointing out that the event Watters' referenced was isolated. The shelter has strict curfews, a highly trained staff and undergoes a safety audit each year to see how it can improve, he said.

The reality is that Covenant House serves at-risk young people, Kelly said, unlike the strip clubs, which "exploit vulnerable people and make more money the younger they are."

Watters said the clubs offer opportunities to young people that they might not otherwise have. "I worry about the person who comes to us and says, I'm 20 years old, and I can't continue to put myself through school," he said.

When Councilwoman Susan Guidry said that restaurants are always looking for good workers, Wall said that other bars and restaurants were reluctant to hire anyone under the age of 21.

Head said that it was a little disingenuous to imply that young people in general have access to the kind of high paying jobs Wall enjoys. The clubs "aren't hiring plump girl with a large wart on her nose," she said.

all called the comment offensive.

"The point is you are beautiful, and that's why you get the job there," Head said.

The ordinance would only apply to future applicants. Those who are already employed would be able to keep their jobs.

Watters called the grandfather clause a "social injustice," as it discriminated against people who haven't been hired yet in favor of those who already have jobs. "If you are going to do something, do something right," he said.

Councilwoman Nadine Ramsey echoed Watters' concern. "If we are going to say that this is harmful, why are we going to still allow Cassidy to work in that environment for three more years," she said.

Spears, alluding to Octobers sweep of French Quarter strip clubs, said that the City Council should not impose restrictions on an entire industry based on the behavior of a few bad actors. "You can pass 200 laws today," He said. "It's not going to impact them because they are not following the laws on the books."

Kelly said the proposed ordinance includes an escalating schedule of penalties that would ultimately shut down those who refuse to follow the rules. In a way, Kelly said, Spears had made his point for him. Three clubs came forward to claim the mantle of good corporate citizens. Nine others, meanwhile, had been cited for prostitution and drugs, Kelly said. "It seems like the bad actors are in the majority," Kelly said.

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Greater New Orlear

New Orleans strip club workers under 21 see city proposal as threat to their livelihood



[\[http://connect.nola.com/user/RichardAWebster/index.html\]](http://connect.nola.com/user/RichardAWebster/index.html) By [Richard A. Webster, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune](#)

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on January 07, 2016 at 7:06 AM, updated January 07, 2016 at 7:22 AM

Erica Mese, 20, has been working in strip clubs since she was 18 years old.

She has worked at some of the **most notorious clubs**

[\[http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2015/11/in_bourbon_street_strip_clubs.html\]](http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2015/11/in_bourbon_street_strip_clubs.html)

on Bourbon Street, and she's worked at some of the best, she said. And in just two short years, she says has seen everything -- drugs, prostitution, violence.

"I've seen one dancer at Temptations, she was behind the stage shooting up heroin. Another had already done it and she was (passing out) in a customer's lap," Mese said.

She's also seen money. A lot of it.

"If I doubled my hours, I'd probably be in the six figures this year," she said.

Mese has lived a hard life. Her father was murdered when she was 3 years old. A few years later, her younger sister died. After that, her remaining two siblings were placed in the foster system.

The experience taught her at an early age that some survive and some don't, Mese said. So she set two goals for herself: make enough money to support her mother, who, despite working two jobs, struggled to make \$30,000 a year; and save enough money to open her own auto repair shop.

With those goals in mind, Mese applied for a job as a waitress at a strip club as soon as she turned 18 because that's where she knew she could make the most money. And she was right, she said.

"The only way I could find a job that pays me as much as I've made this year is if I would have went to college for four years, probably for (a medical degree)," Mese said. "Not everybody has parents to be like, 'OK, if you go to college I'll take care of you.' No. Half of the people who work out here do it because they have to.

"And we should be able to make that choice for ourselves. But they want to take it away."

Council considers age limit

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"They" is the **New Orleans City Council**, [<http://topics.nola.com/tag/new%20orleans%20city%20council/>] which is expected to vote on a **proposed ordinance**

[http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2016/01/minimum_age_for_new_orleans_st.html] Thursday (Jan. 7) that would make it illegal for strip clubs to hire anyone younger than 21. People who currently work in the industry would be grandfathered in. Under the current law, clubs can hire anyone 18 or older to work as dancers, bartenders or waitresses.

Advocates of the ordinance say strip clubs are havens for human trafficking, **prostitution and drugs**, [http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2015/10/bourbon_street_strip_club_char.html#incart_m-rpt-2] and that allowing people under 21 to work at these establishments is essentially creating a pool of victims for pimps and other predators to prey upon.

Jim Kelly, director of Covenant House, a youth shelter on the edge of the French Quarter, first pushed for the stricter age limits shortly after the June 10 death of Jasilas Wright, a 19-year-old dancer at Stiletto's Cabaret and Centerfolds who police say was killed by her pimp.

To impress upon the council the urgency of his mission, Kelly cited a 2015 Loyola University study on human trafficking and the exploitation of homeless youth in New Orleans. It found that 10 percent of the residents at Covenant House once worked as strippers and of those, more than half engaged in acts of prostitution.

"We have laws in our country to protect people, young people and we have designated that you have to be 21 to drink in our country," Kelly said. "I believe that you therefore have to be 21 to seek employment or take your clothes off in a (strip club). We are trying to protect and safeguard 18-, 19-, and 20-year-olds from not just alcohol but the environment that surrounds the alcohol."

Kelly's message seemed to be having an impact as at least five councilmembers expressed support for the ordinance at various committee meetings, enough for final approval. So as the vote on the proposal drew closer, representatives from three Bourbon Street strip clubs – Rick's Cabaret, the Penthouse Club and Hustler -- contacted NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune.

They said the voices of their under-21 employees who depend on their jobs to support themselves and their families weren't being heard. Their stories were being lost in the debate, drowned out by what the club operators said were sensationalized stories of human trafficking.

Rick's owner Robert Watters said his employees are not drug-addicted "fiends who have been seduced by the ills of the industry. They're rational people who have made a choice" to work in strip clubs, just like other 18-year-olds choose to work in bars or nightclubs, he said.

"If you compare these environments to nightclubs and bars, because of our legal requirements, we are very intensely managed -- much more so than a bar," Watters said. "If I were to hazard a guess, there are many fewer drugs sold in here than there would be in any other open nightclub on the street. We feel it is so important for us to be able to stand up and say this bad stuff doesn't happen in our business."

The industry is not fighting the ordinance out of financial concerns as the vast majority of their employees are older than 21, Watters said. Their problem with the ordinance is one of fairness and equality, he said.

"In my experience, the people under 21 who work here have very specific life stories. They have some responsibilities somewhere that means they have to do this. It's usually an injury in the family or higher schooling or looking after children," Watters said.

"I do not think that our economic profitability in any of our businesses will take a hit from this thing passing. But I think it will create a lot of human misery among people who need work."

Employees speak out

To better illustrate their argument, the club operators made available four young women, including Mace, to talk about their

To better illustrate their argument, the club operators made available four young women, including these, to talk about their experiences in the industry. The women ranged in ages between 18 and 20. Two work as waitresses, one as a bartender and one as a dancer.

They described both the good and bad sides of the business, and the inherent risks for people who go into it looking for trouble. But mostly, they spoke of the opportunity it presented them, the chance to earn a decent living. And how, ultimately, they believe, as adults, that they should be able to choose to work at a strip club for themselves.

Cassidy Wall at 18 was the youngest of the five women interviewed. Before she started working as a bartender at Larry Flynt's Hustler Club, she worked as a waitress at the Bourbon Heat nightclub, where she said she never felt safe. So at the suggestion of her mother, Cat Wall, she applied for a job at Hustler.

"When we were at Bourbon Heat, there were always fights and gangs and drugs," said Cat Wall, who used to be a manager at the nightclub and prior to that worked at Hustler for nine years. "I don't know why people are concerned about 18-year-olds in strip clubs when you have more problems at the regular clubs. I think she's safer at Hustler than anywhere else. At least they have an armed guard."

Like Wall, Brittany Hingle, 20, started working at a nightclub on Bourbon Street, The Swamp. Because she wasn't making enough money as a shot girl, she applied for a waitressing job at Penthouse.

"I was scared. I didn't know anything about strip clubs," Hingle said. "I really haven't been to any because I'm 20, so I didn't know what I was getting myself into. But once I started working there, I felt like that place was home to me."

Wall, who is a psychology major at the University of New Orleans, and Hingle, who is a general studies major at Delgado Community College, said they only work a few days a week at the strip clubs and make enough to pay their tuition and bills without going into debt.

"hard-working, personable" waitress can make between \$800 and \$1,000 per shift, Watters said.

"My parents are fully supportive," Hingle said. "They know we're not in it for the long haul. We're just building ourselves up. I save every penny I make here so I can eventually get my own place and not struggle to pay rent every month."

That's the argument all of the women made against instituting a ban on workers under the age of 21 -- there is no other job available that would pay them as well while working just a few days a week.

During her first shift as a dancer at Rick's, Brandy Mayhew, 20, said a "rich couple" brought her into one of the VIP rooms and paid for consecutive private dances. After tipping out the rest of the staff at the end of the day, she pocketed just around \$2,000. And she could have made even more money if she wanted, Mayhew said.

"They offered me two grand to leave and (have sex with) them," she said. "I kept telling them no. There are probably girls out there that would jump on that. If that's the way they want to make money by all means, good for them. I don't do that."

Mayhew, who lives in Biloxi and drives into New Orleans to work every weekend, said she never wanted to be a stripper, but there were no other jobs available.

"I went to McDonald's. I went to every freaking place that was hiring. It was, 'Sorry, the spot's already been filled. Sorry, We're not hiring anymore.' It was devastating. Me and my boyfriend were going days without eating.

"I finally gave up and called one of my friends in Biloxi. I knew she worked at a strip club over there. Honestly, this was my last option. I was like, 'I don't want that reputation.' But I'm walking out of here with what my mom makes every two weeks. If I lost my job it would kill me."

Mayhew said her parents know what she does for a living and they support her, but it scares them at times.

"There was a girl who washed up in Bay St. Louis." Mayhew said, referring to 24-year-old Jaren Lockhart, a dancer at Stiletto's

and Temptations who was murdered in June 2012. "That was somebody's baby and that's what my parents look at."

Strip club strata

There is a well-known division among the strip clubs on Bourbon Street, the women said. There are the upscale establishments where they work, such as Rick's, Penthouse and Hustler. These are considered to be the well-run, secure clubs that attract a higher class of dancers and therefore a wealthier, more respectable clientele, they said.

"Guys aren't grabbing you. Everyone has an eye on you, watching to make sure you're OK," Wall said. "Every corner you could possibly think of, every inch of the strip club is a camera looking at you, making sure nothing crazy is going on."

Then there are the other clubs, those with a more notorious reputation including six that were cited for prostitution, drugs and lewd acts during an October undercover sting by the Louisiana Office of Tobacco and Alcohol Control: Temptations, Scores, Centerfolds, Lipstixx, Big Daddy's and Babe's Cabaret.

Wall, and Hingle have only worked at the so-called upscale clubs, while Mese and Mayhew put in time at Temptations, Centerfolds and Lipstixx. Based on their personal experiences, Mese and Mayhew said it came as no surprise when the clubs were busted.

"Management offers you condoms there," Mayhew said of Temptations. "If you get a VIP room they'll be like, 'Do you need any condoms or anything?' I walked into Temptations and figured out real quick the girls in there will do anything for some extra money."

When asked if she witnessed prostitution or drug use at Temptations, Mese said, "It was everything. Everything. It was disgusting. If I drop my cell phone on the floor (at Rick's), I don't feel like I have to Germ-X it 20 times. I could drop a \$20 bill on the floor over there (Temptations) and I wouldn't even pick it up."

When she was working at Lipstixx, Mese said someone drugged her soda. She started to throw up then went to an upstairs room and passed out for her entire shift. Management didn't care, she said. They didn't ask what happened and they let her walk to her car at night by herself. She never went back to Lipstixx.

"They let anybody in there," Mese said. "Seriously, anybody. And people know what those clubs are known for."

"All the clubs that got shut down recently, they're still going to do what they were doing before," Mayhew said.

Julie Quinn, who represents the owners of Temptations and Lipstixx, said Mayhew never worked for their clubs and described Mese as a disgruntled former employee who was fired after an investigation into forged checks.

"Temptations vehemently denies the outrageous and untruthful allegation made by Ms. Brandy Mayhew and Ms. Erica Mese that its management provided condoms to girls entering the 'VIP room,' and absolutely does not tolerate drug use or any illegal activity by or among employees," Quinn said.

Despite the illegal activities that took place at some of the Bourbon Street strip clubs, and environments that the women described as "nasty" and "disgusting," it doesn't mean people under 21 should be prohibited from working there, Mese said. There are good and bad operators in every industry.

And based on what she witnessed, the businesses weren't forcing the girls to do anything they didn't want to, Mese said.

"They say the industry pushes girls into prostitution and like I said, it doesn't. Even at the clubs where they're known for that, they don't push people. It's just a place for them to do it. If you don't want to do it, you don't have to. They're not going to be like, 'Well, you're fired.'

"And honestly, if that is what you want to do, you're probably safer doing it at the club instead of on the street somewhere."

Mese said she will continue to work in the strip clubs until she saves enough money to open her own auto repair shop or buy a

house she can rent to tenants. It's something her grandfather inspired her to do, she said. He worked every job imaginable in the French Quarter including bellhop, doorman, valet and waiter. Eventually, he saved up enough money to purchase multiple businesses, including a restaurant, furniture store and several apartment complexes, she said.

"I knew this was where the easy money was," she said of the strip club industry. "(My grandparents) really didn't want me working down here, but they know I have a good enough head on my shoulders to where I'm not going to fall into any of that.

"And what's the point of being an adult when you're 18 if you can't choose where you want to work? You can go to war when you're 18, but you can't work at a strip club?"

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Greater New Orleans

'Saved' from her life on the streets, only to be branded 'sex offender'



By [Robert McClendon, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune](#)

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on January 28, 2016 at 6:55 AM, updated January 28, 2016 at 7:09 AM

The plea offer seemed to be a godsend.

She had spent weeks in Orleans Parish Prison once before, sleeping on a mat, getting in fights. She was desperate to get out.

Plead guilty to "attempted intentional exposure to AIDS," an antiquated felony created during the darkest days of 1980s AIDS hysteria, and the prosecutor would agree to 60 days time served, her ticket to immediate release.

She took the deal.

About a week after she got out, the 22-year-old woman received a phone call. It was her probation officer, threatening to take her back to jail.

Why? She hadn't registered as a sex offender.

"I just started crying," she said.

Time served. Sixty days. That was supposed to be it, Aaliyah said. Until the call from her probation officer, she said nobody – not her lawyer, not the judge, not the prosecutor – had mentioned anything about adding her name to a list of society's most reviled outcasts. Nobody had said anything about the special driver's license she would have to carry, or the expense of mailing postcards to hundreds of her neighbors.

Aaliyah had condemned herself to 15 years of frustration and humiliation, and there is no record of anybody telling her until it was too late.

She remains on the sex-offender registry seven months later.

The plea deal is only the latest institutional failure in Aaliyah's life, the final link in a chain of sexual abuse, neglect, hostile foster homes, drugs and human trafficking.

Aaliyah is not the 22-year-old woman's real name. She spoke to NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune on the condition that her real name not be used. Her pseudonym, adopted from a childhood fascination with a pop star who died young, is one she used while working as a prostitute.

Porcelain-skinned with a penchant for flashy wigs, she recounted with plainspoken simplicity being made to eat off of plastic dishes because she has HIV, getting robbed at gunpoint, being choked unconscious by a pimp. The one time she betrayed any emotion beyond a bashful smile was when she recounted how she'd been turned down for a job at a clothing shop because, the owner told her, "kids come in here."

"What do kids have to do with it?" she said, staring at the floor. "I never hurt any kids."

"What's happening to her is really unconscionable," said Jim Kelly, director of Covenant House, who learned about Aaliyah's case when she stayed at the youth crisis center for a time in the fall of 2015.

Kelly almost never intervenes financially in such cases – in 15 years with the faith-based organization, he has done it only once before – but he has taken up Aaliyah's cause, seeking out a private donor to help with court costs and fees associated with the sex offender registry.

The weight of her sex-offender status, with its attendant costs and barriers to stability and employment, will only push her back to the street, he said.

But for Kelly, it's about more than just the injustice of her court case. In her, he sees all the ways society fails to protect women and vulnerable young people.

The world has been slowly crushing Aaliyah since she was a kid, Kelly said, and he couldn't justify sitting on the sidelines as it finished the job.

THE BEGINNING

Aaliyah, who grew up in a decaying industrial town around the Great Lakes, said she was 16 the first time someone paid her to have sex. Her mother's boyfriend, a local drug dealer, gave her \$200.

In a way, Aaliyah said, it felt like she had been earning that money for years. The man had been raping her off and on since she was 9, Aaliyah said, but she had never told anyone for fear of upsetting her mother and driving away their only source of income.

By the time she took the money, Aaliyah said, child protective services had long since taken her away from her mother, whose cocaine use had spun out of control. A furtive sniff in the kitchen, glimpsed by her young daughter through a hole in the upstairs floor, had given way to crack smoked out of a freshly emptied beer can.

Aaliyah said she isn't sure what finally prompted the state to take her.

It could have been her bed, a bare mattress on the floor, and the unwashed clothes, and the hours she and her cousin were left to roam the streets. It could have been the broken hot-water heater that nobody had bothered to repair, leaving the children to warm their bathwater on the stove.

Foster care, which began when she was in sixth grade, was better in some ways, but Aaliyah chafed under the authority of people she felt only wanted her because of the state's per diem. She responded in kind, often sticking around only long enough to get her clothing allowance from the state. In all, she would bounce between a dozen foster homes in the seven years she was in the system.

In the meantime, she ran the streets. She joined a biker gang. She drank and smoked marijuana regularly.

Like her mother, she eventually found a man who would pay for her growing party lifestyle. He was in his 40s, more than twice her age.

How old she was at the time remains in dispute. She said she was 14. Reached by phone, the man said she was 16, the age of consent in their home state.

Speaking on the condition that his name not be used, he confirmed the relationship but said Aaliyah had claimed to be 19 at the time they started sleeping together.

Aaliyah's mother, who lived with the man and Aaliyah for a time, eventually let slip her real age, he said.

The man didn't cut off the relationship immediately, though. "By then I'd probably slept with her 50 times," the man said. "It w

The man didn't cut off the relationship immediately, though. By then he probably slept with her 50 times, the man said. It was already done."

Aaliyah said she was still seeing him when she found out she had HIV. He subsequently tested positive, too. Both say the other is responsible for their contracting the disease.

She eventually struck out for Texas and found work as a stripper. A dancer told her about a Houston club where she could earn even more money, she said, so she agreed to meet the man in charge.

In a town that sex-trafficking researchers say is common in the world of strip clubs, the man turned out to be a pimp.

He took her identification and cellphone and put her on the street, Aaliyah said. For more than a year, she said, she "walked the track," cruising the boulevards in an effort to fulfill her quota: \$500 on weekdays, double that on weekends.

Aaliyah said she was still working for the man when she and another woman came to New Orleans in 2014 to work the NBA All-Star Game.

Within an hour of their arrival, they had set up a date.

The man turned out to be Mark Navarre, court documents show, a Louisiana State Trooper.

THE ARREST

The FBI and State Police declined to discuss the particulars of Aaliyah's case, even though it has been closed since June.

They did offer some general information about the sting that resulted in her arrest, billing it as an attempt to interdict human trafficking. The focus was on helping women and children who were being exploited, they said.

Aaliyah said they told her as much after she was busted, but they didn't seem interested when she told them she worked for a Texas man who took her money.

"They said, 'You're lying. You just don't want to go to jail,'" she said. "I was like, 'I'm already going to jail.'"

The sting operation resulted in the arrest of two pimps, neither of them the man Aaliyah said she told them about, and the rescue of two adult women, according to the State Police. Two men who had gone online to solicit sex with minors were also arrested.

The bulk of the 23 arrests, though, about 70 percent, were of women sex workers.

The operation has the hallmarks of a "savior sting," said Pepis Rodriguez, of the HIV Center for Law and Policy in New York. In such operations, authorities attempt to gain access to criminal networks by rounding up sex workers and asking them if they are working for a pimp or otherwise being coerced into prostitution, he said.

Some are directed to diversion programs, and some are simply charged and put into the criminal justice system. Who qualifies for the program sometimes depends on whether the sex worker has something to offer, such as a willingness to testify in court. Rodriguez said. Other times, it depends on officer discretion, whether the sex worker fits his or her definition of a victim, he said.

Advocates say that is a questionable approach to take with the sex industry, where the roles of victim and villain can overlap and sometimes don't apply at all.

After Aaliyah's first arrest on the exposure charge, the courts referred her to Eden House, a group home for human trafficking victims, but she quickly broke the rules. Fearing she would be sent back to jail, she fled. When authorities caught up with her in Jefferson Parish, she had left the man she said was her pimp, but she was still working as a prostitute and had recruited a woman to work under her.

Kara Van de Carr, Eden House's president, largely agreed that criminalizing sex workers has only served to frustrate the fight

against human trafficking, but she defended the use of stings in some cases.

"I can't tell you how many women have told me, 'If I weren't arrested and forced into this dilemma, I would never have gotten out of my situation,'" she said. Such sting operations are sometimes the only method police have of coming into contact with women and minors who can't find a way out of the sex industry, Van de Carr said.

On the whole, though, the system is set up to sort people into neat boxes of "victim" or "criminal," a simplistic approach that too often cuts women off from the support they need to leave sex work behind, if that's what they choose, Van de Carr said.



Woman branded 'sex offender' fits a pattern, advocates say

THE CASE

Three claims formed the case against Aaliyah, documents show: She agreed to have sex with an undercover police officer; she wasn't carrying condoms; and she is HIV positive.

That was enough to book her on a charge of "intentional exposure to AIDS virus," a controversial provision in the criminal code that doctors say is medically obsolete and discriminatory.

The charge is punishable by up to 10 years in prison, the same penalty Louisiana provides for aggravated assault with a firearm.

District attorneys around the state rarely prosecute exposure cases. That Orleans Parish prosecutors were able to get a guilty plea from Aaliyah speaks to the power imbalance that defendants, especially poor ones, face at Tulane and Broad, said Craig Mordock, a criminal defense attorney and former prosecutor. Heavy-handed charges against people ill-equipped to fight them makes for easy, plea-bargain convictions, he said.

Christopher Bowman, a prosecutor and spokesman for District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro, said the office pursued charges against Aaliyah because her actions met the definition of the criminal statute. "If you don't feel like it's a crime, talk to the Legislature and ask them why it's a crime," he said.

But after reviewing the material in the Orleans Parish District Attorney's file, provided to NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune after public records request, Mordock said Aaliyah's case would likely have been a loser had it gone to trial.

The very nature of the charge would have made it hard for a prosecutor to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, he said.

The criminal statute states: "No person shall intentionally expose another to any acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) virus through sexual contact without the knowing and lawful consent of the victim."

There was no victim in Aaliyah's case – she never had sex with the man who hired her – but that doesn't matter under Louisiana law, which allows nearly any crime to be charged as an "attempt." All police have to do to justify an attempt charge is demonstrate that a person set out to commit the crime and did something to further that criminal intent.

In Aaliyah's case, that meant showing she intended to expose the undercover officer to HIV.

The prostitution charge is solid evidence that she intended to have sex with Navarre, Mordock said, but it's not evidence that she intended to expose him to HIV without his knowledge and consent.

Aaliyah was arrested immediately after agreeing to accept money for sex, according to the report, Mordock noted.

What if she planned to wait to disclose her HIV status until Navarre was aroused? What if she forgot the condoms and hadn't

realized it yet?

ight up until the moment of intercourse, her intent remains an open question, Mordock said, so the state's burden of proof is essentially impossible to meet.

Aaliyah said she did have condoms, a box full. With a compromised immune system, an otherwise treatable disease could prove fatal, she said.

The district attorney's file did not include an inventory of Aaliyah's belongings at the time of her arrest, nor did investigators note the absence of condoms in the initial police report.

The assertion that she showed up to the date without them doesn't appear in the records until after police received a tip that she was HIV positive.

That tip came from an FBI agent based in Aaliyah's hometown, records show.

Citing the "unconfirmed information" from unnamed sources and previous arrests, authorities convinced Orleans Parish Magistrate Commissioner Robert Blackburn to grant a search for medical records, which confirmed that she was HIV positive.

Such formalities wouldn't be necessary now. Since her registration as a sex offender, Aaliyah's HIV status is only a click away online. In Google searches for her name, it's the first result.



HIV exposure law unjustly applies sex offender status, advocates say

THE DEAL

The day of Aaliyah's guilty plea, Judge Byron Williams' schedule was packed, the kind of disorderly cattle call that is typical in Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, which continues to rely almost entirely on paper files despite a caseload of 4,000 felony charges each year.

The courtroom was crowded, hectic, when Aaliyah's case came up on page 12 of the docket. Assistant District Attorney Gordor Kuehl told the judge that he and defense attorney Jerome Matthews had reached a plea agreement, a transcript of the hearing shows.

With bail out of reach, Aaliyah found herself facing a choice that advocates say is familiar to many Orleans Parish defendants: Plead guilty in exchange for freedom, or fight the case while being held in one of the country's most notorious lockups.

The system leads to bad pleas all the time, said Katie Schwartzmann, co-director of the Roderick and Solange MacArthur Justice Center. A cash-based pre-trial release system conspires with the deplorable conditions of the jail to stack the deck against poor defendants, she said.

About 85 percent of the defendants in Orleans Parish are determined to be indigent, yet the overwhelming majority of defendants are only released pretrial if they can afford to put up their own cash or pay a bondsman. Two-thirds of the people arrested in 2014 remained in jail for at least some time because they couldn't make bail, according to a report by Court Watch NOLA, a criminal justice watchdog, which cited statistics from the Orleans Parish Public Defenders Office.

The District Attorney's office, meanwhile, closed about 3,353 felony cases by way of guilty plea in 2014, according to Court Watch's report, citing data from prosecutors. Just 87 felony cases went to a jury trial.

"The effects of pretrial incarceration force pleas, even if an individual is not guilty," Schwartzmann said. "If pretrial release we

more accessible to people — if they could fight their cases from the streets, holding down jobs and keeping their homes and children — fewer people would plead guilty."

Against her lawyer's advice, Aaliyah did what many have done: She opted to get out of jail.

She has regretted it ever since.

THE CONSEQUENCES

The words "sex offender" are stamped in scarlet letters under the picture on Aaliyah's driver's license, the first she's had, she said, since the pimp took hers several years ago.

It is just one example of the illogic and lack of mercy on display in Aaliyah's case, said Kelly, the Covenant House director. Even though she's never been accused of harming a child, officers called on Halloween to remind her that she was forbidden from dressing in costume or mingling with trick-or-treating kids.

"What could the purpose of that be, if not to remind her that she's not wanted in society?" Kelly said.

Before Kelly stepped in to take on her case, Aaliyah was forced to move out of Covenant House because she couldn't afford to pay for the notifications she is required to send out whenever she moves into a new place.

With Kelly's financial help, she's been able to move back in, but formal, permanent housing will remain hard to find unless she can get off of the registry, which requires her landlords to sign a release acknowledging they know she's a sex offender.

Employment prospects will also remain grim for the same reason. Kelly has managed to get her into a job training program for troubled youth, but others have turned her away when she hands them the disclosure form she's required to get signed, Aaliyah said.

With so many pressures directing her back to the street, getting off the registry is the key to her finding a normal life, Kelly said.

Matthews, the lawyer, said Aaliyah might be able to have her guilty plea set aside if she can prove that he and judge Williams never told her before she agreed to the deal that it would make her a sex offender.

A transcript of the hearing shows that Williams never told her, and Matthews said he's willing to go on the record as saying he didn't either.

Aaliyah's copy of the form shows she wasn't notified in writing, but there is no remaining official copy of it. Her entire public case file, the contents of which are crucial to any appeal or petition for post-conviction relief, appears to be lost. Clerk of Court Arthu Morrell's staff has been unable to produce it, despite several requests.

Judge Byron Williams did not return requests for comment on this story.

Matthews said the judge would likely grant a motion for post-conviction relief, given the evidence. The problem is what comes next.

Even if Williams grants the motion, Matthews said, it wouldn't mean the end of her prosecution. It would simply remove the guilty plea, leaving an open charge against her.

There's no guarantee that prosecutors will offer a deal a second time. If she's found guilty, she could end up going to prison for a decade, and when she got out, the same sex offender status would still be waiting for her.

Kelly has found a lawyer willing to take her case, and Aaliyah said she's willing to fight.

She knows it's a risk. She has been fighting long odds her whole life.

Greater New Orleans

Woman branded 'sex offender' fits a pattern, advocates say



By [Robert McClendon, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune](#)

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on January 28, 2016 at 6:59 AM

Aaliyah's plight is one social workers see all too often in the sex industry.

Her story, which she relayed in several hours of interviews, includes sexual abuse as a child, a brief stint as a stripper, which she says led her to be trafficked into prostitution, and ultimately led her to multiple arrests on prostitution-related charges.

Aaliyah is not the woman's real name. She spoke to NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune on the condition that her real name not be used.

The broad strokes of her life history – growing up in poverty, a move to Texas, working as a prostitute – line up with court records, social media posts, and other interviews.

The details, though, are hard to nail down.

A cousin, for example, interviewed separately, vouched for Aaliyah's account that she had been repeatedly raped at a young age. The two grew up in the same house for many years, the cousin said, and Aaliyah told her about the rapes when they were teens.

The man was never charged, however, so there is no official account.

An older man who had sex with Aaliyah when she was a teenager also confirmed her impoverished upbringing and subsequent ill treatment in foster care. But specific references to brutal foster homes and extreme neglect by her mother can't be confirmed without access to the foster records, which state officials declined to release.

The cousin also corroborated Aaliyah's description of her life with a pimp, but attempts to reach the pimp were unsuccessful.

Aaliyah's account was generally consistent in interviews and she granted access to case workers at shelters and group homes where she has stayed.

Her account as relayed by the caseworkers was also consistent, though some details were different.

Jim Kelly, who has worked for 15 years with young people in trouble as the director of Covenant House, where Aaliyah now stays said that youths who have suffered trauma will always have some inconsistencies in their stories, some details that change or don't add up. That's simply the reality of the young people he serves, Kelly said. There isn't always going to be a neat file of documents available to verify their stories, he said.

Sheri Lochridge, a Covenant House caseworker, said about 85 percent of the youths at Covenant House have suffered some kind of physical or sexual abuse. Lochridge, who was abused as a child and lived on the streets for a time before coming to Covenant House in her youth, said Aaliyah's suspicion and difficulty establishing trust are symptomatic of that life. "It scars you, like

forever. It changes you," Lochridge said.

Maxine Kimbrell, a social worker at Eden House, a group home for human trafficking victims, said that nearly all of the women she encounters have suffered some kind of sexual abuse. Aaliyah's profile is consistent with a pattern that Kimbrell said she sees over and over again, as women attempt to break free from a life of prostitution.

Kimbrell said it often takes more than one intervention before a woman makes a firm decision to leave the street behind.

Aaliyah had a brief stay at Eden House, but she ran away. When authorities caught her, she was working as a prostitute again, though she had left her alleged pimp.

That's not uncommon, Kimbrell said. Women who are initially forced into the industry sometimes continue in it long after the threat of imminent danger has passed, and some perpetuate the cycle of violence by luring other women into the sex trade, she said.

Some develop a psychological dependence on the pimp. Some have a drug habit. Some simply have no other option.

For Aaliyah, whose sharp eye for luxury brands left an impression on the Eden House staff, it might have been the money.

In interviews, she sometimes struck a nostalgic tone as she described a world of designer clothes, concerts, and poolside downtime.

Even though she didn't get to actually keep any of the money for herself, Aaliyah said, she started to take a kind of pride in bringing in the cash that supported it all.

"I would see the other girls get so happy when they made the money for him," she said. "I guess I wanted to be happy too."

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Greater New Orleans

HIV exposure law unjustly applies sex offender status, advocates say



By [Robert McClendon, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune](#)

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on January 28, 2016 at 7:00 AM, updated January 28, 2016 at 7:14 AM

As the deadline loomed for Aaliyah to send out notices of her sex-offender status, she had two choices.

She could stay at Covenant House with a roof over her head and a structured environment geared toward helping her turn her life around. But if she couldn't find the \$1,200 to pay for the notices, she could be sent to prison.

If she left, Aaliyah would have to couch surf or find some rent money, but it would reset the 21-day notification clock, putting off the threat of jail for another few weeks.

She chose to leave.

"I can't blame her," said Jim Kelly, director of the Covenant House, the homeless shelter where Aaliyah was staying.



'Saved' from her life on the streets, only to be branded 'sex offender'

Aaliyah is not the woman's real name. She and Kelly spoke to NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune on the condition that her name not be used.

She is not a child predator, an image that often comes to mind with the term "sex offender." Aaliyah, 22, was convicted of "attempted intentional exposure to AIDS virus," a controversial statute that Kelly and other advocates say is cruel, medically archaic and dangerous for public health.

Aaliyah didn't expose anyone to the virus. Police arrested her during an undercover prostitution sting. Showing up to the date without condoms, an allegation she disputes, was enough for Louisiana State Police to charge her and get a guilty plea.

THE REGISTRATION

While about half of U.S. states have some criminal statute regarding sexual exposure to the human immunodeficiency virus, Louisiana is one of only nine states that require those convicted to register as sex offenders alongside rapists and child pornographers, according to the New York-based advocacy group Center for HIV Law & Policy.

Iowa lawmakers, citing in part the lack of evidence that registration did anything to discourage the spread of HIV, **recently became** the first state in the country to repeal its sex-offender provision for those convicted on exposure charges.

Aaliyah's case shows how the law can force those convicted under it into impossible situations that are both bad for the individual and bad for public safety, Kelly said.

Under the rules, whenever sex offenders in Louisiana change addresses, they have 21 days to notify the community through newspaper ads and postcards disclosing their status, sent to every residential address in the immediate area. The costs, borne by the offender, can be considerable, but a loophole provides a way around them for those willing to live on the move.

Every time an offender moves the 21-day deadline resets.

That's why, Aaliyah said, she left Covenant House. Previous rounds of notification had bled her dry, she said, and the training program the shelter had helped her get into only pays a small stipend for the first several weeks. She had no way to pay the \$1,200 notification bill, she said.

The New Orleans Police Department, which enforces the sex-offender registration rules, would make no exception or allowance for a payment plan.



Woman branded 'sex offender' fits a pattern, advocates say

Kelly ultimately stepped in to pay Aaliyah's registration fees so she could move back into Covenant House's structured environment, but he expressed frustration that nobody in the system was willing to apply common sense to her case.

"I mean really, what are we doing here?" said Kelly. "We are taking a young girl, who has no job and knows no way to make money other than selling her body, and we are telling her she had better come up with \$1,200 quick. What do they expect her do? Really?"

Asked whether the Police Department's hardline stance was serving public safety in this case, NOPD Commander Doug Eckert said that his job isn't to interpret the rules, it is to enforce the rules on the books.

Katie Schwartzmann, co-director of the Roderick and Solange MacArthur Justice Center, said the state's sex-offender registration requirements "have become so punitive that they are counterproductive to public safety."

"Individual facts of particular cases should matter," she said. "The Legislature has adopted so many bans and regulations that at this point it is virtually impossible for any person convicted of any sex offense to live on the grid in our community. It is extremely difficult to get a job or find housing, which causes people to cycle into homelessness. Homeless people cannot comply with the sex-offender registry because they have no permanent address and cannot afford the hundreds of dollars required to send out notification cards.

"So what happens? They live in our parks and under bridges, moving from place to place until finally they are arrested and put back in jail not because they are any actual threat to any of us, but for not registering."

THE LAW

State legislators drafted the "exposure to AIDS virus" law in 1987 at the height of the AIDS panic, a time when the virus was poorly understood and often meant a death sentence for those who contracted it, said Mark Alain Dery an assistant professor of clinical medicine at Tulane University who runs the school's AIDS clinic in New Orleans.

Since it was widely believed to be a "gay" virus at the time, supporting criminal punishments for those who carried it was an easy political decision to make, he said.

It was billed as a means to protect the public, he said, but it actually does the opposite. Since you can't be prosecuted unless

It was billed as a means to protect the public, he said, but it actually does the opposite. Since you can't be prosecuted unless you've been diagnosed, the effect of the law is to discourage people from getting tested and sharing that information with sexual partners, Dery said.

The name of the criminal charge itself is inaccurate, he said. AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome, is not the name of the virus, it's a medical condition caused by an advanced infection of the virus itself, HIV.

Medically, it's also out of date, Dery said, and has been roundly condemned by a variety of medical groups, including the American Medical Association.

Although the disease can be fatal and highly transmissible if untreated, today's medical treatment can all but eliminate the virus from a patient's body, leaving them symptom-free. The viral load can be reduced to the point that the risk of passing it along is near zero, Dery said.

Kelly said the law, when applied to women in the sex industry, is also patently misogynistic.

"It is not right or just that Johns who purchase sex from young women like (Aaliyah) and are not held responsible for wearing condoms," he said. "Johns should be held to at least the same standard as these vulnerable women who are forced to sell their bodies for cash."

Kelly has hired an attorney to help Aaliyah fight her conviction, but the system that facilitated it remains in place.

"We've got to change this law," Kelly said.

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~~BOURBON STREET~~
SPEECH

Bourbon Street strip club cheated dancers out of wages, lawsuit claims



A dancer performs at Rick's Cabaret in New Orleans in 2006. (NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune)

By [Katherine Sayre, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune](#)

[Email the author](#) | [Follow on Twitter](#)



on November 11, 2013 at 6:43 PM

An exotic dancer is suing Bourbon Street strip club Rick's Cabaret on claims the business refused to pay wages and siphoned off tips to hundreds of its women performers.

Kelly Moncheski, a former dancer, filed a lawsuit in federal court in New Orleans on Monday on behalf of other former employees at Rick's Cabaret. The club, operated by RCI Entertainment of Louisiana, is located at 315 Bourbon St. in the French Quarter.

The club's owners couldn't immediately be reached for comment Monday evening.

The lawsuit claims that Rick's Cabaret improperly classified dancers as independent contractors -- rather than regular employees -- to cheat them out of pay, overtime wages and tips.

More than 300 women have worked as dancers without being paid minimum wages, the lawsuit says.

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BUSINESS NEWS**

The dancers should be classified as tipped workers under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act and are therefore entitled to at least \$2.13-per-hour and to pocket all of their tips, oncheski's lawyer, Alexandra Mora, wrote in the suit.

Instead, Rick's Cabaret only paid the women in tips from customers for their semi-nude performances, the lawsuit claims, and dancers were forced to share tips with the owners.

When performing for customers in private rooms, the business charged the dancers "rent" for using the space, according to the lawsuit.

Meanwhile, the company dictated to the dancers how long they should work, what to wear, and how to groom themselves -- or face being fired -- all indications that the dancers were employees, not independent contractors, the lawsuit says.

The decision to classify dancers as independent contractors "was designed to deny members of the plaintiff class their fundamental rights as employees to receive minimum wages, to retain tips given to them by customers, and was done solely to enhance the defendants' profits," the lawsuit says.

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Where Human Trafficking Profits: The Hostile Work Environment of Adult Entertainment Establishments

ARTICLE in SSRN ELECTRONIC JOURNAL · DECEMBER 2012 with 4 READS
DOI: 10.2139/ssrn.2288150



1st Emily Taylor Tocci

ABSTRACT

The purpose of human trafficking is to strip a human being of their autonomy and freedom in order to force, control, and manipulate them to engage in either commercial sex acts or labor for little to no wages; and for the benefit and profit of the trafficker. As stated in *King v. Hillen*, the purpose of Title VII is, "to liberate the workplace, through law, from the demeaning influence of discrimination and thereby implement the goals of human dignity and economic equality in employment." Although the application of Title VII sexual harassment may be the very last thing to come to mind as a genuine employment law claim in adult entertainment clubs; the crime of human trafficking exists within these clubs; often with the knowledge, involvement, or acquiescence of managers and owners. Because employers either condone or promote a hostile work environment for female employees, and because female victims of human trafficking are often employed in this capacity, liability for the employer can be established on the basis of Title VII sexual harassment discrimination. This article suggests that it is no longer appropriate to, "have our cake and eat it too." If adult entertainment clubs are licensed and maintained as legitimate business establishments, then these employers must abide by all aspects of the law, and not just some. This article proposes that by holding these employers liable for the hostile work environment, it will also serve to decrease human trafficking.

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321 Pelican Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70114

April 7, 2016

City Planning Commission Office
1300 Perdido Street, 7th Floor
One Stop Shop
New Orleans, LA 70112

Ladies & Gentlemen:

Please scrutinize adult live entertainment venues (strip clubs) within the city in response to recent criminal activity and public outcry. Such clubs are notoriously connected to Human Trafficking, something widely recognized by national law enforcement and Human Trafficking experts,

Your attention is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Maria Babb

cc: New Orleans City Council
1300 Perdido Street, 2nd Floor West
New Orleans, LA 701

April 15, 2016
1240 Merrill St.
New Orleans, La 70114

City Planning Commission
300 Perdido St.
New Orleans, La 70112

APR18'16 03:01PM

Re: Study on Human Trafficking

Dear Sirs:

I support your efforts to pass the
Human Trafficking Prioritization Act (HR 514).

We must do all we can to protect
victims of trafficking by those who
seek to make a profit by others' sufferings.

Sincerely,
Patricia Bruno

From: Joyce Burland <joyceburland@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2016 11:45 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristengislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Attachments: City Planning Adult Entertainment Petition.pdf

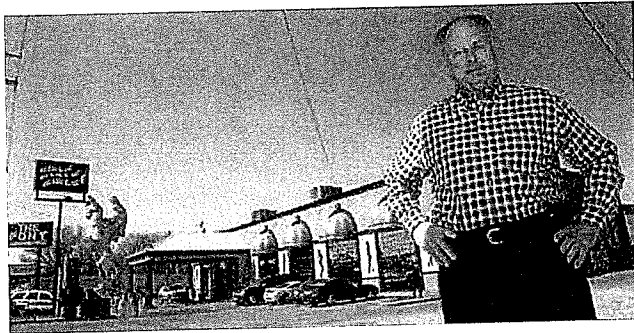
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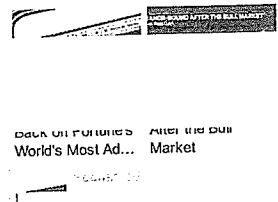
News » Nation Census Troops at Risk Lotteries



Shelby County Commissioner Mike Ritz stands in front of a club, in Memphis, where a county ordinance bans alcohol in strip clubs and requires employee background checks and licenses. "I don't think the law we adopted will get rid of them and we never said it would," he says.

By Lisa W. Buser for USA TODAY

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Cities use local laws to curb strip clubs

Updated 3/14/2008 1:53 PM | Comment | Recommend

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By Judy Keen, USA TODAY

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SUPREME COURT RULINGS

City of Erie v. Pap's A.M. (2000) Upholds an Erie, Pa., ordinance that required dancers in adult clubs to wear G-strings and pasties.

Barnes v. Glen Theatre (1991) Allows government to ban nude dancing to protect its interest in "order and morality."

City of Renton v. Playtime Theatres (1986) Allows Renton, Wash., to limit the location of "adult" businesses.

Schad v. Borough of Mount Ephraim (1981) Rejects a Mount Ephraim, N.J., ban on live nude entertainment and declares that nude dancing is "not without its First Amendment protection."

Source: USA TODAY research

A growing number of cities and counties are using zoning, licensing regulations and other techniques to discourage strip clubs without running afoul of the businesses' First Amendment rights.

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that cities and states can ban nude dancing and regulate adult-oriented businesses, but can't prohibit them from operating. Federal courts generally protect such businesses unless communities can prove "harmful secondary effects" — increased crime, blight or diminished property values.

"This is a pressing issue all across the country," says David Hudson, a scholar at the First Amendment Center, a free-speech forum. "City officials are struggling with ways to regulate and limit and even try to prohibit adult entertainment."

Angelina Spencer, executive director of the Association of Club Executives, a strip-club trade association, says legislative efforts to restrict the nation's 3,000 clubs are increasing, especially in rural areas. "We aren't opposed to regulations,"

she says. "We're opposed to oppressive legislation ... designed to put these places out of business."

In January, Jasper County, Mo., commissioners reacted to plans for a nude juice bar by voting to ban total nudity, require employee background checks and HIV tests and keep clubs 2,000 feet from churches, schools and homes.

The rules are meant to be so restrictive that such clubs decide to locate elsewhere, Presiding County Commissioner John Bartosh said. "We can't stop them from opening, but we can make tough restrictions so they can't make any money."

Last week, the building's owner scrapped plans for nude strippers and decided to open a bar and adult video store. Bartosh says he "definitely" believes the new limits forced the change. Lawyer Bill Fleischaker, who represents the owner, says the business will "comply with the ordinance."

Eric Damian Kelly, an urban planning professor at Indiana's Ball State University who advises communities on ways to limit adult businesses, says they often locate in small towns and rural areas with no applicable zoning or other rules.

Elsewhere:

•A federal appeals court last month upheld Kenton County, Ky., rules requiring dancers to stay at least 5 feet from patrons but asked a judge to consider the legality of license fees of \$3,000 for clubs and \$155 for performers. The ordinance requires that stages be at least 3 feet high and limits conversation with the dancers.

"If these businesses go away, that's fine," County Attorney Garry Edmondson says.

•A Shelby County, Tenn., ordinance that took effect Jan. 1 bans alcohol in strip clubs and requires background checks and licenses for employees. Because a city ordinance allowing alcohol in Memphis clubs had been negated in court, the county rules could take effect there. Club owners are challenging the constitutionality of the rules in court, and the Memphis City Council is considering an ordinance that would permit alcohol sales.

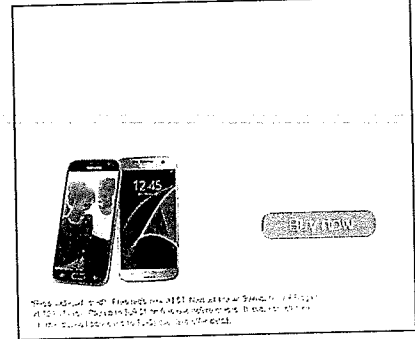
"I don't think the law we adopted will get rid of them, and we never said it would. But if it becomes less attractive to do business here ... maybe there will be fewer of these clubs," County Commissioner Mike Ritz says.

•In January, the Bourbonnais, Ill., village board voted to allow strip clubs only in areas zoned for industrial use, prohibit them from having liquor licenses and keep them 1,000 feet from churches and schools. Mayor Robert Latham says his "personal wish" is to keep them out of town or put them where they "do the least amount of damage."

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Jeffrey Douglas, a lawyer and board chairman of the Free Speech Coalition, an adult-entertainment trade group, says efforts to restrict such businesses often are driven by lawyers who promise communities they can help write limits that will stand up in court. The bottom line, he says: "Cities may not place such restrictions on the placement or operation of the business that makes it, in essence, a ban."

Mixx |

Posted 3/13/2008 11:03 PM

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Updated 3/14/2008 1:53 PM

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[NEWS]

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June 16, 2011

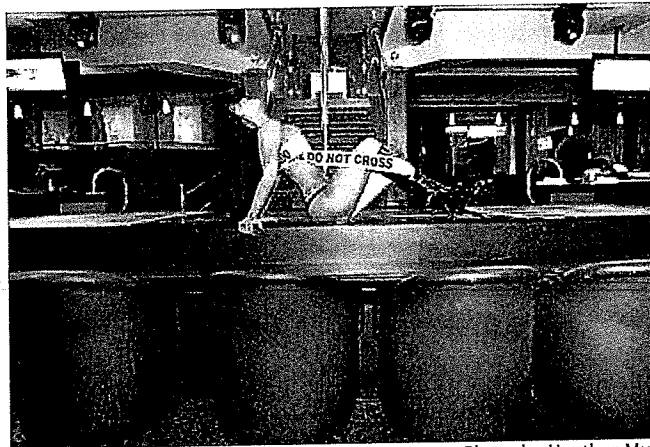
Stripping Away: Will tighter rules make strip clubs safer, or extinct?**"There is always going to be a market for looking at beautiful, naked people."**By [Lauren Daley](#) and [Charlie Deitch](#) @CharlieDee71[click to enlarge](#)

Photo by Heather Mull

A view of the stage at Cheerleaders Gentleman's Club

The dancer's 5' 10" frame is draped across the mirror-lined stage -- naked except for a pink thong wrapped around her wrist, a tattoo arching around her pelvic bone and black platform stilettos. Hanging her head upside down off the stage, she flips her long auburn hair into the face of a female patron and smiles. A dollar bill slides onto the stage.

Dancers who've already finished up their 10-minute set, meanwhile, mingle with the patrons, while the DJ announces a two-for-one lap-dance special.

It's a typical lunchtime scene at Blush, Downtown's long-lived strip club. But almost every aspect of the scene would change under legislation proposed by City Councilor Theresa Kail-Smith. Lap dances would be a thing of the past, and even after performing on stage, dancers would have to stay at least 5 feet away from customers. Tipping, too, would have to be done at a distance.

And that auburn-haired dancer's provocative tattoo? It would be registered with police.

Kail-Smith says the city needs more say in how, and where, strip clubs operate. Courts have sided with clubs hoping to locate inside city limits -- despite objections from city officials and neighbors, who have to live with whatever problems the clubs bring along.

"We want [adult businesses] to have the right to operate," she says. "But at the same time, we want to make sure the community isn't suffering."

Still, industry advocates are threatening a fight.

"You're trying to take an industry and completely collapse it," argues Louis Caputo, an attorney representing Blush. "Whether you like them or not, these are businesses. And people make their living off them."

Kail-Smith was a neighborhood advocate before being elected to Pittsburgh City Council in February 2009. By her own account, this is her first substantive legislation, and it took root last year, as the city has fought a losing court battle to prevent a strip club from opening in the West End section of her district. City officials have similarly been unable to thwart plans for a Hustler club near the Rivers Casino.

Currently, city zoning law doesn't specify an appropriate location for adult entertainment like strip clubs or adult bookstores. Would-be owners must seek approval from city council and the Planning Commission for any site they wish to occupy. That process, Smith says, makes it easy for owners to appeal those decisions, by arguing unfair bias: "Our zoning is open to lawsuits based on First Amendment Constitutional rights," she says. "We were too restrictive."

Smith proposes making zoning rules more clear-cut, by allowing adult businesses in industrial areas, so long as they are 500 feet from residences, churches, schools and other community centers. The clubs must also be 750 feet from highway on- and off-ramps.

But the legislation doesn't just regulate where clubs can go: It also spells out what must -- and must not -- take place inside. Among the proposed rules:

- No nude performances allowed; dancers may appear "semi-nude" -- defined as being "a state of dress in which opaque clothing covers not more than the genitals, pubic region and nipple of the female breast, as well as portions of the body covered by supporting straps or devices" -- on a stage at least 18 inches high. Dancers must be 3 feet from a patron seating area while on stage, and remain 6 feet away from patrons at all other times.
- Dancers and patrons are not allowed to touch, making "lap dances" illegal.
- Dancers must remain at least 5 feet from patrons even one hour after performing -- a rule that is "intended to control illicit sexual contact and reduce the incidents of prostitution" involving dancers.
- Clubs must meet minimum-lighting requirements, and be laid out to ensure "an unobstructed view from an operator's station of every area of the premises, including the interior of each [private] viewing room but excluding restrooms."
- Not only must club owners be subjected to a police background check, so must dancers and other employees. In addition to identifying information like home address and names (including stage aliases), dancers must submit their fingerprints, a photograph -- even describe "any tattoos on [any] anatomical area that normally would be visible when the applicant is on the premises of the [club]." Licenses can be revoked upon conviction for prostitution or other offenses
- Dancers are prohibited from "knowingly accept[ing] a direct tip, gratuity, cash payment or other item of value from any patron"

These rules, which would apply to new and existing clubs alike, are drawn heavily from a model ordinance drafted by Ohio's attorney general, for use by municipalities there.

While some regulations, like the raised-stage rule, may sound arbitrary, proponents say they serve a purpose. "These clubs can be dangerous for police officers," says Richard McCleary, a professor at University of California-Irvine who has spoken with Kail-Smith's office, and whose research on strip clubs is widely cited by proponents of regulation. "You want the law to be crafted so an officer can walk in, make sure things are being run properly, and walk out." And once properly installed, a raised stage makes it easy to verify that dancers are maintaining the required distance.

Licensing of dancers, meanwhile, "is a relatively new thing," says McCleary. But cities are worried about an overlap between strip clubs and prostitution; licensing dancers "works to keep the most flagrant violators out." As for the tattoo disclosure, "it sounds bad, but that's standard for identification purposes."

But Kail-Smith's regulations would certainly represent a new standard of regulation in the local entertainment scene: Pittsburgh's strip-club dancers would be subjected to more scrutiny than, say, bartenders. (The state LCB does not

require background checks for bartenders, or mandate any training unless their workplace has previously run afoul of liquor laws.)

Kail-Smith's bill is motivated by concern over "secondary effects" -- the consequences a strip club brings with it. And fear of lower property values is just one example, says Bram Reichbaum, a local blogger whom Kail-Smith retained to research the issue.

Strip clubs, says Reichbaum, "are attracting a lot of easy marks" -- men who will not report crime because they don't want to admit where they've been -- "to a place where the business is to have these entertainers go into closed rooms behind closed doors." The result is that both inside and outside the club there are "a lot of ingredients for a regional crime node."

To document the concern, Reichbaum looked at crime rates between 2005 and 2009, mapping them against the location of strip clubs. He found nearly 25 burglaries within 1,000 feet of Oakland's Cricket Lounge, for example, compared to only six per 1,000-foot-radius circle in the city as a whole.

Still, when the North Side Chronicle reported local misgivings about the Hustler club, an official with the Shadyside Chamber of Commerce told the paper she'd never had a complaint about the Cricket. And Reichbaum's numbers don't note what crime levels were like before the strip clubs opened. In Reichbaum's analysis, for example, the area around Blush had considerably higher crime rates than the rest of the city -- higher even than other clubs in the city. But Caputo, the Blush attorney, notes that the 1,000-foot-radius surrounding it is "the entire Downtown." Linking crime to the club -- as opposed to any other tenant -- "is all speculation," he says.

"We can only show correlations" rather than causation, Reichbaum says.

Indeed, the connection between strip clubs and crime is hotly disputed. The industry touts the research of UC-Santa Barbara professor Daniel Linz, who feuds regularly with McCleary and other "secondary effects" researchers.

Linz has argued that if anything, adult clubs are less likely to be crime hotspots than other businesses. In one study, he found that clubs "often appear to have better lighting in their parking lots and better security surveillance" than other businesses. What's more, when compared to other bars, men at strip clubs are less likely to get into fights about women -- "due to the fact that the majority of patrons attend the clubs without female partners."

Larry Walters, a Florida-based First Amendment attorney whose clients have included adult businesses, says that if Kail-Smith's legislation passes, a court battle is likely. Some rules seem harsh, he says: While the tattoo-disclosure requirement is part of Ohio's "model ordinance," Walters says, "Having someone register their tattoos is pretty out there."

And "[i]f they want a six-foot buffer zone and no mingling, they have to show the court how not having those things in place is a problem."

If the city can't prove that, "it tells me two things," says Walters. "First, it tells me that the law is not going to be upheld. Secondly, it tells me that ... someone doesn't like dancers performing naked in a club" -- and is pushing new rules to get around the club's Constitutional rights.

Club owners declined to speak about Kail-Smith's bill. But owners of the club Cheerleaders in the Strip District directed City Paper to Jeff Levy, the executive director of the Pennsylvania Hospitality and Entertainment Association. Levy's organization represents adult-oriented businesses, and Levy says many clubs already have lights, security guards and cameras.

"So when I look at even more stringent legislation like this ... it looks to me like it's designed to put the industry out of business."

Some local clubs would have little difficulty complying with aspects of the law: Cheerleaders, for example, has VIP

lounges open to plain view. And McCleary, of UC-Irvine, agrees that many clubs already take precautions. "You do have well-capitalized clubs that are trying to run a good business and plan to be at a site for 10 or 20 years. They don't want prostitution, because that's just trouble"

Still, he adds, "The problem is there are also bottom-feeder clubs. And these laws basically are aimed at the bottom-feeders." And those clubs, he said, harm not just the community, but the dancers themselves.

Both in Pittsburgh and across the country, dancers are typically independent contractors: They pay an upfront sum to the club owner to gain access to the clientele, hoping to earn the money back and then some.

Those rates can vary, as can a dancer's earning potential.

[click to enlarge](#)

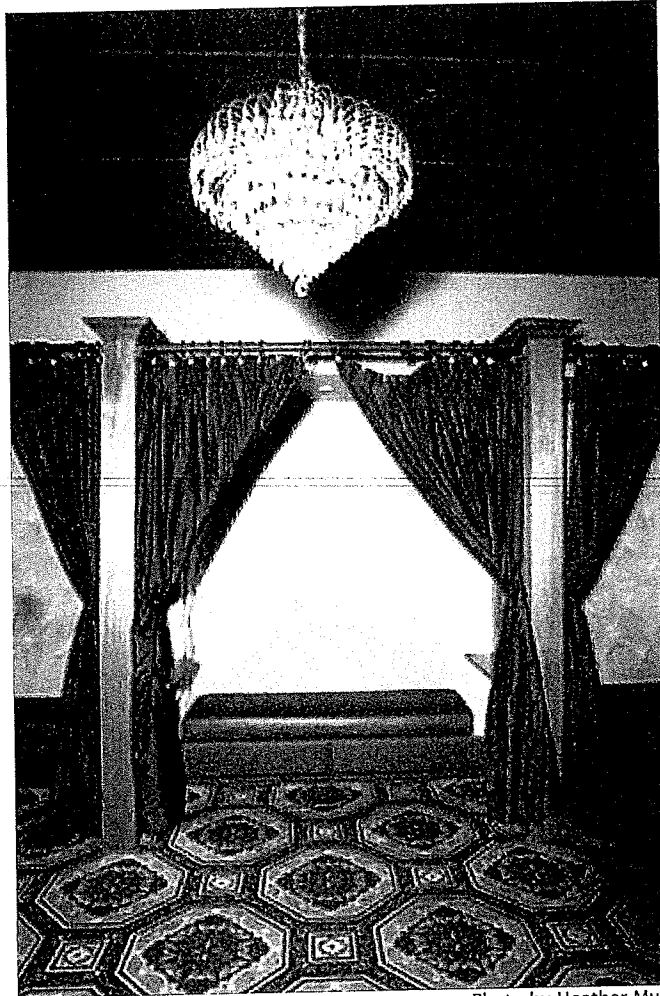


Photo by Heather Mull

The lap dance area at Cheerleaders

Levy says the fee is a "licensee agreement" whereby the dancer agrees to pay a "fee for the privilege of dancing in the club." The fee, Levy says, pays for "ancillary expenses to running the business," including a "house mom" in the back to take care of the performers' needs, showers, back room, music and security. He says the fees can range from "a few dollars in some cities to a few hundred dollars in larger cities."

Levy says the amount of money dancers earn can be quite substantial; money they make in tips through both stage dancing and private lap dances "can be quite substantially more than the licensing fee."

When CP attended a lunchtime rotation at one area club, one dancer took in as little as \$2 during a 10-minute performance. Another scooped up \$11, though one dancer said money earned onstage made up a small portion of revenue: Lap dances -- which Smith's legislation would ban -- are "how we really make our money."

Levy says the performers can't do their job and earn their money from 6 feet away: "You may as well be 20 feet away. It's going to affect the amount of money that they make. You may as well close it down because we're not going to be able to operate. We have employees who use the money earned in these clubs to feed their families and pay their tuition.

"We're not going to allow these people to go on the unemployment line."

Most dancers were wary of speaking at length, even anonymously, about the industry. One exception was a male dancer, "Paul," who worried that Kail-Smith's bill could put dancers at greater risk.

In established clubs, Paul says, "Behaviors are very codified and understood." By contrast, if clubs go out of business, "you're going to end up having to go to someone's house to do a private show, and you don't know how risky it could be."

Paul also worried about rules to limit interaction between dancers and customers. Open communication "reduces the level of objectification" he says. "Without it, you'd just be a shaking piece of meat."

Paul says he can take home as much as \$150 on a good night. "It's a better job opportunity than anything on the market right now," he says -- though he acknowledges many other dancers earn far less.

Indeed, a website devoted to studying secondary effects (secondaryeffectsresearch.com) includes no small amount of testimony about how exploitative, even coercive, strip clubs can be. One former manager testifies about how women are driven to prostitution and drug use, claiming that they are "controlled and finally destroyed by a world that our communities have closed their eyes to."

The site also contains research by Kelly Holsapple, a one-time stripper who compiled a study which concluded that "despite the common perception that a woman can dance her way through school, many strippers report that their jobs take over their lives. Long and late hours, fatigue, drug and alcohol problems, and out-of-town bookings make it difficult to switch gears."

Strippers can be subjected to demeaning treatment by customers and club owners alike, Holsapple says -- ranging from insults and requests for sex to stalking and assault. "[E]nduring sexual violence is part of her job description. Women in stripping are expected to endure these abuses, degradations, and humiliations with a smile and a 'Thank You.'"

Reichbaum says he'd like to see workplace issues addressed in debate over the legislation. "These dancers should have W-2s," he says. "They may pay \$150 a night in order to work these clubs, then have to find a way to make the money back in dark, private rooms."

In any case, Kail-Smith says, she's not trying to make it harder for strippers to earn a living. While her legislation would outlaw the strip-club ritual of tucking a bill inside a G-string, she says, "In other cities they have tip jars, and there are other ways to receive tips.

"This legislation is already in place elsewhere, and the industry in those places is thriving."

In fact, other cities have had mixed results with regulating strip clubs. Seattle's city council briefly experimented with a lap-dance ban in 2005; the following year, voters rejected it by 2-to-1 margin in a public referendum. Similarly, city councilors in Los Angeles passed their own strip-club regulations in September 2003 -- but rolled back a lap-dance ban just two months later, fearing an industry-sponsored referendum would cancel out other restrictions.

Elsewhere, laws may not be enforced. Tampa Bay passed its own "6-foot rule" a decade ago, and police engaged in a series of high-profile arrests. But a judge promptly declared the law unconstitutional. While it remains on the books, it hasn't prevented the town from being billed -- in a news story widely circulated online -- as the "Lap Dance Capital of the World."

But some cities have had success with regulation. San Diego, for example, has a no-touching rule and a six-foot buffer zone around nearly nude dancers. Like the proposed Pittsburgh ordinance, it requires dancers to register for a police

background check (though no tattoo disclosure is required). Yet club owners seem largely content with it. A manager at Pure Platinum, a San Diego strip club, says that the ordinance "hasn't affected us either way."

The manager, who declined to provide her name, says dancers are able to do "air dances" -- gyrating around customers without making physical contact -- in skimpy outfits. There are VIP rooms for customers who pay for multiple dancers, but "There are no closed doors," and the action is monitored. Police check to see the club is in compliance "whenever they feel like it."

Kail-Smith stresses that she is open to amendments. Though she compiled the bill without speaking to club owners or employees, she says if they have concerns, they should "pick up the phone. If there are issues we need to address, we're more than willing to."

In fact, as of press time Reichbaum was already suggesting that the post-performance "no mingling" rule would likely be scrapped, due to the challenges of enforcing it.

"There is always going to be a market for looking at beautiful, naked people," Reichbaum says.

McCleary, of UC-Irvine, says experiences in places like San Diego show that regulations can work. But he warns that motives on both sides need to be examined.

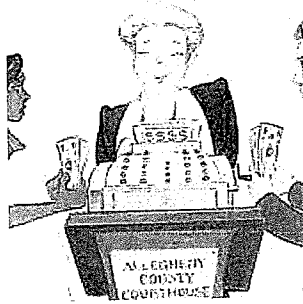
"What troubles me is that there are people who want to use the law to push their own religious or moral position -- these are folks who try to get dirty books taken out of the library," he says. "On the other hand, it troubles me a lot that [some unscrupulous club owners] are exploiting these women [and] hiding behind the First Amendment."

Chris Potter contributed to this report

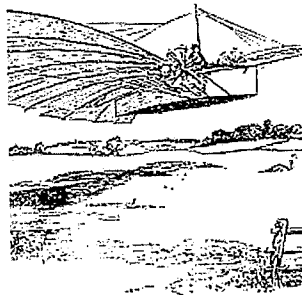
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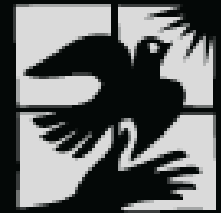


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MORE BY CHARLIE DEITCH


Enforcing the Minimum Age of Dancers and Employees in Strip Clubs



**Covenant
House**

New Orleans, LA

Presentation to City Council on
12/15/15



“The last time her co-workers and one of her closest friends saw her alive, Jasilas, 19, was leaving Stiletto’s Cabaret late Tuesday night with a man.”


The New Orleans Advocate, June 13, 2015

Jasilas' Story

“Jasilas first became known to people working in the establishments along Bourbon when she walked into the club Temptations and asked for a job within the past several months, they said.”

“The club didn't have any openings, but employees referred her to Stiletto's next door. Stiletto's gave her a job, and she also got some work at Centerfolds a block away from time to time.”

The New Orleans Advocate, June 13, 2015



“It’s so crazy ... girls
can get themselves
into trouble and not
even know it.”

Jasilas’ co-worker

The New Orleans Advocate, June 13, 2015

Jasilas' Story

“Several friends or co-workers at the Bourbon Street strip club where she danced for tips suspected he was — in their words — ‘a pimp’ who would sometimes set her up on dates as an escort.”

“Her co-workers and friends surmised the relationship was not strictly romantic. For example, a pair of Jasilas' photographs had appeared on escort ads, one posted online as recently as late last month.”

The New Orleans Advocate, June 13, 2015

Trafficking and Exploitative Labor Among Homeless Youth In New Orleans

Dr. Laura Murphy and her team from Loyola's Modern Slavery Research Project studied and analyzed the prevalence of trafficking and sexual labor among Covenant House residents from Spring 2014-Spring 2015.



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Key Facts

- 14% of Covenant House residents were victims of human trafficking, (11 for sex, 5 for forced labor, 2 for both sex and labor).
- 25% of Covenant House residents were involved in sexual labor (trafficked for sex or worked as commercial sex workers).
- An estimated **86 residents per year** are victims of human trafficking and **154 residents per year** of sexual labor in some form (including dancing at strip clubs).

Please note: since the release of the Loyola Study this Spring, Covenant House has seen a 50% increase in trafficking victims brought to us by law enforcement.




Covenant House Residents' Stories

“I had a friend named Naja at the hotel I was staying at. She said, ‘Your body dope. You can dance. **Why don’t you come work at my strip club?**’ I auditioned that night. The next night, they put me in the strip club.”

Trafficking and Exploitative Labor Among Homeless Youth In New Orleans

Laura Murphy, Rae Taylor, Christian L. Bolden, Modern Slavery Research Project, Loyola University New Orleans





“I was seventeen but I lied and told them I was eighteen when I started working there.”

22-year-old female; 18 when dancing.

A: Every dancer always makes money when they do a lot of VIP rooms. So if you don't do VIP rooms you're not going to make any money.

Q: And VIP rooms they expect you to sleep with them?

A: Yep.

Q: So you were how old when you were doing dancing?

A: 18.

Q: So did they check your ID and make sure you were 18?

A: Yep, they have to do that.

22 year old female. Started dancing at 16. Selling sex in the club at 18.

Interviewer: And did they pay you fairly when you were dancing?

Respondent: Yeah but it wasn't enough.

I: It wasn't enough?

R: Cause I was always underage.

I: How old were you?

R: Like sixteen.

I: Sixteen. Did they know that?

R: Yeah.



Continued....

I: So who got you involved in the dancing?

R: A pimp.


I: A pimp?

R: Yeah.


I: Did he require you to do other things besides dance?




R: Yeah [when] I was 18.



“ Usually pimps... they are going to approach the women they want to work with very nicely. They did approach me when I first started working [as a stripper.] They talked to me very nicely; they told me that I could make money, and they were going to take care of me. That’s how they do it. They come at you nice and then the mean side comes out.”




“They said if I stopped
working for them, they’d
find me and kill me.”




“About 5 a.m. Wednesday, a few hours after she left Stiletto’s, Jasilas was found dead on Interstate 10 in Metairie....”

The New Orleans Advocate, June 13, 2015




“French Quarter strip clubs accused of prostitution and drugs, lose alcohol licenses”




“ ‘Operation: Trick or Treat’... a state investigation uncovered dozen of instances of drug activity, prostitution and ‘lewd and immoral acts’ ”

The New Orleans Advocate, October 27, 2015



“Sarah Blakemore, a former dancer who worked in the French Quarter from 2002-2006, said a strict age limit would probably affect hundreds of women. ‘The clubs look to hire young girls,’ she said. ‘That’s just a fact.’ ...She would guess 30 percent of the dancers were between 18-21.”



“Given her knowledge of the industry after 10 years as a dancer, Blakemore said, she would support an ordinance establishing an age limit of 21... ‘I don’t think I would have had the wherewithal to be healthy and make good decisions if I started when I was 18.’”

The Times-Picayune, November 6, 2015

PROPOSED NEW ORDINANCE


Introduced Nov. 9 2015


Sec 10-371 Employees under 21 not permitted

- No person owning or operating an establishment where alcoholic beverages of high or low alcoholic content are sold shall permit any servant, agent, or employee of the establishment under the age of 21 to work, perform, or dance if any person at the establishment is allowed or permitted to be unclothed or in such attire, costume, or clothing as to expose to view any portion of their pubic hair, anus, cleft of the buttocks, vulva, genitals, or female nipple or breast below the areola.

Continued...

- First offense - the Alcoholic Beverage Permits shall be suspended for a period of no less than seven (7) calendar days.
- Second offense – the Alcoholic Beverage Permits shall be suspended for a period of no less than thirty (30) calendar days.
- Third offense - Alcoholic Beverage Permits shall be suspended for a period of no less than ninety (90) calendar days.
- Fourth offense - Alcoholic Beverage Permits shall be suspended for one (1) year or revoked, as determined by the Board.
- Nothing contained herein shall prohibit the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board from imposing additional remedial sanctions as set forth in [Section 10-160](#).


- 
- Covenant House, Cafe Reconcile, Liberty's Kitchen, YEP, Tulane and a host of our at-risk youth partners are fully committed to providing any underage dancer or employee who is laid-off due to enforcement of the ordinance with comprehensive 24/7 services.
 - These include: short & long term housing, medical & behavioral health care, individual & family counseling, social, legal and educational services, JOB READINESS, PLACEMENT, AND TRAINING.



“ The Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco has busted 14 more strip clubs statewide for prostitution, lewd conduct and illegal drug offenses...”



The Times-Picayune, November 25, 2015




“ The Jefferson Parish District Attorney’s Office has charged [alleged pimp] Adam “Sip” Littleton with manslaughter in the death of Jasilas Wright, a 19-year-old woman...”

The New Orleans Advocate, December 2, 2015



Our Request in the Coming Year:

Assist us in passing similar
ordinances and legislation in
surrounding parishes and
statewide.



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PETITION

City Planning Commission's Study of Adult Live Entertainment Venues

We thank the City Council and the City Planning Commission for their recent efforts to study "Adult Live Entertainment Venues in the City of New Orleans." We are pleased that "the study will consider: limitations on the number of such establishments, best practices of other cities, land use regulatory mechanisms, use standards, and input from industry representatives and impacted businesses."

It is known that:

In October 2015, law enforcement found drug dealing and prostitution taking place in 9 out of 14 strip clubs in a month long undercover investigation. Drug dealing and prostitution (male and female) is also known to take place in other kinds of clubs and venues.

New Orleans is considered a major hub for human sex trafficking by national law enforcement and human trafficking experts (including the Polaris Project).

According to a lawsuit, reported by the Times Picayune and Wall Street Journal, dancers in strip clubs are often hired as independent contractors, not as employees with regular benefits. Dancers are constantly sexually harassed, and are forced to work in an environment that is neither safe nor crime free.

A Loyola University study estimated 87 residents from Covenant House, a homeless youth shelter, were survivors of human trafficking each year and an estimated 150 residents per year if the sex industry and strip clubs were included.

We believe that:

The existing number of strip clubs leads to an increase in overall French Quarter crime including violence, prostitution, lewd/improper acts, petty crime and drug dealing – and therefore does not promote the public health, welfare and safety of the City.

We, the undersigned, recommend that:

- No one under the age of 21 should be allowed to work in any capacity within a strip club or adult entertainment venue.
- A special designation should be made that defines these establishments which would allow tighter restrictions and regulations, such as no one under 21 should be allowed to work within the premises.
- In accord with the Federal Labors Standards Act, dancers should be hired as regular employees with standard benefits, should be provided a safe, crime free environment, and should not be allowed to be sexually harassed.
- The number of strip clubs in our city needs to decrease by 65%, any new or re-opened clubs should not be allowed outside of the "adult live performance venue IZD" or within 1,000 feet of residences, schools, or houses of worship.
- A special tax/fee needs to be levied against the strip clubs to pay for increased law enforcement on Bourbon Street, and for weekly inspections of the clubs including VIP rooms.
- Enforcement of all regulations, existing and proposed, should be enforced by both NOPD and the State Police.

622 Majestic Pl.
New Orleans, LA 70114

April 7, 2016

City Planning Commission Office
1300 Perdido Street, 7th Floor
One Stop Shop
New Orleans,, LA 70112

Ladies & Gentlemen:

Please scrutinize adult live entertainment venues (strip clubs) within the city in response to recent criminal activity and public outcry. Such clubs are notoriously connected to Human Trafficking, something widely recognized by national law enforcement and Human Trafficking experts,

Your attention is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

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Correlates of Current Transactional Sex among a Sample of Female Exotic Dancers in Baltimore, MD

Jacqueline Reuben, Chris Serio-Chapman, Christopher Welsh,
Richard Matens, and Susan G. Sherman

ABSTRACT *Transactional sex work, broadly defined as the exchange of money, drugs, or goods for sexual services, occurs in a wide range of environments. There is a large body of research characterizing the risks and harms associated with street- and venue-based sex work, but there is a dearth of research characterizing the risk associated with the environment of exotic dance clubs. The current study aimed to: (1) characterize the nature of female exotic dancers' sex- and drug-related risk behaviors, (2) to examine the role of the club environment in these behaviors, and (3) to examine correlates of currently exchanging sex. From June 2008 to February 2009, we conducted a cross-sectional study among women who were aged 18 years or older and reported exotic dancing within the past 3 months (n=98). The survey ascertained socio-demographic characteristics, personal health, medical history, sexual practices, drug use, and employment at clubs on the block. Bivariate and multivariate Poisson regression with robust variance was used to identify correlates of current sex exchange. Participants were a median of 24 years old, and were 58% white; 43% had not completed high school. Seventy-four percent reported ever having been arrested. Twenty-six percent reported having injected heroin and 29% reported having smoked crack in the past 3 months. Fifty-seven percent reported using drugs in the club in the past 3 months. Sixty-one percent had ever engaged in transactional sex, and 67% of those did so for the first time after beginning to dance. Forty-three percent reported selling any sex in the club in the past 3 months. In multiple Poisson regression, factors associated with current sex exchange included: race, ever having been arrested, and using drugs in the club. High levels of both drug use and transactional sex among this sample of exotic dancers were reported. These findings indicate that there are a number of drug- and*

and

Just to highlight a few items:

- 1) 43% of dancers sold sex at the clubs and 57% were involved in dealing and taking drugs
- 2) the majority of dancers engaged in unprotected sex at the club
- 3) the majority of dancers reported selling sex and drugs for the first time after beginning to dance at the clubs
- 4) the environment of the clubs promoted HIV/STI risk taking behavior

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ABSTRACT *Transactional sex work, broadly defined as the exchange of money, drugs, or goods for sexual services, occurs in a wide range of environments. There is a large body of research characterizing the risks and harms associated with street- and venue-based sex work, but there is a dearth of research characterizing the risk associated with the environment of exotic dance clubs. The current study aimed to: (1) characterize the nature of female exotic dancers' sex- and drug-related risk behaviors, (2) to examine the role of the club environment in these behaviors, and (3) to examine correlates of currently exchanging sex. From June 2008 to February 2009, we conducted a cross-sectional study among women who were aged 18 years or older and reported exotic dancing within the past 3 months (n=98). The survey ascertained socio-demographic characteristics, personal health, medical history, sexual practices, drug use, and employment at clubs on the block. Bivariate and multivariate Poisson regression with robust variance was used to identify correlates of current sex exchange. Participants were a median of 24 years old, and were 58% white; 43% had not completed high school. Seventy-four percent reported ever having been arrested. Twenty-six percent reported having injected heroin and 29% reported having smoked crack in the past 3 months. Fifty-seven percent reported using drugs in the club in the past 3 months. Sixty-one percent had ever engaged in transactional sex, and 67% of those did so for the first time after beginning to dance. Forty-three percent reported selling any sex in the club in the past 3 months. In multiple Poisson regression, factors associated with current sex exchange included: race, ever having been arrested, and using drugs in the club. High levels of both drug use and transactional sex among this sample of exotic dancers were reported. These findings indicate that there are a number of drug- and sex-related harms faced by exotic dancers in strip clubs, implicating the environment in the promotion of HIV/STI risk-taking behaviors. Prevention and intervention programs targeting this population are needed to reduce the harms faced by exotic dancers in this environment.*

KEYWORDS *Female sex workers, Illicit drug use, Heroin, Exotic dancers, Risk behaviors, HIV/AIDS, Risk environment*

INTRODUCTION

Female sex workers (FSWs) who exchange sex for money, drugs, food, or shelter face a multitude of harms including escalated risk for HIV, sexually transmitted

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infections (STIs), drug use, and violence.¹⁻⁴ The current study examines transactional sex among female exotic dancers (FEDs), a hidden and understudied high-risk population that is characterized by both sexual risk and drug use.⁵⁻⁸

Transactional sex has consistently been found to be associated with a number of sexual risk factors, such as unprotected sex, high-risk sex partners, and having multiple partners.⁹⁻¹¹ Other STIs, which increase the risk for HIV acquisition and transmission, have also been repeatedly found to be more prevalent among FSWs as compared with other women.¹²⁻¹⁷ Additionally, research has documented high rates of both injection and non-injection drug use among FSWs.¹⁸ The synergistic relationship between drug use and transactional sex is bidirectional. FSWs may turn to drug use to cope with the psychological distress and harsh realities of their occupation, and drug users may turn to prostitution to pay for drugs.³ Lastly, FSWs who inject drugs may be more willing to have unprotected sex for a higher payment to support their drug habit.^{13,19,20}

The context of sex work plays a role in FSWs' risk of HIV transmission.²¹⁻²⁷ In recent years, there has been an increasing acknowledgement of and interest in the role of social and structural factors in influencing risk behaviors and HIV/STI transmission.²⁸⁻³⁰ The person-environment theory and the risk environment heuristic³¹⁻³³ encourage an understanding of the way in which factors exogenous to the individual operate, interact, and affect individual risk behaviors. Scant research has been conducted among exotic dancers in strip club settings. The current study aimed to: (1) characterize the nature of FEDs sex- and drug-related risk behaviors, (2) to examine the role of the club environment in these behaviors, and (3) to examine correlates of currently exchanging sex.

DATA AND METHODS

Study Design and Participants

In May 2008, the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) expanded their needle exchange program to provide evening services on the "block," a 1-block segment of Baltimore Street in Baltimore, MD that is home to approximately 20 strip clubs, bars, and other adult entertainment venues. In collaboration with BCHD, we conducted a cross-sectional survey from July 2008 to February 2009 of FEDs ($N=98$) identified from a population of FEDs working in 7 of the 20 clubs located on the block. Participants were recruited through targeted outreach by trained study staff. Inclusion criteria were: being at least 18 years of age; reported exotic dancing in the past 3 months; and being a Baltimore city resident. During recruitment, any female appearing to qualify was approached for screening. Potential participants were given a study description and read the informed consent. Upon providing consent, they were enrolled and were administered a detailed in-person questionnaire. Interviews lasted approximately 20 minutes and focused on socio-demographic characteristics (e.g., age, race, education, living situation, arrest, and incarceration history), drug use and sexual practices both inside and outside of strip clubs, and employment history on the block. The questionnaire was piloted with FEDs before finalization. The study was approved by the Institutional Review Board at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Study Measures

The study's main outcome measure was current sex exchange defined as self-reported exchange of sex for money, drugs, food, or shelter within the past

3 months. Participants were then categorized as “exchangers,” with comparisons made to “non-exchangers.”

The study’s exposure variables of interest included drug use and sexual practices. Past and recent (within the past 3 months) use of a range of drugs as well as questions regarding route of drug administration (e.g., smoke, inject), frequency of drug use, and the role of the club context (specific questions included “Did you [{inject, smoke, sniff/snort} {drug type}] before you began dancing?”) were ascertained. Sexual history and recent practices with specific types of partners (primary, casual, and sex trade) were ascertained. Recent condom use with partners during different sexual acts (oral, vaginal, and anal) as well as recent sexual activity and risk behaviors in the club (specific questions included “On the nights you have worked in the last 3 months, how often did you have oral sex with a client?”) were reported.

Statistical Analysis

Proportions are reported for categorical variables and differences were tested using 2-tailed Chi-square tests. Medians and interquartile ranges (IQR) are reported for continuous variables and differences were tested using Wilcoxon rank-sum test. LOWESS nonparametric regression was used to visualize the observed distribution of continuous variables, and categories were subsequently modeled as appropriate according to natural cut points in the data. Multivariate analysis was conducted using Poisson regression with robust variance estimates to examine correlates of current sex exchange. Selected variables of theoretical interest were included in the multivariable model. To check for colinearity among the covariates in the Poisson regression models, multiple linear regression was performed to assess the variance inflation factors, all of which were below 10. Regression diagnostic tools were used on the final multivariable model, including Pearson’s goodness of fit test and plots of observed versus predicted counts. All statistical analyses were conducted using STATA statistical software version 10 (College Station, TX, USA, 2006).

RESULTS

Demographic Characteristics of Current Sex Exchangers and Non-exchangers

Demographic characteristics are displayed in Table 1. Participants’ median age was 24 years old (IQR: range, 20–28), were 58% white, and 30% African American. Almost half (43%) of the participants did not complete high school and exchangers were significantly less likely to have completed high school as compared with non-exchangers (42% vs. 69%, respectively; $p=0.007$). The majority (75%) of participants reported ever having been arrested and exchangers were significantly more likely to have ever been arrested as compared with non-exchangers (93% vs. 60%; $p<0.001$)

Forty-three percent reported having health insurance or coverage. Exchangers were significantly less likely to have health insurance as compared with non-exchangers (21% vs. 60%, respectively; $p<0.001$). Seventy-seven percent of participants had never been married, but 73% reported a current sexual partner and 59% reported having children. The median number of residences lived at in the past year was 2, and the median length of time at current residence was 6 months (IQR, 1–24).

TABLE 1 Demographic characteristics

Risk factor	Total population (n=98)			Chi-square (p values)
	Total sample (n (%) N=98)	Non-exchangers (n (%) N=55)	Exchangers (n (%) N=43)	
≥24 (median) years of age	50 (51.02)	23 (41.82)	27 (62.79)	0.039
Race				
White	57 (58.16)	24 (43.64)	33 (76.74)	0.002
Black	29 (29.59)	24 (43.64)	5 (11.63)	
Other	12 (12.24)	7 (12.73)	5 (11.63)	
Graduated high school	56 (57.14)	38 (69.09)	18 (41.86)	0.007
Number of residences in the past year				0.125
1	38 (38.78)	25 (45.45)	13 (30.23)	
2 or more	60 (61.22)	30 (54.55)	30 (69.77)	
<6 months (median) at current residence	46 (46.94)	22 (40.00)	24 (55.81)	0.120
Current main partner	72 (73.47)	44 (80.00)	28 (65.12)	0.098
Health insurance or coverage	42 (42.86)	33 (60.00)	9 (20.93)	<0.001
Ever arrested	73 (74.49)	33 (60.00)	40 (93.02)	<0.001
Have children	58 (59.18)	29 (52.73)	29 (67.44)	0.141
Never married	75 (76.53)	46 (83.64)	29 (67.44)	0.060

Drug History and Practices

Drug use and history is reported in Table 2. Alcohol consumption was frequent, with 22% reporting daily drinking. Exchangers were significantly more likely to report daily drinking as compared with non-exchangers (33% vs. 15%, respectively; $p=0.03$). Seventy-two percent reported current illicit drug use. Exchangers were significantly more likely to report current illicit drug use as compared with non-exchangers (98% vs. 53%; $p<0.001$). Exchangers were more likely to report ever injecting (60% vs. 24%, respectively; $p<0.001$ [data not shown]), current injection (47% vs. 9%, respectively; $p<0.001$), current cocaine sniffing/snorting (21% vs. 5%, respectively; $p=0.02$), current crack smoking (51% vs. 11%, respectively; $p<0.001$), current club drug use such as ecstasy, ritalin, or GHB ((26% vs. 4%, respectively; $p=0.001$ [data not shown]), and current pill use (40% vs. 9%, respectively; $p<0.001$) compared with non-exchangers. Polydrug use was common: 64% of heroin injectors reported smoking crack, and 57% of crack smokers reported injecting heroin (data not shown). Exchangers were significantly more likely to report any drug use in the dance clubs, as compared with non-exchangers (88% vs. 32%, respectively; $p<0.001$). Additionally, current exchangers were significantly more likely to report initiating drug use after beginning to dance compared with non-exchangers (58% vs. 15%, respectively; $p<0.001$).

Among injection drug users (IDUs), the median age participants began injecting was 20 (IQR, 17–23), and the majority of those who reported current injection did so weekly (96%). The use of unclean syringes was not commonly reported, with 72% reporting never using unclean syringes, and 16% always using someone else's

TABLE 2 Drug use and sexual history

Risk factor	Total population (n=98)			p values
	Total sample (n (%) N=98)	Non-exchangers (n (%) N=55)	Exchangers (n (%) N=43)	
Daily alcohol consumption	22 (22.45)	8 (14.55)	14 (32.56)	0.034
Any drug use (within past 90 days)	71 (72.45)	29 (52.73)	42 (97.67)	<0.001
Current injector (within past 90 days)	25 (25.51)	5 (9.09)	20 (46.51)	<0.001
Inject weekly (% subset)	24 (96.00)	4 (80.00)	20 (100.00)	0.041
Currently sniff/snort cocaine	12 (12.24)	3 (5.45)	9 (20.93)	0.02
Current crack smoker	28 (28.57)	6 (10.91)	22 (51.16)	<0.001
Current pill use	22 (22.45)	5 (9.09)	17 (39.53)	<0.001
Began using drugs after dancing	33 (33.67)	8 (14.55)	25 (58.14)	<0.001
Ever in drug treatment	36 (36.73)	14 (25.45)	22 (51.16)	0.01
Lifetime male partners	15 (7, 90)	10 (4, 20)	90 (17, 300)	<0.001 ^a
Ever exchanged sex	60 (61.22)	17 (30.91)	43 (100.00)	<0.001
Exchanged sex for first time after beginning to dance (% subset)	40 (66.67)	13 (76.47)	27 (62.79)	0.311

^aWilcoxon rank-sum test

unclean syringes. However, the passing on of unclean syringes to another person was more commonly reported: 28% reported never passing on their unclean syringes and 32% always passing on their unclean syringes (data not shown).

Sexual Practices and Dancing History

Sexual history and practices are reported in Table 2. Close to two thirds (61%) reported ever exchanging sex for money, drugs, food, or shelter, and 67% of exchangers reported having done so for the first time after beginning to dance. Ninety-seven percent reported any recent sexual activity (vaginal, oral, or anal), with 96% reporting any oral sex, 97% reporting any vaginal sex, and 38% reporting any anal sex. Eighty-five percent reported any sex with a main partner, 18% reported any sex with a casual partner, and 44% reported any sex with an exchange partner. Recent condom use with main partners was reported as follows: 17% reported always using condoms during oral sex; 27% reported always using a condom during vaginal sex; and 20% reported always using a condom during anal sex. Among exchangers, recent condom use was reported with sex exchange partners as follows: 77% reported always using a condom during oral sex, 84% reported always using a condom during vaginal sex with sex exchange partners, and 63% reported always using a condom during anal sex with exchange partners (data now shown).

Dancing history is reported in Table 3. The median age at which this sample began exotic dancing was 18 (IQR, 18–21), and participants reported dancing a median of 3 years (IQR, 1.5–8). The majority (51%) of participants were introduced to dancing by a friend. Regarding the primary reason why they began

TABLE 3 Dancer and exotic club characteristics

	Total sample (n (%) N=98)	Non-exchangers (n (%) N=43)	Exchangers (n (%) N=43)	p values
Median age began dancing (IQR)	18 (18, 21)	18 (18, 21)	18 (17, 21)	0.29 ^a
Median years dancing over lifetime (IQR)	3 (1.5, 8)	3 (1, 5)	4 (2, 12)	0.01 ^a
Introduced to dancing by (%)				
Friend	49 (50.52)	25 (46.30)	24 (55.81)	0.43
Fellow dancer	7 (7.22)	5 (9.26)	2 (4.65)	
Club staff	2 (2.06)	2 (3.70)	0 (0.00)	
Other	39 (40.21)	22 (40.74)	17 (39.53)	
Began dancing for money for drugs (%)	23 (23.47)	8 (14.55)	15 (34.88)	0.02
Began dancing for money for basic necessities (%)	80 (81.63)	41 (74.55)	39 (90.70)	0.04
Median number of clubs worked at in past 3 months (IQR)	2 (1, 3)	1.5 (1, 3)	2 (1, 3)	0.05 ^a
Median number of shifts per week (IQR)	4.5 (3, 6)	4 (3, 5)	5 (4, 7)	0.001 ^a
Median amount of money made per shift (IQR)	150 (95, 250)	120 (80, 250)	150 (100, 250)	0.50 ^a
Sold any sex (vaginal, anal, oral) in the club (%)	42 (42.86)	5 (9.09)	37 (86.05)	<0.001
Any reported drug use in clubs in past 3 months (%)	56 (57.14)	18 (32.73)	38 (88.37)	<0.001
Injected heroin in the club	20 (20.62)	3 (5.56)	17 (39.53)	<0.001
Smoked crack in the club	20 (20.62)	3 (5.56)	17 (39.53)	<0.001
Smoked marijuana in the club	27 (27.84)	14 (25.93)	13 (30.23)	0.64
Began using drugs after dancing	33 (33.67)	8 (14.55)	25 (58.14)	<0.001

^aWilcoxon rank-sum test

dancing, exchangers, as compared with non-exchangers, were significantly more likely to report dancing for money for drugs (35% vs. 15%, respectively; $p=0.02$) or for money for basic necessities (91% vs. 75%, respectively; $p=0.04$). Transactional sex and drug use in the clubs was common, with 43% reporting selling oral or vaginal sex and 57% reporting any illicit drug use in the clubs.

Multivariable Model

Table 4 displays a multivariable model examining correlates of current sex exchange. Statistically significant variables identified in bivariate analyses and theoretical variables of interest identified in previous research were included in the multivariable model to identify independent risk factors associated with current sex exchange among this population. In the presence of other variables, significant correlates of current sex exchange were: African American race (prevalence ratio (PrR), 0.43; $p=0.04$), ever having been arrested (PrR, 2.97; $p=0.03$), and using drugs in the club (PrR, 3.90; $p=0.002$).

TABLE 4 Factors associated with ever exchanging sex: results from Poisson regression models

Risk factor	Total population (n=98)	
	Univariate PrR (95% CI)	Multivariate PrR (95% CI)
≥24 years of age	1.62 (1.01, 2.61)*	0.86 (0.57, 1.30)
Race		
White	1.0	1.0
Black	0.30 (0.13, 0.68)*	0.43 (0.19, 0.97)*
Other	0.72 (0.35, 1.46)*	0.72 (0.42, 1.23)
Ever arrested	4.57 (1.54, 13.55)*	2.97 (1.13, 7.78)*
Smoke crack	2.62 (1.74, 3.94)*	1.16 (0.82, 1.63)
Inject heroin	2.54 (1.71, 3.76)*	1.14 (0.82, 1.57)
Use drugs in the club	5.7 (2.44, 13.29)*	3.90 (1.63, 9.35)*

* $p < 0.05$ **DISCUSSION**

This study describes the extent of HIV/STI risk behaviors among exotic dancers and the risk inherent to strip clubs. To our knowledge, this small study is the first to quantify sex- and drug-related risks among this population. High levels of transactional sex and drug use were reported both within and outside the clubs, with low levels of reported consistent condom use. A range of drug use was reported, with crack being the most prevalent drug. Drug use in the club was significantly correlated with transactional sex in the presence of other variables. Among those who reported illicit drug use in the clubs, the majority also reported selling sex in the club. These findings point to the synergism between drug use and transactional sex and points to the potential role of the club context.

Dual use of heroin and crack was commonly reported. Those who both inject drugs and smoke crack are at an elevated risk for HIV/STIs.^{19,34,35} Women who both inject and smoke crack are more likely to exchange sex for money or drugs, have unprotected sex, and inject more frequently compared with non-injecting crack smokers and IDUs who do not smoke crack.^{11,19,36} A larger and more rigorously designed study is needed to characterize the relationship between sexual risk behaviors, drug use, and HIV/STIs in the context of exotic dance clubs.

Unsafe injection practices were common as participants reported passing on unclean syringes more frequently than using someone else's unclean syringes. Among those who inject in the clubs, both distributive and receptive sharing was reported as well. This finding underscores the need for harm reduction promotion and practice within the clubs, as dancers may not be able to leave the club during a shift when in need of clean tools.

The majority of participants had engaged in transactional sex and the majority of current sex exchangers reported engaging in transactional sex in the club. Condom use was inconsistent and varied by type of sex, type of sexual partner, and location, as has been previously found.³⁷⁻³⁹ Condom use was less frequent with main partners as compared with exchange partners, and less frequent with exchange partners during oral as compared with vaginal sex. However, participants appear to have delineated an additional hierarchy of risk in that condoms were used less frequently with exchange partners inside the club versus outside the club, which could indicate lack of access to condoms in the club or a false sense of safety with club patrons compared with clients outside of the club.

These data support the notion that risks can be associated and produced by specific environments, deemed “risk environments.”³⁰ A number of finding point to the role of the club environment in generating and promoting HIV/STI risk: the majority of exchangers and drug users reported doing so for the first time after beginning to dance, and drug use in the club was significantly associated with sex exchange in the presence of other variables. This study points to the importance of targeting the strip club environment, rather than individual FEDs, in HIV prevention interventions. Such environmental-structural interventions have been shown to be effective in reducing HIV/STI risk among female sex workers in other settings.^{40,41}

This study is subject to several limitations. Firstly, the measure of current sex exchange included sex in exchange for money, drugs, food, or shelter. There may be unique motivations and risks associated with sex in exchange for each of these goods and future studies are needed to isolate the unique risk factors associated with each. Secondly, sensitive data was gathered by self-report through face-to-face interviews, which may have resulted in under-reporting of risk behaviors due to social-desirability bias. In addition, we did not collect data on HIV/STI testing or results, but rather relied on self-reported risk behaviors for HIV/STI transmission. This study was a non-random sample so the results are not generalizable to all exotic dancers. The small study sample ($n=98$) may have limited the power to detect associations in the multivariable model. Finally, this was a cross-sectional analysis, so temporal sequences of events cannot be properly identified, limiting the ability to draw causal inferences.

In light of these limitations, this study indicates that there are a number of sex and drug-related harms faced by FEDs in strip clubs. Most importantly, we found that the very environment within the club may promote HIV/STI risk-taking behaviors and increase individuals’ HIV/STI risk. Future studies that focus on the risk environment associated with the club itself will point to opportunities for intervention and prevention programs geared toward sex workers and FEDs in the club setting.

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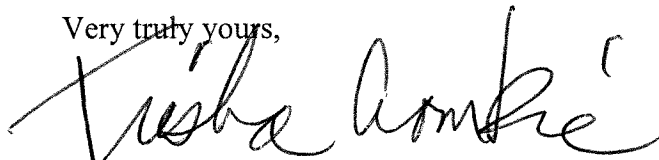
City Planning Commission Office
1300 Perdido Street, 7th Floor
One Stop Shop
New Orleans, LA 70112

Ladies & Gentlemen:

Please scrutinize all adult live entertainment venues (strip clubs) within the city in response to recent criminal activity and public outcry. Such clubs are notoriously connected to Human Trafficking, something widely recognized by national law enforcement and Human Trafficking experts. Human trafficking is immoral and degrades the beauty of the human spirit. It needs to stop.

Your attention is appreciated. Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Trisha Crombie

cc: New Orleans City Council
1300 Perdido Street, 2nd Floor West
New Orleans, LA 70112

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Does the Presence of Sexually Oriented Businesses Relate to Increased Levels of Crime? An Examination Using Spatial Analyses

Eric S. McCord and Richard Tewksbury

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Thought the following highlights would be helpful:

1) violent crime was found to be 12.3 times higher within 500 feet of an SOB, and 8.3 times higher within 1000 feet of an SOB.

2) this pattern holds true for property and disorder crimes as well

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Eric S. McCord¹ and Richard Tewksbury¹

Abstract

Scholarly debate about whether the presence of sexually oriented businesses in a community is related to increased levels of crime has been present for several decades. This argument about the “secondary effects” of such businesses shows support for the link to increased crime as well as evidence of a lack of relationship. This article addresses this debate, presenting findings from three spatial analyses using varying-sized buffer zones of rates of violent, property, and public order offenses in the vicinity of sexually oriented businesses in Louisville, Kentucky. Results show that sexually oriented businesses are associated with much higher rates of all types of offenses in the immediate vicinity of the business and continue to have significant effects on crime levels as one moves further from the business. At the site of the sexually oriented business, community, social and economic characteristics are outweighed by the effect of the business; in farther-reaching buffer zones, community characteristics become more important, although the effects of the business remain significant.

Keywords

spatial analysis, sexually oriented businesses, crime rates, secondary effects

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Central to controlling crime in communities are understandings of not only who commits and is victimized by crime but also where crime occurs; social and structural conditions of communities, which may be associated with crime; and how patterns of land use may facilitate or inhibit criminal activity. If we can better understand community conditions, including what structures are present in a community, locations and movements of people in physical environments, temporal aspects of activities and movements of people, and the locations and uses of physical aspects of communities, it may be possible to design environments to prevent criminal activities or facilitate the detection and effective responses to crime.

Among the issues that criminologists focus attention on is whether and how instances of social deviance may or may not be related, and how non-criminal deviance may or may not be related to the presence of the more serious forms of behavior that are criminal. As a part of this, there are concerns in many communities about whether the presence (especially a highly visible, public presence) of sexual deviance may be related to instances of sexual offending. Relatedly, when individuals are aware of highly visible sexual aspects in their communities, especially locations and entities that are likely to be associated with deviance, they are also likely to have heightened concerns about negative consequences arising from the presence of such entities. One type of community presence that is likely to raise awareness and concerns is the sexually oriented business (SOB).

The presence of SOBs in a community spawns concerns and debates regarding whether such entities are socially harmful. Primary concerns about SOBs center on the issue of crime, as SOBs are presumed to be patronized by socially marginal, and perhaps criminal, individuals. Examinations of whether and how the presence of SOBs in a community is related to negative consequences have been conducted for several decades, with results both supporting and refuting the association of SOBs with crime.

Debate Over Criminogenic Effects of SOBs

Public policy concern regarding whether SOBs are associated with increased rates of crime is referred to as a concern over "secondary effects." One perspective is that the presence of a SOB is related to, and very likely to be a facilitator or attractor of, crime and deviance. On the other side of the debate are those who argue that although there may be apparent face validity to the argument that SOBs attract or facilitate crime and deviance, there is little or no evidence to support such an argument.

SOBs Promote Crime and Deviance

There is a small body of academic literature that supports the contention that SOBs are associated with numerous negative, secondary effects on communities. In addition, studies completed by community planning agencies (done for purposes of assessing the need for and impact of zoning and legislative initiatives) regarding the effects of SOBs also suggest that the presence of such are associated with crime, deviance, and negative economic consequences. In summarizing the state of knowledge concerning secondary effects of SOBs, the American Center for Law and Justice in 1996 (cited in National Law Center for Children and Families, 2005) concluded that “SOBs support detrimental activities (i.e., personal and property crimes, prostitution, drugs, etc.) within the vicinity that are incompatible with activities occurring within residential area” (National Law Center for Children and Families, 2005, p. 1).

Contemporary examinations of whether SOBs are associated with negative secondary effects on communities—including crime in residential and commercial neighborhoods, reductions in business traffic for other commercial establishments, dampening effects on residential property values, and increased presence of criminal and noncriminal forms of deviance—consistently show numerous secondary effects associated with the presence of a SOB. These results have most frequently been found in numerous small and unpublished studies completed in communities of all sizes (National Law Center for Children and Families, 2005).

In the scholarly community, there are also significant negative secondary effects—especially criminal activities—shown to be associated with the presence of SOBs. McCleary (2007) analyzed crime reports in the vicinity of 20 SOBs in Los Angeles and concluded that “SOBs are ambient crime risk point-sources. As a hypothetical pedestrian walks toward the site, victimization risk rises; walking away from the site, victimization risk falls” (p. 13). In most instances the increase in criminal activities decreases or disappears once beyond 1,500 feet from an SOB (National Law Center for Children and Families, 2005).

Secondary effects are not limited to urban SOBs (National Law Center for Children and Families, 2005). McCleary (2008) demonstrated that when an SOB opens off of a rural interstate exit ramp, crime in the area increased 60%. And, when the SOB closed 2 years later, the crime rate decreased 60%, essentially returning to the pre-SOB-presence level.

*Other Negative, Secondary Effects Associated With SOB*s

In addition to increased crime rates, so too are SOB

s associated with negative economic consequences for communities. One consequence of the presence of an SOB in a community is a decrease in both commercial and residential property values (Cooper & Kelly, 2008; Department of Planning and Development, 2006; Duncan Associates, 2000). SOBs are also associated with high rates of turnover among commercial establishments in close proximity to the SOB (National Law Center for Children and Families, 2005). The rapid turnover of businesses also may contribute to the increased negative secondary effect of increased crime by in turn contributing to social disorganization in the immediate neighborhood. Such a situation may be exacerbated when coupled with the findings of Ford and Beveridge (2004) who show that crime—specifically illicit drug sales—is increased by the presence of “undesirable” businesses (including SOBs) and even more strongly influenced by a lack of “desirable” businesses. Such a situation is an indication of an economically disadvantaged and socially disorganized community.¹

*SOB*s Do Not Promote Crime and Deviance

Not all research supports the contention that SOB

s are associated with negative secondary effects. Some researchers have concluded that the presence of adult businesses is not associated with increased rates of crime. Linz, Land, Williams, Paul, and Ezell (2004) examined the rate of all criminal offenses reported within 500- and 1,000-foot radii of erotic dance clubs in Charlotte, North Carolina, for 1998-2000. In examining 20 SOB locations and comparing each of these with one of three control locations, they report that there are actually fewer criminal incidents reported in the immediate vicinity of the SOBs. Linz et al. (2004) also reported that the greatest difference in reported level of crimes is for erotic dance clubs located in high-crime communities. Similarly, Linz and Paul (2002) studied police calls for service over a 4-year period within a 1,000-foot radius of eight strip clubs (serving alcohol) and demographically matched control areas in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and show few differences in calls for service between strip clubs and control areas. More recently, Linz, Paul, and Yao (2006) examined calls for police service to 1,000- and 2,000-foot radii around 19 SOBs offering peepshows in San Diego. Their results suggest no “reliable evidence of differences in crime levels” (Linz et al., 2006, p. 182). However, McCleary and Meeker (2006) reexamined the data and point out that for the 19 peepshow locations and corresponding control areas, there were 15.7% more calls for police

service in the 1,000-foot radius of the SOBs. As they argue, “any urban police department would judge a 15.7% difference in CFSs to be *substantively* significant, Linz et al. argued that the difference was not *statistically* significant” (McCleary & Meeker, 2006, p. 194, italics in original).

SOBs, Routine Activities, and Facilitation of Crime

SOBs and the patterns of patron traffic in them reflect the characteristics of routine activity theory (RAT), which serves to promote the opportunities for criminal activities at such locations. At the core of RAT is the idea that when motivated offenders, suitable targets, and a lack of effective guardianship converge in time and space, criminal activities are likely to occur (Cohen & Felson, 1979). SOBs provide a setting where these three characteristics are present.

Perhaps the most obvious and strongest presence of the three RAT concepts at SOBs is that of suitable targets. Patrons of SOBs are typically men, alone and often under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs (DeMichele & Tewksbury, 2004; Douglas & Tewksbury, 2008; Erickson & Tewksbury, 2000; Tewksbury, 1990). Consequently, the typical patrons of SOBs can easily be seen as highly suitable for victimization. These are not individuals who are scanning their environment or attending to copresent others; hence, they are focused on one set of activities and largely unmindful and unaware to other actions in their midst.

In addition, patrons of SOBs typically desire to remain anonymous and to not have their presence or patronage recognized or acknowledged (Donnelly, 1981; Ryder, 2004; Tewksbury, 1990). In his discussion of the character of adult entertainment districts, Ryder (2004) emphasized that “Anonymity is an important feature of many districts. The unsavory reputation deters the casual visitor or those not interested, ensuring that customers will remain relatively unobserved” (p. 1665). The desire for anonymity is seen in the fact that fully 75% of male patrons of adult bookstores enter such establishments alone (McCleary & Tewksbury, 2010).

In sum, the suitability of SOB patrons as potential crime victims is due to the fact that SOB patrons “are disproportionately male, open to vice overtures, and carry cash. Most important of all, when victimized, they are reluctant to involve the police. From the offender’s perspective, they are ‘perfect’ victims” (McCleary, 2008, p. 156).

Crime can be expected at and in the vicinity of SOBs due to the presence of motivated offenders as well. Motivated offenders may be drawn to the

SOB because of the presence of suitable victims, and they too are often under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs as also are SOB employees and other patrons (who could serve as capable guardians; DeMichele & Tewksbury, 2004; Douglas & Tewksbury, 2008; Erickson & Tewksbury, 2000; Tewksbury, 1990).

Guardianship is also lacking at SOBs as such rarely have on-site security. Even when bouncers are present and responsible for social control and rule enforcement, there are strong disincentives for aggressively patrolling and intervening in activities that may be leading to criminal events—Strict control is bad for business (Forsyth & Deshotels, 1997). In addition, SOB patrons typically arrive and leave alone (Donnelly, 1981; Douglas & Tewksbury, 2008; Erickson & Tewksbury, 2000), leaving them without guardians in their presence. Both property and violent offenses may be facilitated as well (via the absence of capable guardians) because some customers park away from the business to avoid having their vehicle identified causing them to have to walk alone to their vehicles late at night (Donnelly, 1981).

The Present Study

The importance of assessing the impact of the presence of SOBs on rates of crime in a community using sophisticated methodology has been well established. Governments are permitted to regulate SOBs so long as any regulations are focused on attempting to control any adverse secondary effects of such businesses (Andrew, 2002). To defend any regulatory attempt, a government must produce evidence to show that the businesses are associated with secondary effects such as ambient noise, litter, and, in particular, crime. As the secondary effects debate has serious implications for legal attempts to regulate and remove SOBs from communities, there is a clearly established need for sound research on the topic. In fact, in the 2002 Supreme Court ruling in *City of Los Angeles v. Alameda Books, Inc., et al.* Justice Souter (in a dissenting opinion) “asked the city to demonstrate, not merely by appeal to common sense but also with empirical data, that adult businesses are associated with crime and that its ordinance will successfully lower crime” (Linz et al., 2004, p. 73).

The present study seeks to contribute to this call, and to examine whether and to what degree the presence of SOBs are associated with increased rates of crime. Although a number of local government planning agencies have argued that SOBs do contribute to an increase in crime (as well as other negative effects), there is a limited body of scholarly literature on this topic. In addition, the present study adds to the existing literature by advancing the

study of secondary effects through a series of three different analysis techniques, each one more statistically conservative and precise than the prior leading to more robust and defensible results concerning the impact of SOBs on their surroundings.

Method

Analysis Strategy

This study uses three different analysis techniques in its approach to answering the question; do SOBs increase crime in their surrounding communities? In the first set of analyses, we examine the density of crime found in 500- and 1,000-foot buffers (circles) surrounding the 30 SOBs in the study area of Jefferson County (Kentucky). SOB crime densities are compared with that of the overall study area as well as those found surrounding 400 randomly selected intersections. In making the additional comparison with intersections, we mitigate the criticism that the overall study area presents a diffused rate because it includes many places at which crime is unlikely to occur (e.g., airport runways, tracts of undeveloped land, rivers, etc.; McCord & Ratcliffe, 2009). Street intersections, by definition, are located in areas of higher density, and this analysis results in a more conservative appraisal of the crime impact of SOB on communities. Location quotients (LQs), a method frequently used in regional studies (see explanation below), is utilized in all crime density comparisons.

In the second analysis technique, we examine crime density in a set of 6 concentric 250-foot buffers that extend out from the SOBs to a distance of 1,500 feet. This analysis provides preliminary results as to how far away from the SOBs crime impacts may be observed.

In the final set of analyses, we use regression models that statistically control for important sociodemographic factors associated with social disorganization and low socioeconomic status to determine whether the SOBs contribute to increased crime levels in their immediate surrounds, net the impact of neighborhood social structure. SOBs, as “undesirable” land uses, are often located in neighborhoods of social disorganization and social economic status where the community lacks the political power to resist their placement (Nolan & Salkin, 2006; Pacione, 2005). Social disorganization and low social economic status is also associated with higher crime levels in much crime research (Bursik & Grasmick, 1993). By including socioeconomic variables in the regression models, we hope to produce more robust findings concerning the impact of SOBs on neighborhoods.

Data

The study area is Jefferson County, Kentucky. Thirty SOBs were identified via telephone books as being located within the county. Site visits, telephone calls, and online websites confirmed the SOB addresses and their operation during the study period (October 2009 through September 2010). Of the 30 SOBs, 21 are strip clubs with live entertainment (all of which sell alcoholic beverages). The remaining 9 SOBs are adult book/toy stores with all but 2 having private video viewing booths or an adult theater.

In 2003, Jefferson County and its largest city, Louisville, merged and formed a single governmental agency, Louisville Metro (2010 population = 740,000). Several small communities within the county opted out of the agreement and continue to provide their own local governmental services, including police services. The Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) was formed at the time of the merger and polices approximately 90% of the county. Crime data for the 1-year period were provided by the Louisville Metropolitan Police Department for the area under its jurisdiction. Twenty-four of the 30 SOBs are located within the LMPD policing area. The remaining 6 SOBs are all located on a 1.5-mile stretch of road in a small opted-out municipality, but directly across the street from the LMPD area of responsibility. The area is largely small industry on the opted-out municipality side of the street and small commercial establishments with residential areas behind on the Louisville Metro side of the street. Four SOBs are also located on the LMPD side of this 1.5-mile stretch of roadway. The small city that opted out from the merger and contained the above-mentioned 6 SOBs was uncooperative with our repeated attempts to obtain crime data. Because of the proximity of these 6 SOBs and their likely impact on crime in the LMPD area directly across the street (a distance of 30 feet), they remain in the analysis, but their impact is only measured in truncated buffers that overlay the LMPD area, as described below. Crime incidents were separated into the categories of violent crime (homicides, assaults, and robbery), property crime (burglaries, thefts, and vehicle theft), and disorder crime (sales/possession of illicit drugs, prostitution, alcohol violations, criminal mischief, and littering).

Computerized street files, census block groups, and maps of Jefferson County and the LMPD jurisdiction were provided by the Louisville/Jefferson County Information Consortium (LOJIC). Census data at the block group level were obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau and consist of 5-year estimates (2005-2009); the most recent data available at the time this study was being completed.

Analysis

Using Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping software, the SOBs and crime incidents were geocoded (electronically applied) to the computerized street map. All SOBs were successfully geocoded and 96% of all crime incidents were geocoded. The 4% non-geocoded crime incidents were due to either missing or incorrect addresses in the database supplied by the LMPD. The resulting 96% geocoding "hit rate" exceeds the conventionally accepted hit rate of 90% for accurate mapping suggested by Bichler and Balchak (2007) and the empirically derived minimum of 85% recommended by Ratcliffe (2004). For the first set of analyses, two sets of buffers were drawn around the SOBs. The first set extended out from the SOBs for a distance of 0 to 500 feet, and the second from 0 to 1,000 feet. Buffers of these sizes were selected because they are the standard used by planning agencies, discussed in court cases concerning SOB secondary effects, and reported on in prior research. Overlapping buffers (due to the presence of other SOBs close-by) were dissolved into larger buffers to avoid counting the same crime incidents occurring in them more than once. Using the GIS software, the total area and count of crime incidents falling into the buffers were determined, and the density for each crime category was calculated. Buffers extending outside of the LMPD area were truncated at jurisdictional lines.

For the second set of analyses, a concentric series of six 250-foot wide buffers were drawn around each of the 30 SOBs. Each inner buffer extended from 0 to 250 feet, surrounded by one at 250 to 500 feet, on through to the last one at 1,250 to 1,500 feet out from the SOBs. The width of these buffers is approximately equal to one-half the average city street length in the study area. Again, buffers extending out of the LMPD area were truncated at jurisdictional lines.

We then used the random selection procedure in SPSS to draw a sample of 400 intersections from the 18,058 intersecting streets in the LMPD area.² Buffers of 500 and 1,000 feet wide were drawn around each of the street intersections, and the density for each crime category was determined as above.³

SOB and intersection buffers were then assigned the appropriate value of the sociodemographic factors of the census block groups in which their center point was located. These factors consisted of median income and the percentage single parents with children younger than 18 years, rental households, and Blacks in the population. The data were combined into two separate data files such that one contained the 500-foot buffers of both SOBs and intersections along with their sociodemographic factor values, and the other contained the

same for the 1,000-foot buffers. A dichotomous 0-1 indicator variable for the SOB buffers was developed (1 = *SOB buffer*) and included in each data set.

The combined SOB and intersection buffer data sets were examined for spatial autocorrelation. Spatial autocorrelation, the clustering of like dependent variable values among neighboring units of analysis, has been shown to inflate error terms in regression models resulting in biased parameter estimates, false indications of significance, and misleading suggestions of model fit (Chainey & Ratcliffe, 2005). Moran's I tests showed low but significant levels of positive spatial autocorrelation in the 500-foot buffer data for all three dependent variables (violent crime = 0.1245, $p < .01$, property crime = 0.1336, $p < .01$, disorder crime = 0.1336, $p < .01$). Spatial lags were developed using Geoda software and included in the 500-foot buffer models to control for spatial autocorrelation. Significant spatial autocorrelation was not present in the 1,000-foot buffer data; thus, a spatial lag was not included.

Results

As mentioned previously, three separate sets of analyses are performed to evaluate the impact, if any, of SOBs on their surrounds. Crime density results for the first two analyses are reported as LQs, a ratio value used extensively in the regional sciences (Miller, Gibson, & Wright, 1991). As crime is relatively rare and working with extremely small crime density numbers can be burdensome, LQs help make comparisons clearer when used to compare characteristics of smaller subareas to the larger, surrounding area. LQs were computed by dividing the density of crime around the SOBs (total number of crimes in SOB buffers/total area of all SOB buffers) by the crime density of the entire study area (total crimes LMPD jurisdiction/total area of LMPD jurisdiction). An LQ value of 2 would indicate that the density of crime in a set of SOB buffers (subareas) is twice that of Jefferson County, while a value of 0.75 would indicate the density in the SOB buffers is 25% less than the county rate.

Table 1 presents the LQ values for each category of crime (violent, property, disorder) and each set of buffers at 500 and 1,000 feet. As shown by the LQ values in the top portion of the table, the density of all three crime categories in the buffers surrounding the SOBs are many times higher than that of the larger study area (Jefferson County). For example, violent crime is 12.3 times higher in the 500-foot buffers surrounding the SOBs and 8.3 times higher in the 1,000-foot buffer than the overall county density. This pattern of higher density in the 500-foot buffers, over the still substantially high densities in the 1,000-foot buffers, holds true for both property and disorder crimes.

Table 1. LQ Values of Crime Density by Category in Selected Buffers Around 30 SOBs

	Violent crime	Property crime	Disorder crime
LQ values vs. Jefferson County			
500-foot buffers	12.3	10.1	10.7
1,000-foot buffers	8.3	7.1	7.1
LQ values vs. 400 random intersections			
500-foot buffers	4.8	4.2	4.2
1,000-foot buffers	3.3	3.1	2.9

Note: SOBs = sexually oriented businesses; LQ = location quotient.

The lower portion of Table 1 shows the LQ values in comparing the crime density around the SOBs to the 400 random intersections. Although this portion of the analysis is far more conservative in that the SOB density is compared only with the more built up areas of the county, the SOB LQ values remain high. As shown, crime densities in the SOB 500-foot buffers are all at least 4 times higher than the random intersections for all crime categories, while the densities in the 1,000-foot buffers are about 3 times higher for all crime categories.

Table 2 presents the results of the concentric 250-foot buffer analysis. As shown for all crime categories, the highest LQ values are the buffers immediately surrounding the SOBs, which then steadily decrease in the next two buffers out to a distance of 750 feet. Beginning with the 1,000-foot buffers and on out to the last buffers at 1,500 feet, there is no discernable pattern in the analysis. The results of these models suggest that the criminogenic impact of the SOBs is observable out to a distance of at least 750 feet. The monotonic decrease in the first three sets of buffers further supports the idea that it is the SOBs that are promoting high crime levels and not some other unmeasured neighborhood characteristic (Rengert, Ratcliffe, & Chakravorty, 2005).

The final set of analyses utilizes ordinary regression models to evaluate the impact of the SOBs on crime in the 500- and 1,000-foot buffers while controlling for important socioeconomic indicators. Recall that in these analyses, the SOB and 400 random intersections buffers are combined into a single model with a 0-1 dichotomous variable identifying the SOB buffers (1 = SOBs). Dependent variables for these models are the crime densities (crime incidents per 10,000 square feet) naturally logged to reduce skewness. Tests for multicollinearity were performed with all tolerance and variance

Table 2. Location Quotient Values of Crime Density by Category in Concentric 250-Foot Buffers Around 30 SOBs

	Violent crime	Property crime	Disorder crime
0-250 feet	23.7	18.3	24.4
250-500 feet	8.1	7.1	5.6
500-750 feet	5.2	5.6	4.8
750-1,000 feet	7.8	6.2	6.2
1,000-1,250 feet	5.8	4.4	4.9
1,250-1,500 feet	7.5	5.8	4.8

Note: SOBs = sexually oriented businesses.

Table 3. Standard Multiple Regression Evaluating Crime Density by Category in 500-Foot Buffers Surrounding 30 SOBs and 400 Random Intersections

	Violent crime		Property crime		Disorder crime	
	B	β	B	β	B	β
SOB indicator	.043***	.227	.087***	.215	.075***	.217
Median income	-1.381E-8	-.011	-2.631E-7	-.093	6.693E-8	.028
% renters	.000**	.176	.001**	.173	.000**	.164
% single parents	.000	.091	.000	-.025	.000*	.109
% Black	1.609E-5	.011	-3.482E-5	-.011	.000	.063
Spatial lag	.564**	.256	.609***	.325	.637***	.358
n	416		416		416	
Adjusted R ²	.277		.312		.382	

Note: SOBs = sexually oriented businesses. Dependent variables are crime densities (incidents per 10,000 square feet) for each crime category, naturally logged. Overlapping buffers due to spatial clustering of SOBs were dissolved into larger buffers resulting in 416, rather than 430 buffers.

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

inflation factor (VIF) values found to be within acceptable ranges; no tolerance value was below .410 and no VIF above 2.5.

Table 3 shows the results of the 500-foot buffer regression analyses. As shown, the SOB indicator variable is positive and significant for each of the three categories of crime. This finding indicates that the presence of the SOBs are related to higher densities of all three categories of crime in the 500-foot buffers that surround them, net the impact of median income and the percentage of renters, single parents, and Blacks in the neighborhood (census block groups). Note also that the beta values for all three SOB indicator variables are higher than any of the socioeconomic predictor variables.

Table 4 presents the results of the 1,000-foot buffer regression analyses. Once again the SOB indicator variables are positive and significant for all

Table 4. Standard Multiple Regression Evaluating Crime Density by Category in 1,000-Foot Buffers Surrounding 30 SOBs and 400 Random Intersections

	Violent crime		Property crime		Disorder crime	
	B	β	B	β	B	β
SOB indicator	.020***	.119	.056***	.137	.025*	.070
Median income	-3.718E-9	-.003	-2.055E-7	-.076	1.208E-7	.053
% renters	.000***	.280	.001***	.312	.001***	.275
% single parents	.000	.055	.000**	-.119	.000*	.109
% Black	7.939E-5	.066	.000	.065	.000	.071
Spatial lag	.679***	.399	.694***	.419	.748***	.454
n	414		414		414	
Adjusted R ²	.474		.489		.516	

Note: SOBs = sexually oriented businesses. Dependent variables are crime densities (incidents per 10,000 square feet) for each crime category, naturally logged. Overlapping buffers due to spatial clustering of SOBs were dissolved into larger buffers resulting in 414, rather than 430 buffers.

* $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$. *** $p < .001$.

crime categories, indicating the presence of SOBs in these buffers is related to higher crime levels, net the impact of the sociodemographic factors. The beta values for the SOB indicator variables in these models are no longer higher than each of the individual sociodemographic factors as we found in the earlier models, suggesting a still significant but decreasing importance in explaining crime in these larger buffers.

Discussion

This study presents evidence that the presence of SOBs is clearly related to crime in urban communities. The analysis shows crime, including violent, property, and public order offenses, is related to SOBs and in an outwardly decreasing manner. As one moves further away from the physical structure of a SOB, crime rates decrease but continue to be significantly influenced by the SOB. In the buffer of 500 feet, no other variable is more influential on crime rates than the presence of the SOB. In the 1,000-foot buffer, the SOB still has a statistically significant influence on crime but less so than some of the existing neighborhood sociodemographic factors.

The decreasing rate of crime in the areas more removed from the physical structure should be expected, if the SOB is in fact patronized by suitable targets. As one moves away from the structure, fewer suitable targets are present—These individuals are most likely to quickly and perhaps surreptitiously enter and exit the business, interacting with few others and not

venturing beyond the necessary distance to leave the location in their vehicles. Victimization of such individuals is most likely to occur at or very close to the actual building of the SOB.

This study presents clear implications for social policy. At the foundation, both zoning regulators and law enforcement officials need to be aware of the criminogenic impact of SOBs, and adjust their activities and decisions accordingly. SOBs located in or near residential neighborhoods are likely to draw crime (as well as criminally motivated offenders) to the neighborhood, perhaps facilitating criminal offenses by such offenders as they travel to the SOB. Crimes of opportunity, including theft property vandalism and a range of violent offenses, may be perpetrated as motivated offenders travel to and from the SOB location. Although perhaps primarily seeking suitable targets in the immediate vicinity of the SOB, varying paths of travel to the target location may bring such offenders into contact with other opportunities for crimes. As such traveling offenders converge on the SOB, more of them will travel through the areas closest to the SOB, with dispersion through differing outlying areas as such offenders come from and return to differing outlying points of origin. Consequently, law enforcement needs to devote increased resources (patrols, surveillance, and assistance in designing the environment in ways to prevent/reduce crime) to both the immediate vicinity of such businesses and locations near to, and along paths of travel to/from such locations. Although an increased level of visible law enforcement at and near SOBs may have a dampening effect on some patrons' likelihood of visiting such establishments, it is also likely to discourage motivated offenders from being present and acting on their motivations. With both situations, reductions in motivated offenders and possible reductions in numbers of suitable targets, crime would be decreased. Neighborhoods hosting SOBs are clearly attractive to the criminally inclined. Providing a visible law enforcement presence in the immediate vicinity of such establishments is an obvious means for counteracting the effects of such businesses, and should be done.

As with all research, the present study has its limitations. There are two limitations that need to be considered when assessing the present study. The first is in its cross-sectional design, thus causality cannot be confirmed. There is no evidence in our data of temporal ordering of whether the SOBs arrive and subsequently crime follows, or whether SOBs locate in areas that have already high rates of crime. However, it is reasonable to assume that SOBs promote crime due to the opportunities they provide, but it is also possible, even likely in view of economic and social considerations, that the presence of these land uses are only tolerated in neighborhoods of social disorganization and lower social economic status that are already prone to higher crime

levels. The inclusion of sociodemographic variables in the regression models helped control for the impact of existing neighborhood social and crime problems, thus adding to the overall strength of the findings.

A second limitation concerns the fact that it was not possible to separate the impact on ambient crime levels by the two different types of SOBs in the study sample: strip clubs and adult book/novelty stores (most of which had video booths). The spatial clustering of these businesses, common in the study area as well as many other jurisdictions, made it impossible for their impact to be evaluated separately due to overlapping buffers. RAT however suggests all SOB types should promote crime due to their commonality in attracting suitable targets ("perfect victims") and motivated offenders in areas of reduced guardianship. At least one study shows this to be the case. In their study, McCleary and Weinstein (2009) found that crime rates nearly doubled over a multiyear period within 500 feet of an adult book store (no video booths) compared with only a 25% increase in crime around a nearby motel.

This research has shown that SOBs produce increased crime levels in their surrounding communities up to a distance of at least 1,000 feet. In doing so, this study adds important empirical evidence to the debate concerning the harmful effects of such businesses and the value of local zoning requirements and other regulations trying to control these negative secondary effects. Clearly, SOBs are associated with increased rates of crime. All types of crime—violent, property and public order—are more common at and close to the location of SOBs. As one moves away from the physical structure of such businesses, crime rates decrease but remain influenced by the SOB for significant distances. In short, SOBs attract criminally motivated offenders, suitable targets, and when coupled with a lack of capable guardians, result in increased rates of crime.

Declaration of Conflicting Interests

The authors declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

Funding

The authors received no financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

Notes

1. Notably, several researchers (Alwitt & Donley, 1997; Bingham & Zhang, 1997) have shown that socially economically disadvantaged urban communities typically

- have significantly fewer grocery stores, drug stores, banks, and general merchandise stores, but more liquor stores.
2. An online sample size calculator (www.surveysystem.com/sscale.htm) determined a sample size of 376 intersections were necessary for a confidence level of 95% at a confidence interval of 5%. The sample size was rounded to 400 cases.
 3. Buffers that extended outside of the LMPD area were moved to the closest intersection that would allow their entire area to fall within the study area. The number of buffers moved differed for each set of intersection buffers.

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Bios

Eric S. McCord is an assistant professor in the Department of Justice Administration at the University of Louisville. He holds a PhD in criminal justice from Temple University. His research centers on spatial analysis of crime and environmental crime prevention.

Richard Tewksbury is a professor of justice administration at the University of Louisville. His research centers on the intersection of sexuality and crime, identity construction, and criminal victimization risks.

From: Michael Duplantier <duplantier@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 8:19 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: Fw: Adult Live Entertainment Study-- Petition
Attachments: City Planning Adult Entertainment Petition.pdf

I support the attached petition.

Michael Duplantier
820 Baronne Street
New Orleans, LA 70113
Tel. 504 524-1071

From: Felix Garcia <felix@garcia-agency.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 11:42 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: FW: Adult Live Entertainment Study-- Petition -- Please sign-on by 4/26
Attachments: City Planning Adult Entertainment Petition.pdf

From: Kristin Palmer [mailto:kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 10:59 AM
To: Manola Gonzalez <magonzalez@covenanthouse.org>
Cc: Kristin Gisleson Palmer <kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com>
Subject: Adult Live Entertainment Study-- Petition -- Please sign-on by 4/26

Dear Friends:

We have a problem in this country that permeates our society and our city. It is the objectification of women that leads to their exploitation. It is most egregious amongst those who are marginalized, who have no voice and no resources.

Nowhere is this more prevalent than in New Orleans Adult Entertainment/Strip Club industry. In a recent Times Picayune article, law enforcement found drug dealing and prostitution in 9 out of 14 clubs. These establishments create a culture of abuse against young women. Young women who lack the capacity and the resources are systematically abused. Covenant House, a homeless shelter for teens, found that 25% of our kids were victims of human trafficking and/or sexual labor.

I humbly ask that you read the attached petition and should you agree, please forward it to the City Planning Commission and copy myself so that we can track their impact. Also, please forward to your friends and colleagues that would be supportive.

By the time a girl turns 18 in the United States 1 in 4 will be sexually victimized. *National Sexual Violence Resource Center*

Over 5,000 Louisiana women per year will be victims of sexual abuse, *Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence*

Louisiana ranks #4 for women murdered by men, *Violence Policy Center*

Louisiana Dead Last in U.S. social justice; “*Just South*” index, *Loyola University March 2016*

“Equal Pay for Louisiana women still a century away report says,” *Times Picayune, March 2015*

New Orleans is viewed nationally as a hub for human sex trafficking

25% of Covenant House homeless youth have been the victims of human sex trafficking and or sexual labor, *Loyola University’s Modern Slavery Research Project*

Please forward the attached petition by April 26th to:

ATTN: Sabine Lebailleur

City Planning Commission

selebailleur@nola.gov

And copy myself so we can track our impact:

kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com

Regards,

Kristin Gisleson Palmer

--

THE GISLESON GROUP, LLC

KRISTIN GISLESON PALMER

504.388.0138

kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com

222 Vallette St., New Orleans, LA 70114

From: Kali Roy <kali@evacuteer.org>
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2016 1:55 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Adult Live Entertainment Study-- Petition -- Please sign-on by 4/26
Attachments: City Planning Adult Entertainment Petition.pdf

Please review the attached petition and consider this my signature.

-Kali Rapp Roy

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kristin Palmer** <kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Apr 14, 2016 at 10:59 AM
Subject: Adult Live Entertainment Study-- Petition -- Please sign-on by 4/26
To: Manola Gonzalez <magonzalez@covenanthouse.org>
Cc: Kristin Gisleson Palmer <kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com>

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City Planning Commission

selebailleux@nola.gov

And copy myself so we can track our impact:

kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com

Regards,

Kristin Gisleson Palmer

--

THE GISLESON GROUP, LLC

KRISTIN GISLESON PALMER

504.388.0138

Kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com

222 Vallette St., New Orleans, LA 70114

From: Cheryl <greattreme@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 16, 2016 9:53 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleur
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Adult Live Entertainment Study-- Petition -- Please sign-on by 4/26
Attachments: City Planning Adult Entertainment Petition.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

|
Please read attached the petition and know I'm in support of its six recommendations.

Cheryl
greattreme@aol.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Kristin Palmer <kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com>
To: Manola Gonzalez <magonzalez@covenanthouse.org>
Cc: Kristin Gisleson Palmer <kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com>
Sent: Thu, Apr 14, 2016 10:56 am
Subject: Adult Live Entertainment Study-- Petition -- Please sign-on by 4/26

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Regards,
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--

THE GISLESON GROUP, LLC

KRISTIN GISLESON PALMER

504.388.0138

Kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com

222 Vallette St., New Orleans, LA 70114

From: NVF <frankandnancy@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 11:46 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Adult Live Entertainment Study-- Petition -- Please sign-on by 4/26

Please help stop this

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Carol Allen <nolacarol@gmail.com>
Date: April 14, 2016, 11:30:03 AM CDT
To: Carol Allen <nolacarol@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Adult Live Entertainment Study-- Petition -- Please sign-on by 4/26

selebailleux@nola.gov

From: Susan Klein <fqfemme@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 16, 2016 10:06 AM
To: Sabine E. LeBailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Adult Live Entertainment Study-- Petition -- Please sign-on by 4/26
Attachments: City Planning Adult Entertainment Petition.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Ms. LeBailleux:

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The New Orleans Mission currently assists women that have been victims of this abuse, with plans for program and housing expansion to meet the increasing need in our community.

Please note the attached petition for your consideration.

Thank You,

Sue Klein
1020 Toulouse St.
New Orleans, LA 70112

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LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY
NEW ORLEANS

LINDY BOGGS NATIONAL CENTER FOR COMMUNITY LITERACY

April 8, 2016

On behalf of the Lindy Boggs National Center for Community Literacy at Loyola University, I would like to thank the City Council and the City Planning Commission for their recent efforts to study "Adult Live Entertainment Venues in the City of New Orleans." I am pleased that the study will consider "limitations on the number of such establishments, best practices of other cities, land use regulatory mechanisms, use standards, and input from industry representatives and impacted businesses."

We are concerned:

- In October 2015, law enforcement found drug dealing and prostitution taking place in 9 out of 14 strip clubs in a month long undercover investigation. Drug dealing and prostitution (male and female) is also known to take place in other kinds of clubs and venues.
- New Orleans is considered a major hub for human sex trafficking by national law enforcement and human trafficking experts (including the Polaris Project).
- A Loyola study estimates 87 Covenant House residents per year have been involved in human trafficking, increasing to 150 residents per year if the sex industry and strip clubs are included.
- According to a lawsuit, reported by the Times Picayune, dancers in strip clubs are often hired as independent contractors, not as employees with regular benefits. Dancers are constantly sexually harassed, and are forced to work in an environment that is neither safe, secure nor crime free.

We believe:

- The existing number of strip clubs leads to an increase in overall French Quarter crime including violence, prostitution, lewd/improper acts, petty crime and drug dealing – and therefore does not promote the public health, welfare and safety of the City.
- As we approach our 300th anniversary, the strip clubs' affiliated crimes and negative reputations are completely out of sync with marketing New Orleans as a world-class destination.

We recommend:

- The existing laws associated with strip clubs' liquor licenses/permits should be strictly and regularly enforced in each establishment including V.I.P. rooms.
- A special tax/fee should be levied on the strip clubs to pay for increased and dedicated law enforcement (NOPD, ATC and State Police) on Bourbon Street, and weekly inspections of the clubs.
- Strip clubs as business enterprises should have a particular set of rules, regulations, performance and safety standards (as adult live entertainment venues) which are regularly reported to the City.
- Dancers should be hired as regular employees with standard benefits, should be provided a safe, secure, crime free environment, and should not be allowed to be sexually harassed.
- Following the implementation of the above recommendations, the number of strip clubs in our City should consequently be reduced by 65%. Any future clubs should not be allowed outside of the "adult live performance venue IZD" or within 1000 feet of residences, schools, or houses of worship. (And additional recommendations are under consideration)

Sincerely,

Petrice Sams-Abiodun, Ph.D.
Executive Director



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UNIVERSITY
NEW ORLEANS

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- According to a lawsuit, reported by the Times Picayune, dancers in strip clubs are often hired as independent contractors, not as employees with regular benefits. Dancers are constantly sexually harassed, and are forced to work in an environment that is neither safe, secure nor crime free.

We believe:

- The existing number of strip clubs leads to an increase in overall French Quarter crime including violence, prostitution, lewd/improper acts, petty crime and drug dealing – and therefore does not promote the public health, welfare and safety of the City.
- As we approach our 300th anniversary, the strip clubs' affiliated crimes and negative reputations are completely out of sync with marketing New Orleans as a world-class destination.

We recommend:

- The existing laws associated with strip clubs' liquor licenses/permits should be strictly and regularly enforced in each establishment including V.I.P. rooms.
- A special tax/fee should be levied on the strip clubs to pay for increased and dedicated law enforcement (NOPD, ATC and State Police) on Bourbon Street, and weekly inspections of the clubs.
- Strip clubs as business enterprises should have a particular set of rules, regulations, performance and safety standards (as adult live entertainment venues) which are regularly reported to the City.
- Dancers should be hired as regular employees with standard benefits, should be provided a safe, secure, crime free environment, and should not be allowed to be sexually harassed.
- Following the implementation of the above recommendations, the number of strip clubs in our City should consequently be reduced by 65%. Any future clubs should not be allowed outside of the "adult live performance venue IZD" or within 1000 feet of residences, schools, or houses of worship. (And additional recommendations are under consideration)

Sincerely,

Petrice Sams-Abiodun, Ph.D.
Executive Director

2458 Ashland Place North
Gretna, La. 70056

April 9, 2016

APR 14 '16 12:30PM

City Planning Commission Office
1300 Perdido Street, 7th Floor
One Stop Shop
New Orleans, LA 70112

Ladies & Gentlemen:

Please scrutinize all adult live entertainment venues (strip clubs) within the city in response to recent criminal activity and public outcry. Such clubs are notoriously connected to Human Trafficking, something widely recognized by national law enforcement and Human Trafficking experts.

Your attention is appreciated.

Very truly yours,



Susan Nielsen

cc: New Orleans City Council
1300 Perdido Street, 2nd Floor West
New Orleans, LA 70112

From: leslie@winoschool.com
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 9:57 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingiselsonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: petition
Attachments: City Planning Adult Entertainment Petition.pdf

I endorse this petition and urge action to prohibit under 21 from working in adult clubs.

Leslie Castay
Wine Institute New Orleans
610 Tchoupitoulas ST
New Orleans, LA 70130
cell 504-810-9740
www.winoschool.com

March 15, 2016

City Planning Commission's Study of Adult Live Entertainment Venues

We, the undersigned, would like to thank the City Council and the City Planning Commission for their recent efforts to study "Adult Live Entertainment Venues in the City of New Orleans." We are pleased that "the study will consider: limitations on the number of such establishments, best practices of other cities, land use regulatory mechanisms, use standards, and input from industry representatives and impacted businesses."

We are concerned that:

In October 2015, law enforcement found drug dealing and prostitution taking place in 9 out of 14 strip clubs in a month long undercover investigation. Drug dealing and prostitution (male and female) is also known to take place in other kinds of clubs and venues.

New Orleans is considered a major hub for human sex trafficking by national law enforcement and human trafficking experts (including the Polaris Project).

A Loyola University study estimated 87 Covenant House residents per year were involved in human trafficking and an estimated 150 residents per year if the sex industry and strip clubs were included.

According to a lawsuit, reported by the Times Picayune, dancers in strip clubs are often hired as independent contractors, not as employees with regular benefits. Dancers are constantly sexually harassed, and are forced to work in an environment that is neither safe, secure nor crime free.

We believe that:

The existing number of strip clubs leads to an increase in overall French Quarter crime including violence, prostitution, lewd/improper acts, petty crime and drug dealing – and therefore does not promote the public health, welfare and safety of the City.

As we approach our 300th anniversary, the strip clubs' affiliated crimes and negative reputations are completely out of sync with marketing New Orleans as a world-class destination.

We, the undersigned, recommend that:

- The number of strip clubs in our city needs to decrease by at least 50%.
- A special tax/fee needs to be levied against the strip clubs to pay for increased law enforcement on Bourbon Street, and for on-going inspections of the clubs.
- Dancers should be hired as regular employees with standard benefits, should be provided a safe, secure, crime free environment, and should not be allowed to be sexually harassed.

Date	Print Name	Signature	Email Address	Street Address	City	Zip	Business
3/15	Narda LaPorte	<i>Narda LaPorte</i>	<i>lport@cox.net</i>		NOLA	70002	
3/15	Kathryn Stevens	<i>Kathryn Stevens</i>	<i>kstevens@nola.com</i>		NOLA	70005	
3/15	Katherine Ann Stevens	<i>Katherine Ann Stevens</i>	<i>annstevens17@aol.com</i>		NOLA	70005	
	Gary Sherry	<i>Gary Sherry</i>	<i>gsherry@caribem.com</i>		NOLA	70124	
	BILLY BURK	<i>Billy Burk</i>	<i>billy@burk.org</i>		NOLA	70124	70122 Lone
	Gwen Buck	<i>Gwen Buck</i>	<i>gigi@burk.org</i>		NOLA	70124	70124 Burk Bunkhouse
3/15/16	Denise Derbes	<i>Denise Derbes</i>	<i>alderbes@bellsouth.net</i>		NOLA	70124	
3/15/16	Sherril Derbes	<i>Sherril Derbes</i>	<i>smderbes@gmail.com</i>	4509 Hessmer	NOLA Met	70002	
3/15/16	Jovita Chupitel	<i>Jovita Chupitel</i>	<i>jchupitel@gmail.com</i>		NOLA	70124	
3/15	Emmett Chagny	<i>Emmett Chagny</i>	<i>echagny1@ausa.com</i>		NOLA	70124	
3/15/16	Mary Ruppel	<i>Mary Ruppel</i>	<i>mruppel@cox.net</i>	6007 Louis XIV St.	NOLA	70124	



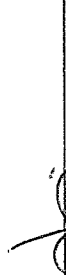

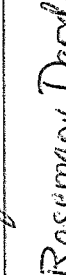
Thanks for supporting our recommendations to the City Planning Commission.
Please mail by Friday, April 8th to:
Petition Drive, P.O. Box 53128, New Orleans, LA 70153

Date	Print Name	Signature	Email Address	Street Address	City	Zip	Business
7/15	RED DIMITRIU			425 Audubon Blvd	NOLA	70125	
7/15	Andrea Mathon			425 Audubon Blvd	NOLA	70125	
7/15	MICHAEL VALES			339 FAUCON	NOLA	70124	
3/15/16	Louis J. Dubois, Jr.			4501 Nassau Ave	NOLA Metairie	70032	
3/15/16	HENRI SAUNDERS			544 FAUCON	NOLA	70003	
3/16/16	NICOLA T HARDEE BAZAN			470 BROADWAY ST	NOLA	70118	
3/15/16	RENEA CIMON WOODRUFF		RENEA@PUBLIC.COM	7045 APODONS	NOLA 70124		
	JOHN T DARVIS		jack@PEANOLA.CO.NY	6321 South Robertson	NOLA	70118	First Planning
	Dominick Sciarano		doms45@cox.net	4005 Beart	NOLA	70002	Pharmate
3/15	MARC RIPPKE		rippe@peanola.com	6127 MEMPHIS ST	NOLA	70124	OPD
3/15	Uma Anderson		wanderson@harmonymail.org	579 Audubon St	NOLA	70118	

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Please mail by Friday, April 8th to:
Petition Drive, P.O. Box 53128, New Orleans, LA 70153

Date	Printed Name	Signature	Email Address	Street Address	City	Zip	Business
3/15	KAREN EAGAN	<i>Karen Eagan</i>	karen.eagan@gmail.com	5757 LOUISIANA NOLA 70124	NOLA		4
3/15	Chadwick Ferrill	<i>Chadwick Ferrill</i>	chadwick.ferrill@nola.gov	Franklin-Dixon	NOLA		725
3/15	Mimi Kelly	<i>Mimi Kelly</i>	Mimi.R.Kelly@nola.gov	332 Esplanade	NOLA		Hatchan 70123 Legation
					NOLA		
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Petition Drive, P.O. Box 53128, New Orleans, LA 70153

Date	Printed Name	Signature	Email Address	Street Address	City	Zip	Business
3/15	Tina Menard			171 E. Oakridge Pl	NOLA Met	70005	
3/15	Robert Menard			171 E. Oakridge Pl	NOLA MET	70005	
3/15	Julie Urgiano			242 W. Livingston Pl	NOLA	70005	
3/15	Matt Urgiano			242 W. Livingston Pl	NOLA	70005	
3/15	Rosemary Dardis		Rosemary Dardis ammedalia@gmail.com	6321 S. Robertson St.	NOLA	70118	
					NOLA		
					NOLA		
					NOLA		
					NOLA		
					NOLA		
					NOLA		
					NOLA		
					NOLA		

Thanks for supporting our recommendations to the City Planning Commission.
Please mail by Friday, April 8th to:
Petition Drive, P.O. Box 53128, New Orleans, LA 70153

Date	Printed Name	Signature	Email Address	Street Address	City	Zip	Business
	MIKE NOLAN	<i>Mike Nolan</i>		NO STRIP →	NOLA		
	CYNTHIA NOLAN	<i>Cynthia Nolan</i>		NO STRIP →	NOLA		
	Jeanie Ferrill	<i>Jeanie Ferrill</i>		1928 Octavia St	NOLA	70115	
					NOLA		
					NOLA		
					NOLA		
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					NOLA		
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					NOLA		

Thanks for supporting our recommendations to the City Planning Commission.
Please mail by Friday, April 8th to:
Petition Drive, P.O. Box 53128, New Orleans, LA 70153

From: Rosemary James <faulkhouse@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 4:51 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Please add my name to the attached petition and vote against sex industry expansions
Attachments: City Planning Adult Entertainment Petition.pdf

To: Sabine Lebailleux, City Planning Commission

Please add my name to the attached petition.

Rosemary James,
Faulkner House Designs, 624 Pirates Alley, NOLA 70116-3233
faulkhouse@aol.com

To: Sabine Lebailleux, City Planning Commission

Please add my name to the attached petition.

Joseph J. DeSalvo, Jr.
Faulkner House Books, 624 Pirates Alley, NOLA 70116-3233

3663 Behrman Pl. Apt. R20
New Orleans, La. 70114

April 7, 2016

City Planning Commission Office
1300 Perdido Street, 7th Floor
One Stop Shop
New Orleans,, LA 70112

Ladies & Gentlemen:


Please scrutinize adult live entertainment venues (strip clubs) within the city in response to recent criminal activity and public outcry. Such clubs are notoriously connected to Human Trafficking, something widely recognized by national law enforcement and Human Trafficking experts,

Your attention is appreciated.

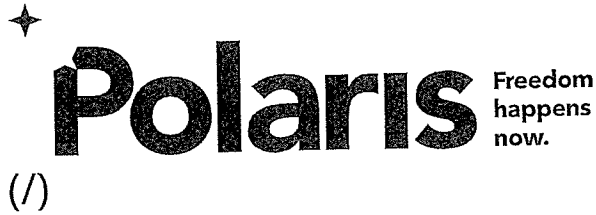
Very truly yours,

Inell M. Potter
Inell M. Potter

cc: New Orleans City Council
1300 Perdido Street, 2nd Floor West
New Orleans, LA 701

 National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline 1 (888) 373-7888 (tel:18883737888)

 Polaris BeFree Textline Text "BeFree" (tel:233733) (233733) (tel:233733)



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The Victims & Traffickers





Share (<https://www.polarisproject.org/trafficking-101/what-is-human-trafficking/#book?pv=300&pv=300&pv=300>)

THE VICTIMS

Victims of human trafficking are frequently lured by false promises of a lucrative job, stability, education, or a loving relationship. Victims can be men or women, adults or children, foreign nationals or U.S. citizens. While they share the trait of vulnerability, victims have diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, varied levels of education, and may be documented or undocumented.

As defined under U.S. law, victims of human trafficking can be divided into three populations:

1. Children under age 18 induced into commercial sex.
2. Adults aged 18 or over induced into commercial sex through force, fraud, or coercion.
3. Children and adults induced to perform labor or services through force, fraud, or coercion.

While human trafficking spans all demographics, there are some circumstances or vulnerabilities that lead to a higher susceptibility to victimization and human trafficking. Runaway and homeless youth, as well as victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, war or conflict, or social discrimination are frequently targeted by traffickers. Foreign

nationals who have paid significant recruitment and travel fees often become highly indebted to traffickers or other intermediaries. Traffickers control and manipulate these individuals by leveraging the non-portability of many work visas as well as the victims' lack of familiarity with surroundings, laws and rights, language fluency, and cultural understanding.

Victims face many challenges in accessing help. Their traffickers may confiscate their identification documents and money. They may not speak English. They may not know where they are, because they have been moved frequently. They are often not allowed to communicate with family or friends. And they may have trouble trusting others, due to their traffickers' manipulation and control tactics.

THE TRAFFICKERS

Traffickers lure and ensnare people into forced labor and sex trafficking by manipulating and exploiting their vulnerabilities. Human traffickers recruit, transport, harbor, obtain, and exploit victims – often using force, threats, lies, or other psychological coercion. Traffickers promise a high-paying job, a loving relationship, or new and exciting opportunities. In other cases, they may kidnap victims or use physical violence or substance abuse to control them.

Traffickers employ a variety of control tactics, including physical and emotional abuse, sexual assault, confiscation of identification and money, isolation from friends and family, and even renaming victims. Often, traffickers identify and leverage their victims' vulnerabilities in order to create dependency. They make promises aimed at addressing the needs of their target in order to impose control. As a result, victims become trapped and fear leaving for myriad reasons, including psychological trauma, shame, emotional attachment, or physical threats to themselves or their children's safety.

Often the traffickers and their victims share the same national, ethnic, or cultural background, allowing the trafficker to better understand and exploit the vulnerabilities of their victims.

Traffickers can be lone individuals or extensive criminal networks. Pimps, gangs, family members, labor brokers, employers of domestic servants, small business owners, and large factory owners have all been found guilty of human trafficking. Their common thread is a willingness to exploit other human beings for profit.

Join the Fight

Get action alerts and updates on human trafficking.

Your Email Address

Submit

Take Action

You can make Freedom Happen Now

Learn More →

Resources

[Sex Trafficking in the U.S.: A Closer Look at U.S. Citizen Victims \(/resources/sex-trafficking-us-closer-look-us-citizen-victims\)](#)



NATIONAL
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
RESOURCE CENTER

Hostess/Strip Club-Based

Victims of sex trafficking are frequently recruited to work in strip clubs across the United States. Women, men, and minors may be recruited to work in strip clubs as hostesses, servers or dancers, but then are required to provide commercial sex to customers.

Individuals forced to serve as hostess, servers, or dancers but not required to provide commercial sex may still be victims of labor trafficking .

Strip clubs are designed to provide the space and environment in which buyers may purchase commercial sex. Victims of sex trafficking in strip clubs must adhere to extensive, pre-determined schedules and are frequently moved between multiple clubs. Commercial sex sometimes takes place in the bathroom, VIP, or lap dance rooms, or offsite in hotels or buyer's homes.

Scroll down to read more in the overview below.

Venue tabs

OVERVIEW



Who are the traffickers?

Traffickers in strip clubs may be the business owners, shift leaders, fake massage business managers, brothel managers or independent traffickers. Often clubs and bars involved in sex trafficking offer commercial sex through escort services, massage parlors or brothels that are connected to the bar or located nearby. Strip club owners generally consider women to be independent contractors or employees of the escort manager/driving network, not the club, and often require the women to pay a house fee to the club for the space to perform.

Who are the facilitators?

Facilitators of sex trafficking in strip networks are often drivers who transport women to and from clubs and appointment. These drivers and operators typically require fees to be paid for transportation. The drivers may use town cars or large passenger vans to transport victims from club to club or across state lines to new networks.

Other facilitators may include staff in the strip club that employ methods of control over the victims or set up arrangements for commercial sex with customers, vendors who may knowingly or unknowingly provide space, services or products for the business to maintain the

front of a legitimate business, licensing or inspection personnel who are aware of the illegal commercial sex aspect of the business, and sources of advertising for business, such as online websites.

Who are the victims?

Victims of sex trafficking in strip clubs may be women, men or minors, though it is more common for females to be induced into commercial sex in this venue. They may be U.S. citizens, or foreign nationals with valid visas, expired/fraudulent visas or without documentation. There have been connections with stripping networks made to Russian organized crime, who recruit Russian or Eastern European women to come to the United States to work in go-go clubs and strip clubs. Once in the United States, a network of drivers transport the women to and from the clubs where they work and the group houses where they live and pay inflated rent.

Victim Vulnerabilities

Human trafficking spans all victim demographics and the vulnerabilities traffickers exploit are unique and specific to each victim (e.g. a developmental disorder, past child abuse, cultural beliefs). However, the NHTRC sees recurring vulnerabilities among sex trafficking victims in strip clubs. Some examples of these include (and are not limited by):

Immigrant Status: Strip club networks often target victims of a particular cultural or ethnic background, either similar to the demographics of the customer base. Recruiters identify victims from these communities and offer opportunities to move to the United States for better opportunities (typically under false pretenses). Shared cultural background offers traffickers and avenue for building trust and rapport with victims during the recruitment bases and reinforcing control after recruitment.

Prior Debts: Organized crime networks seeking to recruit victims for sex trafficking in strip clubs often target women and girls who have debt or family with debt to the network. Women from overseas are also required to pay huge recruitment and travel fees to recruiters and travel agencies before coming to the United States, and often do so with the expectation the work promised to them will quickly help them recoup the cost of recruitment. However, their debts only grow once they arrive in the United States, as they are required to pay exorbitant housing and transportation fees, along with paying fees to the club, stage managers, bartenders, bouncers and other facilitators.

When does it become trafficking?

Trafficking occurs in strip clubs when traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to force them to engage in commercial sex acts. Common means of control include:

Force: Isolation and restricted mobility; regular and frequent transportation to other clubs or other cities by drivers working for the trafficking network; physical or sexual abuse; forced abortions; lack of medical treatment or reproductive healthcare.

Fraud: False promises of a better life; false promises by a trafficker presenting as a boyfriend.

Coercion: Debt manipulation; threats of harm to the victim or victim's family; threats to shame the victim by revealing the commercial sex to his or her family and others in the community; threats of deportation and arrest; confiscation of passports and visas; rumors of or witnessed violence at hands of traffickers used as threats.

** An individual under the age of 18 engaged in commercial sex is considered a victim of sex trafficking regardless of the presence of force, fraud or coercion.*

Operated by  **Polaris** Freedom happens now.



This website was made possible through Grant Number 90ZV0102 from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of ACF or HHS.

Human Sex Trafficking

By Amanda Walker-Rodriguez and Rodney Hill



Human sex trafficking is the most common form of modern-day slavery. Estimates place the number of its domestic and international victims in the millions, mostly females and children enslaved in the commercial sex industry for little or no money.¹ The terms *human trafficking* and *sex slavery* usually conjure up images of young girls beaten and abused in faraway places, like Eastern Europe, Asia, or Africa. Actually, human sex trafficking and sex slavery happen locally in cities and towns, both large and small, throughout the United States, right in citizens' backyards.

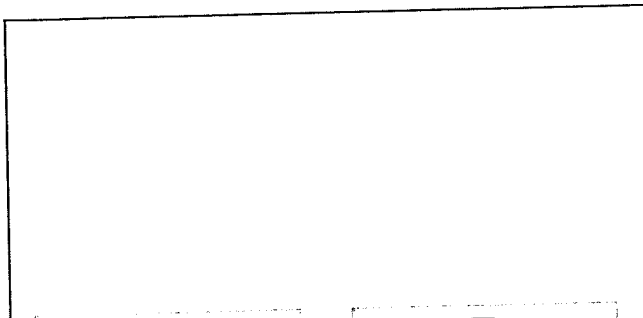
Appreciating the magnitude of the problem requires first understanding what the issue is and what it is not. Additionally, people must be able to identify the victim in common trafficking situations.

HUMAN SEX TRAFFICKING

Many people probably remember popular movies and television shows depicting pimps as dressing flashy and driving large fancy cars. More important, the women—adults—consensually and voluntarily engaged in the business of prostitution without complaint. This characterization is extremely inaccurate, nothing more than fiction. In reality, the pimp *traffics* young women (and sometimes men) completely against their will by force or threat of force; this is human sex trafficking.

The Scope

Not only is human sex trafficking slavery but it is big business. It is the fastest-growing business of organized crime and the third-largest criminal enterprise in the world.² The majority of sex trafficking is international, with victims taken from such places as South and Southeast Asia, the former Soviet Union, Central and South America, and other less developed areas and moved to more developed ones, including Asia, the Middle East, Western Europe, and North America.³



Unfortunately, however, sex trafficking also occurs domestically.⁴ The United States not only faces an influx of international victims but also has its own homegrown problem of interstate sex trafficking of minors.⁵

Although comprehensive research to document the number of children engaged in prostitution in the United States is lacking, an estimated 293,000 American youths currently are at risk of becoming victims of commercial sexual exploitation.⁶ The majority



Ms. Walker-Rodriguez is an assistant state's attorney in Baltimore County and a current member of the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force.



Mr. Hill, a retired police lieutenant, is an assistant state's attorney in Baltimore County and a current member of the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force.

becoming victims of commercial sexual exploitation. The majority of these victims are runaway or thrown-away youths who live on the streets and become victims of prostitution.⁷ These children generally come from homes where they have been abused or from families who have abandoned them. Often, they become involved in prostitution to support themselves financially or to get the things they feel they need or want (like drugs).

Other young people are recruited into prostitution through forced abduction, pressure from parents, or through deceptive agreements between parents and traffickers. Once these children become involved in prostitution, they often are forced to travel far from their homes and, as a result, are isolated from their friends and family. Few children in this situation can develop new relationships with peers or adults other than the person victimizing them. The lifestyle of such youths revolves around violence, forced drug use, and constant threats.⁸

Among children and teens living on the streets in the United States, involvement in commercial sex activity is a problem of epidemic proportion. Many girls living on the street engage in formal prostitution, and some become entangled in nationwide organized crime networks where they are trafficked nationally. Criminal networks transport these children around the United States by a variety of means—cars, buses, vans, trucks, or planes—and often provide them counterfeit identification to use in the event of arrest. The average age at which girls first become victims of prostitution is 12 to 14. It is not only the girls on the streets who are affected; boys and transgender youth enter into prostitution between the ages of 11 and 13 on average.⁹

The Operation

Today, the business of human sex trafficking is much more organized and violent. These women and young girls are sold to traffickers, locked up in rooms or brothels for weeks or months, drugged, terrorized, and raped repeatedly.¹⁰ These continual abuses make it easier for the traffickers to control their victims. The captives are so afraid and intimidated that they rarely speak out against their traffickers, even when faced with an opportunity to escape.

Generally, the traffickers are very organized. Many have a hierarchy system similar to that of other criminal organizations. Traffickers who have more than one victim often have a "bottom," who sits atop the hierarchy of prostitutes. The bottom, a victim herself, has been with the trafficker the longest and has earned his trust. Bottoms collect the money from the other girls, discipline them, seduce unwitting youths into trafficking, and handle the day-to-day business for the trafficker.

Traffickers represent every social, ethnic, and racial group. Various organizational types exist in trafficking. Some perpetrators are involved with local street and motorcycle gangs, others are members of larger nationwide gangs and criminal organizations, and some have no affiliation with any one group or organization. Traffickers are not only men—women run many established rings.

Traffickers use force, drugs, emotional tactics, and financial methods to control their victims. They have an especially easy time establishing a strong bond with young girls. These perpetrators may promise marriage and a lifestyle the youths often did not have in their previous familial relationships. They claim they "love" and "need" the victim and that any sex acts are for their future together. In cases where the children have few or no positive male role models in their lives, the traffickers take advantage of this fact and, in many cases, demand that the victims refer to them as "daddy," making it tougher for the youths to break the hold the perpetrator has on them.

Sometimes, the traffickers use violence, such as gang rape and other forms of abuse, to force the youths to work for them and remain under their control. One victim, a runaway from Baltimore County, Maryland, was gang raped by a group of men associated with the trafficker, who subsequently staged a "rescue." He then demanded that she repay him by working for him as one of his prostitutes. In many cases, however, the victims simply are beaten until they submit to the trafficker's demands.

In some situations, the youths have become addicted to drugs. The traffickers simply can use their ability to supply them with

The United States not only faces an influx of international victims but also has its own homegrown problem of interstate sex trafficking of minors.

usage as a means of control.

Traffickers often take their victims' identity forms, including birth certificates, passports, and drivers' licenses. In these cases, even if youths do leave they would have no ability to support themselves and often will return to the trafficker.

These abusive methods of control impact the victims both physically and mentally. Similar to cases involving Stockholm Syndrome, these victims, who have been abused over an extended period of time, begin to feel an attachment to the perpetrator.¹¹ This paradoxical psychological phenomenon makes it difficult for law enforcement to breach the bond of control, albeit abusive, the trafficker holds over the victim.

NATIONAL PROBLEM WITH LOCAL TIES

The Federal Level

In 2000, Congress passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), which created the first comprehensive federal law to address trafficking, with a significant focus on the international dimension of the problem. The law provides a three-pronged approach: *prevention* through public awareness programs overseas and a State Department-led monitoring and sanctions program; *protection* through a new T Visa and services for foreign national victims; and *prosecution* through new federal crimes and severe penalties.¹²

As a result of the passing of the TVPA, the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons was established in October 2001. This enabling legislation led to the creation of a bureau within the State Department to specifically address human trafficking and exploitation on all levels and to take legal action against perpetrators.¹³ Additionally, this act was designed to enforce all laws within the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that apply.¹⁴

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is one of the lead federal agencies charged with enforcing the TVPA. Human trafficking represents significant risks to homeland security. Would-be terrorists and criminals often can access the same routes and use the same methods as human traffickers. ICE's Human Smuggling and Trafficking Unit works to identify criminals and organizations involved in these illicit activities.

The FBI also enforces the TVPA. In June 2003, the FBI, in conjunction with the Department of Justice Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, launched the Innocence Lost National Initiative. The agencies' combined efforts address the growing problem of domestic sex trafficking of children in the United States. To date, these groups have worked successfully to rescue nearly 900 children. Investigations successfully have led to the conviction of more than 500 pimps, madams, and their associates who exploit children through prostitution. These convictions have resulted in lengthy sentences, including multiple 25-year-to-life sentences and the seizure of real property, vehicles, and monetary assets.¹⁵

Both ICE and the FBI, along with other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and national victim-based advocacy groups in joint task forces, have combined resources and expertise on the issue. Today, the FBI participates in approximately 30 law enforcement task forces and about 42 Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)-sponsored task forces around the nation.¹⁶

In July 2004, the Human Smuggling Trafficking Center (HSTC) was created. The HSTC serves as a fusion center for information on human smuggling and trafficking, bringing together analysts, officers, and investigators from such agencies as the CIA, FBI, ICE, Department of State, and Department of Homeland Security.

The Local Level

With DOJ funding assistance, many jurisdictions have created human trafficking task forces to combat the problem. BJA's 42 such task forces can be demonstrated by several examples.¹⁷

- In 2004, the FBI's Washington field office and the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department joined with a variety of nongovernment organizations and service providers to combat the growing problem of human trafficking within Washington, D.C.
- In January 2005, the Massachusetts Human Trafficking Task Force was formed, with the Boston Police Department



serving as the lead law enforcement entity. It uses a two-pronged approach, addressing investigations focusing on international victims and those focusing on the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

- The New Jersey Human Trafficking Task Force attacks the problem by training law enforcement in the methods of identifying victims and signs of trafficking, coordinating statewide efforts in the identification and provision of services to victims of human trafficking, and increasing the successful interdiction and prosecution of trafficking of human persons.
- Since 2006, the Louisiana Human Trafficking Task Force, which has law enforcement, training, and victim services components, has focused its law enforcement and victim rescue efforts on the Interstate 10 corridor from the Texas border on the west to the Mississippi border on the east. This corridor, the basic northern border of the hurricane-ravaged areas of Louisiana, long has served as a major avenue of illegal immigration efforts. The I-10 corridor also is the main avenue for individuals participating in human trafficking to supply the labor needs in the hurricane-damaged areas of the state.

“
Local and state criminal justice officials must understand that these cases are not isolated incidents that occur infrequently.”

In 2007, the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force was formed. It aims to create a heightened law enforcement and victim service presence in the community. Its law enforcement efforts include establishing roving operations to identify victims and traffickers, deputizing local law enforcement to assist in federal human trafficking investigations, and providing training for law enforcement officers.

Anytown, USA

In December 2008, Corey Davis, the ringleader of a sex-trafficking ring that spanned at least three states, was sentenced in federal court in Bridgeport, Connecticut, on federal civil rights charges for organizing and leading the sex-trafficking operation that exploited as many as 20 females, including minors. Davis received a sentence of 293 months in prison followed by a lifetime term of supervised release. He pleaded guilty to multiple sex-trafficking charges, including recruiting a girl under the age of 18 to engage in prostitution. Davis admitted that he recruited a minor to engage in prostitution; that he was the organizer of a sex-trafficking venture; and that he used force, fraud, and coercion to compel the victim to commit commercial sex acts from which he obtained the proceeds.

According to the indictment, Davis lured victims to his operation with promises of modeling contracts and a glamorous lifestyle. He then forced them into a grueling schedule of dancing and performing at strip clubs in Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey. When the clubs closed, Davis forced the victims to walk the streets until 4 or 5 a.m. propositioning customers. The indictment also alleged that he beat many of the victims to force them to work for him and that he also used physical abuse as punishment for disobeying the stringent rules he imposed to isolate and control them.¹⁸

As this and other examples show, human trafficking cases happen all over the United States. A few instances would represent just the “tip of the iceberg” in a growing criminal enterprise. Local and state criminal justice officials must understand that these cases are not isolated incidents that occur infrequently. They must remain alert for signs of trafficking in their jurisdictions and aggressively follow through on the smallest clue. Numerous Web sites openly (though they try to mask their actions) advertise for prostitution. Many of these sites involve young girls victimized by sex trafficking. Many of the pictures are altered to give the impression of older girls engaged in this activity freely and voluntarily. However, as prosecutors, the authors both have encountered numerous cases of suspected human trafficking involving underage girls.

The article “The Girls Next Door” describes a conventional midcentury home in Plainfield, New Jersey, that sat in a nice middle-class neighborhood. Unbeknownst to the neighbors, the house was part of a network of stash houses in the New York area where underage girls and young women from dozens of countries were trafficked and held captive. Acting on a tip, police raided the house in February 2002, expecting to find an underground brothel. Instead, they found four girls between the ages of 14 and 17, all Mexican nationals without documentation.

However, they were not prostitutes; they were sex slaves. These girls did not work for profit or a paycheck. They were captives to the traffickers and keepers who controlled their every move. The police found a squalid, land-based equivalent of a 19th-century slave ship. They encountered rancid, doorless bathrooms; bare, putrid mattresses; and a stash of penicillin, “morning after” pills, and an antiulcer medication that can induce abortion. The girls were pale, exhausted, and

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mainourished.

Human sex trafficking warning signs include, among other indicators, streetwalkers and strip clubs. However, a jurisdiction's lack of streetwalkers or strip clubs does not mean that it is immune to the problem of trafficking. Because human trafficking involves big money, if money can be made, sex slaves can be sold. Sex trafficking can happen anywhere, however unlikely a place. Investigators should be attuned to reading the signs of trafficking and looking closely for them.

INVESTIGATION OF HUMAN SEX TRAFFICKING

ICE aggressively targets the global criminal infrastructure, including the people, money, and materials that support human trafficking networks. The agency strives to prevent human trafficking in the United States by prosecuting the traffickers and rescuing and protecting the victims. However, most human trafficking cases start at the local level.

Strategies

Local and state law enforcement officers may unknowingly encounter sex trafficking when they deal with homeless and runaway juveniles; criminal gang activity; crimes involving immigrant children who have no guardians; domestic violence calls; and investigations at truck stops, motels, massage parlors, spas, and strip clubs. To this end, the authors offer various suggestions and indicators to help patrol officers identify victims of sex trafficking, as well as tips for detectives who investigate these crimes.

Patrol Officers

Document suspicious calls and complaints on a police information report, even if the details seem trivial.

- Be aware of trafficking when responding to certain call types, such as reports of foot traffic in and out of a house. Consider situations that seem similar to drug complaints.
- Look closely at calls for assaults, domestic situations, verbal disputes, or thefts. These could involve a trafficking victim being abused and disciplined by a trafficker, a customer having a dispute with a victim, or a client who had money taken during a sex act.
- Locations, such as truck stops, strip clubs, massage parlors, and cheap motels, are havens for prostitutes forced into sex trafficking. Many massage parlors and strip clubs that engage in sex trafficking will have cramped living quarters where the victims are forced to stay.
- When encountering prostitutes and other victims of trafficking, do not display judgment or talk down to them. Understand the violent nature in how they are forced into trafficking, which explains their lack of cooperation. Speak with them in a location completely safe and away from other people, including potential victims.
- Check for identification. Traffickers take the victims' identification and, in cases of foreign nationals, their travel information. The lack of either item should raise concern.

**Traffickers
represent every
social, ethnic, and
racial group.**

Detectives/Investigators

- Monitor Web sites that advertise for dating and hooking up. Most vice units are familiar with the common sites used by sex traffickers as a means of advertisement.
- Conduct surveillance at motels, truck stops, strip clubs, and massage parlors. Look to see if the girls arrive alone or with someone else. Girls being transported to these locations should raise concerns of trafficking.
- Upon an arrest, check cell phone records, motel receipts, computer printouts of advertisements, and tollbooth receipts. Look for phone calls from the jailed prostitute to the pimp. Check surveillance cameras at motels and toll facilities as evidence to indicate the trafficking of the victim.
- Obtain written statements from the customers; get them to work for you.
- Seek assistance from nongovernmental organizations involved in fighting sex trafficking. Many of these entities have workers who will interview these victims on behalf of the police.
- After executing a search warrant, photograph everything. Remember that in court, a picture may be worth a thousand words: nothing else can more effectively describe a cramped living quarter a victim is forced to reside in.
- Look for advertisements in local newspapers, specifically the sports sections, that advertise massage parlors. These businesses should be checked out to ensure they are legitimate and not fronts for trafficking.

- Contact your local U.S. Attorney's Office, FBI Field Office, or ICE for assistance. Explore what local resources exist to help address this problem.

Other Considerations

Patrol officers and investigators can look for many other human trafficking indicators as well.²⁰ These certainly warrant closer attention.

General Indicators

- People who live on or near work premises
- Individuals with restricted or controlled communication and transportation
- Persons frequently moved by traffickers
- A living space with a large number of occupants
- People lacking private space, personal possessions, or financial records
- Someone with limited knowledge about how to get around in a community

Physical Indicators

- Injuries from beatings or weapons
- Signs of torture (e.g., cigarette burns)
- Brands or scarring, indicating ownership
- Signs of malnourishment

Financial/Legal Indicators

- Someone else has possession of an individual's legal/travel documents
- Existing debt issues
- One attorney claiming to represent multiple illegal aliens detained at different locations
- Third party who insists on interpreting. Did the victim sign a contract?

Brothel Indicators

- Large amounts of cash and condoms
- Customer logbook or receipt book ("trick book")
- Sparse rooms
- Men come and go frequently

CONCLUSION

This form of cruel modern-day slavery occurs more often than many people might think. And, it is not just an international or a national problem—it also is a local one. It is big business, and it involves a lot of perpetrators and victims.

Agencies at all levels must remain alert to this issue and address it vigilantly. Even local officers must understand the problem and know how to recognize it in their jurisdictions. Coordinated and aggressive efforts from all law enforcement organizations can put an end to these perpetrators' operations and free the victims.

Endnotes

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⁶ Richard J. Estes and Neil Alan Weiner, *Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico* (University of Pennsylvania, Executive Summary, 2001).

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⁸ <http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/9107.pdf> (accessed July 19, 2010).

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¹⁰ <http://www.womenshealth.gov/violence/types/human-trafficking.cfm> (accessed July 19, 2010).

“

Today, the business of human sex trafficking is much more organized and violent.

”

3/28/2016

For additional information, see Nathalie De Fabrique, Stephen J. Romano, Gregory M. Vecchi, and Vincent B. Van Hasselt, "Understanding Stockholm Syndrome," *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, July 2007, 10-15.

¹² Trafficking Victims Protection Act, Pub. L. No. 106-386 (2000), codified at 22 U.S.C. § 7101, et seq.

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¹⁴ U.S. CONST. amend. XIII, § 1: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

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Trafficking FAQs

Trafficking FAQs

Adapted from www.polarisproject.org

What is human trafficking?

Human trafficking, also known as trafficking in persons (TIP), is a modern-day form of slavery. It is a crime under international, federal and state law.

Is human trafficking another word for smuggling?

No. Smuggling is a crime against a country's borders, whereas human trafficking is a crime against a person.

Smuggling requires illegal border crossing, human trafficking involves commercial sex acts or labor or services that are induced through force, fraud, or coercion. Human trafficking does not require transportation.

Does physical violence have to be involved in human trafficking cases?

No. Some victims experience beatings, rape, and other forms of physical violence, however, many victims are controlled by traffickers through psychological means, such as threats of violence, manipulation, and lies. In many cases, traffickers use a combination of direct violence and mental abuse. The federal definition of the crime, as defined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, was created to address the wider spectrum of methods of control used by traffickers beyond "bodily harm."

Who are the victims?

Trafficked persons in the United States can be men or women, adults or children, foreign nationals or US citizens. Some are well-educated, while others have no formal education.

Certain populations are especially vulnerable. These may include: undocumented immigrants; runaway and homeless youth; and oppressed, marginalized, and/or impoverished groups and individuals.

Do victims always come from a low-income or poor background?

No. Human trafficking victims can come from a range of backgrounds and some may come from middle and upper class families. Poverty is one of many factors that make individuals vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking.

Under the federal definition, are human trafficking victims only foreign nationals or immigrants?

No. The federal definition of human trafficking includes both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals – both are protected under the federal trafficking law and have been since the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

Who is at risk of becoming a victim of human trafficking?

Since human trafficking victims can be men or women, adults or children, and foreign nationals or U.S. citizens, trafficking is a crime that cuts across race, nationality, gender, age, and socio-economic background. However, human traffickers typically prey on individuals who are vulnerable in some way. Some examples of high risk populations include undocumented migrants, runaways and at-risk youth, and oppressed or marginalized groups.

How many human trafficking victims are there in the United States?

Due to the covert nature of the crime and high levels of under-reporting, the total number of victims of human trafficking within the United States is still being researched by the government and academic researchers. However, a range of estimates have been released by some government agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Do victims of human trafficking self-identify as a victim of a crime and ask for help immediately?

Often no. Victims of human trafficking often do not seek help immediately, due to lack of trust, self-blame, or being directly trained by traffickers to distrust authorities.

What types of human trafficking can be found in the United States?

Labor Trafficking: Domestic Servitude/Domestic Worker Cases, small Businesses/"Mom and Pop" operations, landscaping nail salons, restaurants, industrial cleaning, construction, hospitality, large-scale labor cases agricultural factory settings (i.e. garments; food processing), other large factory work environments (i.e. industrial welding).

Sex Trafficking: "Hostess" Bar/Club Operations with inflated-price schemes, stripping or exotic dancing, "Go-Go Clubs", Latino cantina bars, Asian room salons, hostess clubs, and other karaoke clubs, domestic strip clubs and gentleman's clubs, residential/underground brothel settings. Residential brothels can be based in homes, apartments, hotel/motel rooms, trailer parks, mobile trailers, and other outdoor locations such as street prostitution.

Does human trafficking only occur in illegal underground industries?

While human trafficking does occur in illegal and underground markets, it can also occur in legal and legitimate settings. For example, common locations of human trafficking include private homes, hotels, nail salons, restaurants, bars, strip clubs, and massage parlors.

How is pimping a form of sex trafficking?

Pimps, who are motivated by the opportunity to make money, sell women and girls in the commercial sex industry by using numerous methods to gain control over their bodies and minds. An elaborated list of these controlling behaviors of pimps is provided below:

Force: Beating and slapping, beating with objects (bat, tools, chains, belts, hangers, canes, cords), burning, sexual assault, rape and gang rape, confinement and physical restraint.

Fraud: False promises, deceitful enticing and affectionate behavior, lying about working conditions, lying about the promise of a better life, "selling a dream."

Coercion: Threats of serious harm or restraint, intimidation and humiliation, creating a climate of fear, enforcement of trivial demands, occasional indulgences, intense manipulation, emotional abuse, isolation, creating dependency and fear of independence.

Do pimps sometimes act as business managers who offer protection to women and girls in the sex industry and split the money earned through commercial sex acts?

No. Contrary to common perceptions, pimps often do not offer protection, and they are not benevolent managers. These images of a pimp are often romanticized and glamorized and are far from the actual reality of how pimps behave. Instead, pimps take all of the money and typically establish nightly monetary quotas that women and children are forced to earn in order to avoid violent repercussions. Pimps even "brand" those under their control with tattoos of their name to demonstrate ownership.

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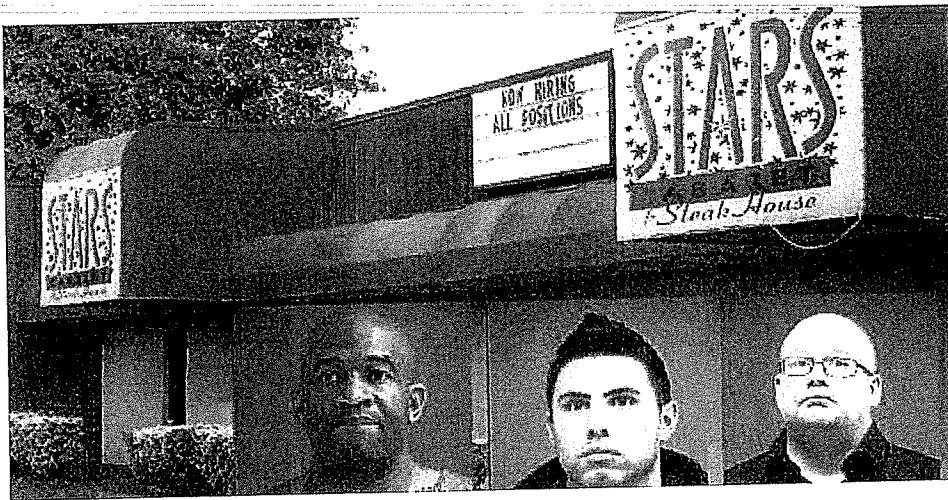
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Where Strip Clubs Thrive In Portland, So Does Child Sex Trafficking

06/25/2015 07:44 am ET | Updated Jun 26, 2015

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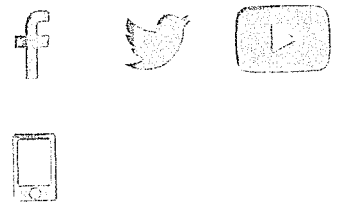


ANDY CAMPBELL / THE HUFFINGTON POST

PORTLAND, Ore. — In late August last year, a 15-year-old girl was forced to strip off her clothes and dance naked at Stars Cabaret in nearby Beaverton.

She had been missing since early July, after running away from a drug abuse treatment center. It took less than two months for her pimp, Anthony Curry, to find her, allegedly rape her repeatedly, advertise her body on escort sites like Backpage and force her to dance on stage in several area strip clubs. Each night, Curry would take the money and repay her in shopping trips and a false sense of security, according to court documents.

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Curry was arrested in September and convicted earlier this month in neighboring Washington County on seven counts of using a child to display sexually explicit conduct. He faces additional charges of rape and compelling prostitution in Multnomah county, where Portland is located.

The Huffington Post doesn't name the victims of sex trafficking, especially minors. But in many ways, this teen had her childhood taken away from her. She struggled through addiction and was bought and sold on the sex market — all before she could legally drive a car. Her innocence is gone.

She shares her story with hundreds of other children who are trafficked in and around Portland each year. Between 2009 and 2013, 469 children were identified as victims of commercial sexual exploitation in the Portland metro area, according to a study by Portland State University Associate Professor Chris Carey. And those are the victims that were referred to the state Department of Human Services and local nonprofits — the number of cases that go unreported is much, much higher.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg. The problem is real," said Sarah Ohlsen, who works on a county Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) steering committee dedicated to tackling the area's sex trafficking issues.

Victim advocates say Portland is a hub for such exploitation, due to its abundance of strip clubs and online services — as well as a high demand for sex online. But it's hard to know for certain because nationwide statistics are elusive. Sex trafficking is a transient crime, local police say — pimps and gangs will sell victims from California to Portland and when business is slow, they'll move to Seattle or Vegas. For that reason, it's difficult to compile sex trafficking stats in any given community, or to argue definitively that Portland's issues are worse than, say, Seattle's.

But local agencies were surprised at just how prevalent Portland's problem is. Recent high-profile trafficking cases like Curry's have put child sex trafficking back in the media spotlight.

"I was surprised when I saw the numbers," Carey said. "Is Portland a 'hub' or is it media hype that's bringing these cases to light? It's hard to say. What we do know is that these 469 cases are only the ones that made contact with the state system," he said. "The next step is trying to find a predictive model for this crime."

The Tip Of The Iceberg

In addition to Carey's findings, the sheriff's office identified 421 suspected sex traffickers between 2009 and late 2014 in a

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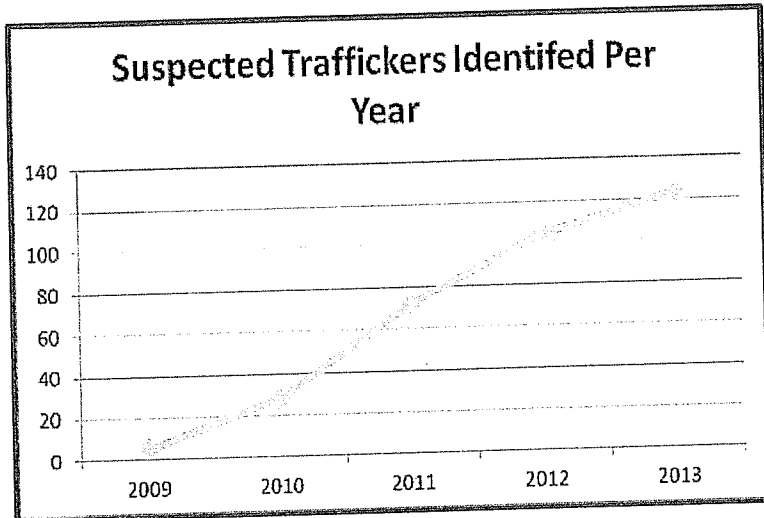
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Multnomah County annual report. Each one of those suspects, Ohlsen said, is likely trafficking more than one victim. It's hard to catch and convict those suspects because their cases require a victim willing to testify — and pimps and gangs can intimidate witnesses.



Police say it's easier to trade humans than drugs.

"You can't intimidate an ounce of crack into not testifying against you — you can intimidate a person," said Sgt. Chris Lindsey with the Portland Police Sex Trafficking Unit. "You can threaten them; you can threaten their family. I'd put the number at higher than 50 pimps trafficking at any given time."

The fact that police are finding more traffickers is a sign of progress — it means that more resources are being funneled toward identification and prosecution.

Carey and Ohlsen's studies were unprecedented before local police began to characterize child prostitutes as sex trafficking victims in 2009. It's a step in the right direction: the classification places more of the burden on trafficking suspects than victims. Here are some more of Carey's findings:

- 469 child sex trafficking victims were identified between 2009 and 2013.
- The average age of victims was 15. The youngest was 8.
- 96 percent of the victims were female.
- 40 percent of the victims were white, 27 percent were black and 5 percent were Hispanic.
- Nearly 17 percent of victims had a child of their own when they were identified.

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- 62 percent of victims were dealing with addiction issues.

Police say most of the adults working on the streets in Portland started as minors. Most victims are young and vulnerable when they're lured in by pimps and gangs and many become addicts if they weren't already.

The Strip Club Problem

Portland has more clubs per capita than any U.S. city, according to Willamette Week. Each has its own protections in the form of a free-speech clause in the state constitution that makes strip clubs difficult to regulate. Article 1, Section 8 forbids laws "restraining the free expression of opinion, or restricting the right to speak, write or print freely on any subject whatever." The constitution allows clubs to pop up almost anywhere, unlike in other states where they can be heavily restricted by zoning regulations. Moreover, dancers are considered "contractors" and not required to have permits that would make it easier for police to identify underage victims, The Oregonian reported.

Curry's case is an example of how strip clubs can be used for the trafficking of minors. The pimp used Stars Cabaret in Beaverton and other clubs to pimp out his 15-year-old victim, Washington County Prosecutor Kevin Barton said. All Curry had to do was get her a fake ID and she could dance nude for patrons.

Just before Curry's arrest, Stars Cabaret manager Steven Toth was convicted in an unrelated but similar case. Toth turned a blind eye when a 13-year-old girl was being pimped out in Toth's club by Victor Moreno-Hernandez. Toth and Moreno-Hernandez were both convicted and Toth was sentenced to 15 years in prison. Their cases prompted a Stars manager to identify Curry's victim as a minor to police.



From left to right: Anthony Curry, Victor Moreno-Hernandez and Steven Toth. All three were convicted for their role in child trafficking crimes at Stars Cabaret in Beaverton.

Current Stars Cabaret owners — who are currently fighting the state Liquor Control Commission's proposal to cancel their liquor license because of the club's connection to criminal activities — declined to comment.

"Strip clubs serve as fertile ground for the problem to fester," said Sgt. Charles Lovell of the Portland Police Bureau. "Generally speaking, you have guys there, with money, already looking for sex. If you are a pimp or a sex trafficker, it's a good place to peddle your services."

Because the demand to pay for sex is high at strip clubs, it's still easy to sell sex in public, he said.

"If you're in a gang and you're selling drugs to make money, if you get caught with those, you're in trouble right off the bat — just possessing them is illegal," Lovell said. "For sex trafficking, if you have a girl working and they're loyal and not willing to cooperate with the police or tell on you, it's very difficult to get them in any trouble. The risk is much lower."

But even more underage sex trafficking occurs online, police say. Hundreds of ads are placed on Backpage.com and other known trafficking sites each week, Ohlsen said.

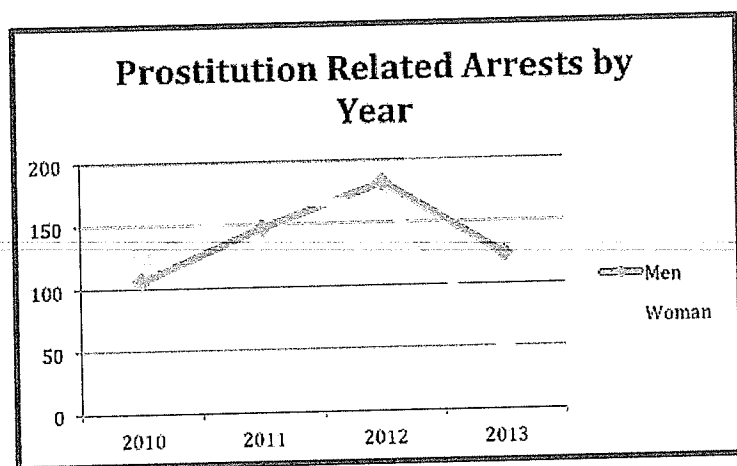
What's Being Done

The CSEC steering committee Ohlsen sits on was created in 2009 to allow educators, sexual assault aid and advocacy groups and

law enforcement agencies to coordinate in fighting child sex trafficking. Awareness of the issue has allowed for more state and federal funding to be funneled to victim advocacy and criminal education.

“People think sex trafficking is an international situation. I don’t think people are fully aware that seemingly legal industries can be hotbeds for this type of crime,” Ohlsen said. “We have made a lot of progress in education and awareness and better understanding that we do have a problem.”

Indeed, her annual report shows more victims and perpetrators are being identified each year. Since the Sex Trafficking Unit’s inception in 2009, more buyers are being arrested while the arrest numbers for women working in the sex trade are falling.



The report states:

It is important to note that the reduction we see in the arrest of women does not indicate that demand is being reduced. It is instead a conscious choice by the officers of the Sex Trafficking Unit to handle these cases differently – meaning women are treated as victims, not criminals. As a collaboration, we understand that victimization does not stop because someone has become a legal adult. The Sex Trafficking Unit officers’ primary goal for the women they encounter is to offer them support services and treatment options. The goal is to support them in recovery. Because of that, officers spend a lot more resources working with victims.

Prosecutors have taken a victim-centered approach to focus on convicting traffickers and helping victims, Ohlsen said. The state’s

Department of Human Services also has a dedicated CSEC unit, started in May 2011, to identify victims and help them. That unit helps about 65 youth at any given time.

Police, meanwhile, are trying to get ahead of the problem by going into schools and educating both potential victims and criminals. Educators are teaching children as young as 13 — the average age that prostitutes start as sex trafficking victims — to look out for signs of trafficking, Lovell said.

“Part of what we have to do as a community is change people’s mind about purchasing sex,” Ohlsen said. “We have to disrupt transactions, identify sex trafficking when it happens and build an environment where it’s not ok to buy.”

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Runs with Goats

Be honest---where men gather, anywhere men gather, there is danger to women and children. And instead of merely reporting on this, over and over, time and again, maybe someone could ask WHY. Why, in a world set up for them entirely, can they not stop molesting children and harming women?

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Blaming men for the problems... understandable. But what about the men who are solving the problems? Do you have an issue with them as well? The issue is the human condition, the heart gone wrong... which is found in both male and females. The solution is love in action with grace, courage and hard work. We all need to be better educated on the problems too... and posting pictures of known pimps would also be helpful so we as a community can take action in reporting, watching and confronting when needed.

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Federal prosecutors on Monday seized documents and other evidence in a series of raids and revealed that a three-year undercover investigation has turned up "rampant" prostitution and evidence of money laundering and racketeering.

By Jim Brunner  and Mike Carter 
Seattle Times staff reporter

In a move aimed at dismantling the strip-club empire of Frank Colacurcio Sr., federal prosecutors on Monday seized documents and other evidence in a series of raids and revealed that a three-year undercover investigation has turned up

“rampant” prostitution and evidence of money laundering and racketeering.



As FBI and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) agents carted away boxes of documents in the raids at several strip clubs, a federal judge in Seattle issued a temporary restraining order that prevents Colacurcio or anyone involved in his operations from selling their interest in the properties in anticipation of federal racketeering charges.

No arrests were made and no criminal charges have been filed.

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Targeted in simultaneous raids Monday were Colacurcio's business office, Talents West, and his strip clubs: Rick's, in Seattle; Sugar's, in Shoreline; Honey's, in Everett; and Fox's, in Parkland, Pierce County. Also searched were Colacurcio Sr.'s home and a Seattle apartment.

In an unusually pointed court filing, prosecutors say they anticipate seeking charges against the senior Colacurcio, his son, Frank Jr. and several business associates under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, commonly known as RICO.

U.S. Attorney Jeff Sullivan said Colacurcio, his business partners and several subordinates are under investigation for promoting prostitution, money laundering, tax evasion and mail fraud.

Under a RICO prosecution, law-enforcement officials could seek to shut down and seize the clubs — a penalty prosecutors could not impose after convicting Colacurcio of tax evasion and illegal gambling activities in the past.

“This is the most significant organized-crime investigation we have ever undertaken,” Seattle Police Chief Gil Kerlikowske said at a news conference Monday. The raids and an ongoing federal grand-jury investigation will have a “great impact on an organization that is doing significant damage to this city.”

Investigators say the Colacurcios and their co-owners, Steve Fueston, David Ebert and Leroy Christiansen, profited handsomely from their clubs. In one 15-month period, they brought in \$15.2 million in gross revenues, according to the court filing.



“This is not about the morals police,” the chief said. “This is about organized crime ... prostitution and violence.”

The investigation has led the city to look into six cold-case homicides and other unsolved disappearances.

Colacurcio Sr.'s attorney, Irwin Schwartz, declined to comment, saying he needed more time to read court documents.

John Wolfe, Colacurcio Jr.'s attorney, said he had no information other than what was contained in court papers. "At this time, no charges have been filed, no arrests have been made, and we will await to hear from the government when they choose to communicate with us," he said.

Colacurcio Jr., 46, arrived at his father's Sheridan Beach house while agents were still searching it. He said he was concerned about the impact of the raid on his 90-year-old father's frail health.

Frank Colacurcio Sr. could be observed at his home reading at his table. Frank Jr. said his father was not available to comment.

Graphic court filings

Court documents filed Monday relate, in graphic detail, pervasive sex-related activities observed by confidential informants and undercover police officers, including one who infiltrated the organization and became a manager at Colacurcio's flagship strip club, Rick's, in Lake City. Investigators also received cooperation from current and former dancers who said they were disturbed by the prostitution they witnessed at the Colacurcio clubs. And police recruited an

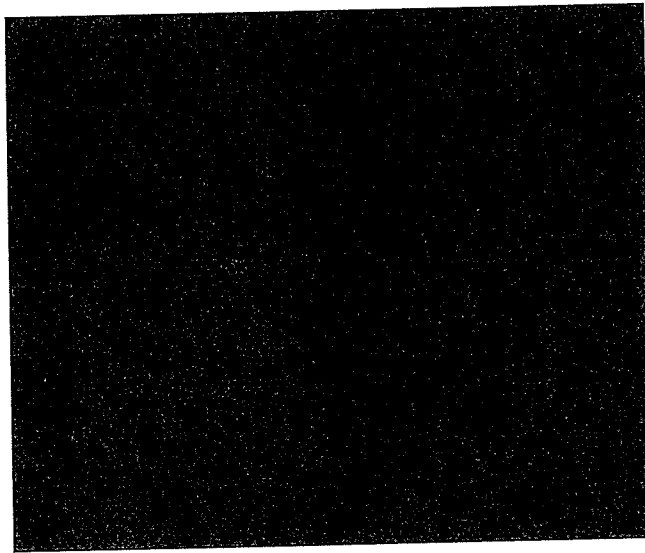
unnamed business associate of Colacurcio Sr. as an informant.

The document says several of the informants were paid and others went to work for police after they were arrested on criminal charges, including prostitution and drug possession. In some cases, the charges were later dropped.

According to the court documents, one confidential informant said there is an "open invitation" for dancers to earn between \$150 and \$1,000 by having sex with Colacurcio.

The documents describe semiprivate, dimly lit "VIP areas" where dancers and clients engage in open sex acts and where the floors were littered with used condoms.

The clubs make their money by charging customers a \$10 cover charge and \$5 for soft drinks, and charging dancers \$130 for each shift they work. The dancers make their "rent" back by performing private dances during which they frequently negotiate sex acts in exchange for money, according to investigators. Dancers arrested for prostitution at one club were often sent to work at another.



The clubs also have ATMs that dispense tokens instead of cash. Customers use the tokens to pay for private dances. When the dancers redeem the tokens, the clubs take a 10 percent "exchange fee," the court documents said.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Todd Greenberg said the money-laundering allegations stem partly from the use of the tokens. The tax-evasion and mail-fraud allegations

relate to alleged underreporting of a city's admissions tax, which is levied on the cover charges collected at the clubs. Court documents say agents set up surveillance cameras on utility poles outside the clubs and counted the number of customers.

The raids began just before 10 a.m. Monday with FBI, IRS and local police swarming Rick's, on Lake City Way, as well as Talents West, the nearby business office from which the strip clubs are run. Simultaneous raids were conducted at the other club locations.

At Honey's strip club in South Everett, dancer Shawna Graves arrived early for work to be greeted by FBI agents and uniformed Snohomish County sheriff's deputies. Graves said she was asked by authorities to fill out a lengthy questionnaire, which asked her about prostitution in the club and the activities of managers and owners.

"We're not bad girls, we're not prostitutes," said Graves, 27. "We all have kids, we're all single parents. What the hell are we going to do?"

At Fox's in Parkland, FBI agents and Pierce County sheriff's deputies used a crowbar to pry their way inside the strip club. A woman who gave her name only as Christy told a reporter that Fox's was a great place to work and that management didn't allow illegal behavior.



"I've worked here for four years and I would break their fingers if anyone tried to touch me," said Christy, who said she was a dancer.

FBI Special Agent in Charge Laura Laughlin said investigators hope the raids will result in further leads and tips. She asked that anyone with information call an FBI tip line, 1-877-774-8889.

Notorious figure

Colacurcio Sr. has played cat-and-mouse with federal and local law-enforcement officials for six decades, making him one of Seattle's most notorious racketeering figures. As far back as the 1950s, he was identified as a racketeer in testimony before a U.S. Senate committee and accused of using strong-arm tactics to control Seattle's pinball trade.

The three-year investigation that led to Monday's raids was indirectly triggered by a seemingly mundane zoning issue — the Colacurcios' long-standing effort to add seven or eight parking spaces at Rick's.

The so-called "Strippergate" scandal erupted at City Hall in 2003 after the Colacurcios secretly funneled thousands of dollars in illegal campaign contributions through friends, relatives and business partners to the re-election campaigns of Seattle City Council members Judy Nicastro, Heidi Wills and Jim Compton.

The contributions came shortly before the council approved a rezone allowing Rick's to add parking spaces as the clubs moved toward expanding and opening the VIP areas that prosecutors have singled out in court documents as being at the core of prostitution problems in the clubs. The dimly lit areas are designed for

maximum privacy and are where most of the sex is taking place, according to the documents.

The rezoning was opposed by neighbors and the city's planning department. Nicastro and Wills were defeated in the November election, and Compton, who was re-elected, later left the council. None of the council members was aware of the Colacurcios' scheme, prosecutors said.

The elder Colacurcio and his son pleaded guilty in January to felony and misdemeanor charges, admitting they reimbursed others to skirt campaign-donation limits. The Colacurcios agreed to each pay \$75,000 in criminal and civil penalties.

The Strippergate case revived law-enforcement interest in the Colacurcios, prompting the FBI and the other agencies to form a task force in 2005.

Colacurcio Sr. has served four federal prison terms, primarily for skimming cash to avoid taxes and violating the terms of his probation. His son has served time for tax fraud.

But their strip-club operations continued to operate, initially as liquor establishments and then soda-pop clubs when state liquor rules were tightened.

Dancers have been repeatedly cited by undercover police in recent years for engaging in prostitution and lewd conduct inside the clubs. Some floor managers have been cited for permitting illegal conduct.

Additionally, investigators have looked at Colacurcio Sr. or associates in the slayings of five people in the 1970s and 1980s. The victims were a rival strip-club operator and his fiancée, a bar owner in Central Washington, a mechanic in a murder-for-hire scheme and a police informant.

That effort has led to the conviction of a man in the Central Washington case, a guilty plea by a woman in the murder-for-hire scheme, and the apparent suicide of an Oregon man arrested in the killing of the strip-club operator and his fiancée.

But neither Colacurcio Sr. nor his associates have been tied to the killings, and involvement in the Central Washington case has been ruled out. But a King County sheriff's detective is continuing to pursue leads in some cases.

Seattle Times staff reporters Steve Miletich, Jennifer Sullivan and Christine Clarridge contributed to this report.

Mike Carter: 206-464-3706 or mcarter@seattletimes.com


Jim Brunner: 206-515-5628 or jbrunner@seattletimes.com; on Twitter: [@Jim_Brunner](https://twitter.com/Jim_Brunner). Seattle Times political reporter Jim Brunner covers state, local and regional politics.

Mike Carter: 206-464-3706 or mcarter@seattletimes.com; on Twitter: [@stimesmcarter](https://twitter.com/stimesmcarter).

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RECENT NEWS

BRPD Makes Human Trafficking Arrest in Connection With Plank Rd. Strip Club Incident
MARCH 27, 2015

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BRPD Makes Human Trafficking Arrest in Connection With Plank Rd. Strip Club Incident

Posted on March 27, 2015

Investigators with the BRPD Sex Crimes Division have arrested a Baker female and charged her with Human Trafficking in connection with the recent bust of an unlicensed strip club on Plank Rd.



An affidavit of probable cause says Kaylenceyia Carter, 19, 2319 College Ave., Baker, LA, is allegedly responsible for bringing the 16-year-old victim to the club at 3773 Plank Rd. to strip for money.

During an interview with BRPD, the teen told investigators that she contacted Carter on March 21st stating she was in need of some money because she had no job. Carter told the teen that she had been working at a strip club and could take her there for an audition.

Carter brought the teen to the club at 3773 Plank Rd. where they met with the co-owner of the club, Trudell Richardson, also know as 'Squalee Pope.' Richardson asked the teen how old she was, to which the teen replied 16. Richardson told her to tell anyone who asked that she was 21. He told the teen that he would introduce her to the 'money guys' and that she needed to do whatever was necessary to make the money. She was told that half of the money she made was to be paid back to the club.

Carter then brought the teen inside the club, where she was taught how to dance on a pole. Richardson asked the teen to dance for him and several other males in the club who were throwing money on the floor in front of her. The teen told investigators that she made approximately \$300.00 for the dance. She stated that she later fell asleep in one of the rooms at the club which is where the BRPD located her during a search.

A warrant was issued for Carter's arrest and she was charged with a

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Jada Pinkett-Smith Says, "Strip Clubs are Breeding Grounds for Sex Trafficking"



Actress Jada Pinkett-Smith is currently working with CNN to produce a powerful documentary about human trafficking and the strip club culture. She says that sex trafficking and stripping are a lot more closely related than people may realize, and that strip clubs are often a breeding ground for sex traffickers. For the documentary, she interviewed several former strippers in Atlanta who were lured into sex trafficking. She commented, "I think the thing that caught me was that one of the ladies — a really bright young girl — the gateway to trafficking for her was stripping. As we know, here in Atlanta the strip culture is pretty prevalent."

In a video blog posted on her Facebook page, she said:

I just finished my first day of shooting in Atlanta. I went to a wonderful facility called Well Spring and got to meet three really dynamic women who had been trafficked. I learned so much from them today and I really learned a lot about perception...

[Read complete article at Black News](#)

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From: Wisdom, Rachel W. <RWisdom@stonepigman.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 05, 2016 10:20 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: 'kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com'
Subject: Adult Live Entertainment: Petition

[ATTN: Sabine Lebailleux](#)

City Planning Commission

Please consider the following petition regarding Adult Live Entertainment in New Orleans:

PETITION

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New Orleans is considered a major hub for human sex trafficking by national law enforcement and human trafficking experts (including the Polaris Project).

Dancers are constantly sexually harassed, and are forced to work in an environment that is neither safe nor crime free.

A Loyola University study estimated 87 residents from Covenant House, a homeless youth shelter, were survivors of human trafficking each year and an estimated 150 residents per year if the sex industry and strip clubs were included.

We believe that:

The existing number of strip clubs leads to an increase in overall French Quarter crime including violence, prostitution, lewd/improper acts, petty crime and drug dealing – and therefore does not promote the public health, welfare and safety of the City.

We, the undersigned, recommend that:

- No one under the age of 21 should be allowed to work in any capacity within a strip club or adult entertainment venue.
- A special designation should be made that defines these establishments which would allow tighter restrictions and regulations, such as no one under 21 should be allowed to work within the premises.
- Dancers should be provided a safe, crime free environment, and should not be allowed to be sexually harassed, and if they are not truly working as independent contractors should be treated as employees with standard benefits etc (as may be required by the standards for classification imposed by the Fair Labor Standards Act, implementing regulations, and interpreting precedent)
- The number of strip clubs in our city needs to decrease by 65%, any new or re-opened clubs should not be allowed outside of the “adult live performance venue IZD” or within 1,000 feet of residences, schools, or houses of worship.
- A special tax/fee needs to be levied against the strip clubs to pay for increased law enforcement on Bourbon Street, and for weekly inspections of the clubs including VIP rooms.
- Enforcement of all regulations, existing and proposed, should be enforced by both NOPD and the State Police.

Rachel Wisdom

(This is a personal endorsement of the forgoing petition. I am not communicating on behalf of any organization, business or other persons, including but not limited to the members of and/or the law firm at which I am a member).

From: Maggie Carroll <maggienola@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 05, 2016 3:12 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebaileux
Cc: Kristin Palmer
Subject: Adult Live Entertainment Petition

Dear Ms. Lebaileux,

Please add my name to the below petition.

Thanks,

Maggie Carroll
president, Broadmoor Improvement Association

PETITION

City Planning Commission's Study of Adult Live Entertainment Venues

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From: carolyn leftwich <carolynleftwich@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 02, 2016 3:17 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Adult Live Entertainment Study: Petition

Ms. Lebailleux,

Please consider this is as my signature to this importation petition.

Regards,
Carolyn Leftwich

PETITION

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From: Greta Hayes <greta227@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2016 12:53 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux; kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Adult Live Entertainment Study Petition

ATTN: Sabine Lebailleux

City Planning Commission

Dear Ms. Labailleux:

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Thank you for your time,
Greta Hayes

404 Vallette Street
NOLA 70114

"I've learned people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." -Maya Angelou

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kristin Palmer <kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com>
Date: May 4, 2016 at 09:20:05 CDT
To: Manola Gonzalez <magonzalez@covenanthouse.org>
Cc: Kristin Gisleson Palmer <kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com>
Subject: Adult Live Entertainment Study: Petition -- Please sign-on by 5/18

PETITION

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From: Ceal Warner <CWarner@oppeace.org>
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2016 10:56 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: Adult Live Entertainment Venues in the City of New Orleans
Attachments: Strip Club Petition.docx

Dear Ms. Lebailleux,
I support the attached document re adult live entertainment venues in the French Quarter.
Sincerely,
Ceal Warner, OP

From: Philip Woollam <philipw.nola@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 05, 2016 11:51 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Adult Live Entertainment Venues

Dear Sir/Madam

I fully endorse the sentiments and recommendations contained in the below petition. This is not an attempt to ban these clubs but to reduce their proliferation that is to the detriment of we, the citizens of the city. Bourbon Street has become such a dangerous and violent street that, not only do locals avoid it, we strongly advise our visitors to avoid it too. This is damaging to some of our fine dining establishments that have historically been situated on that street. We should not need to do this for one of the preeminent streets of our French Quarter. By limiting the number of such clubs and, especially, by ensuring a safe working environment inside each club, as petitioned below, we can return Bourbon Street to a friendly street, albeit an unusual one in a country less open than we are in New Orleans, and one to be enjoyed by visitors and locals alike.

Sincerely
Philip Woollam

PETITION

City Planning Commission's Study of Adult Live Entertainment Venues

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From: Marsha/Skip Zander <sm5154@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 05, 2016 10:14 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Attn: Sabine Labailleau, City Planning Commission

PETITION

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THE GISLESON GROUP, LLC

KRISTIN GISLESON PALMER

504.388.0138

Kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com

222 Vallette St., New Orleans, LA 70114

From: Gina Geraci, STJ <gmgstj@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2016 9:29 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: Covenant House Initiative to address Human Trafficking
Attachments: Covenant House's initiative to address Human Trafficking in NOLA.docx

Dear Ms. Sabine Lebailleux, (and members of the City Council and City Planning Commission)

As a religious of the Archdiocese of Archdiocese and a fellow human being to the least of my brothers and sisters, I am in support of Jim Kelly's Covenant House Initiative to address human trafficking in New Orleans and encourage our Mayor and everyone else to do whatever can be done in this regard to promote the good of all.

God bless,

Sr. Gina Geraci, STJ
Provincial, Teresian Sisters,
18080 St. Joseph Way
Covington, LA 70435

(504) 875-6595
gmgstj@aol.com

From: Sr. Beth Fitzpatrick, O.Carm. <bfitzpatrick@arch-no.org>
Sent: Friday, May 06, 2016 4:07 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: Adult Live Entertainment Venues in the City of New Orleans
Attachments: Let to City Planning Commission.docx

Members, City Council and City Planning Commission:

Please consider carefully these recommendations by Jim Kelly and endorsed by so many religious and civic leaders. I add my voice to this plea to do all that we can to protect God's people. I do not want my beloved city to cooperate in the evil of human trafficking.

May you be surrounded with God's Wisdom and Peace.

Sr. Beth Fitzpatrick, O.Carm.
Executive Director
Department of Religious
7887 Walmsley Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70125
504-861-6280 office
504-866-2906 fax
bfitzpatrick@arch-no.org



From: jane johnson <janeljohnson49@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 02, 2016 11:37 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleur; Kristin Palmer
Subject: Fw: Adult Live Entertainment Petition

I SUPPORT THIS PETITION. Jane Johnson 1936 S. Carrollton Ave., N.O. LA 70118
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PETITION

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--

From: SHELLEY LANDRIEU <slandrieu@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Monday, May 02, 2016 11:40 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: Fw: Adult Live Entertainment Study: Petition -- Please sign-on by 5/18

Please consider my endorsement of this petition and all actions to help end human trafficking in New Orleans.

Shelley Landrieu

PETITION

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From: brian sands <bsnola@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2016 9:45 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: NOLA Kristin Gisleson Palmer
Subject: FW: Adult Live Entertainment Study: Petition -- Please sign-on by 5/18

Date: Wed, 4 May 2016 09:20:05 -0500

Subject: Adult Live Entertainment Study: Petition -- Please sign-on by 5/18

From: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com

To: magonzalez@covenanthouse.org

CC: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com

Dear Friends:

We have a problem in this country that permeates our society and our city. It is the objectification of women that leads to their exploitation. It is most egregious amongst those who are marginalized, who have no voice and no resources.

Nowhere is this more prevalent than in New Orleans Adult Entertainment/Strip Club industry. In a recent Times Picayune article, law enforcement found drug dealing and prostitution in 9 out of 14 clubs. These establishments create a culture of abuse against young women. Young women who lack the capacity and the resources are systematically abused. Covenant House, a homeless shelter for teens, found that 25% of our kids were victims of human trafficking and/or sexual labor.

I humbly ask that you read the attached petition and should you agree, please forward it to the City Planning Commission and copy myself so that we can track their impact. Also, please forward to your friends and colleagues that would be supportive.

By the time a girl turns 18 in the United States 1 in 4 will be sexually victimized. *National Sexual Violence Resource Center*

Over 5,000 Louisiana women per year will be victims of sexual abuse, *Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence*

Louisiana ranks #4 for women murdered by men, *Violence Policy Center*

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New Orleans is viewed nationally as a hub for human sex trafficking

25% of Covenant House homeless youth have been the victims of human sex trafficking and or sexual labor, Loyola University's *Modern Slavery Research Project*

Please forward the attached petition by May 18th to:

ATTN: Sabine Lebailleur
City Planning Commission
selebailleur@nola.gov

And copy myself so we can track our impact:

kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com

Regards,
Kristin Gisleson Palmer

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THE GISLESON GROUP, LLC

KRISTIN GISLESON PALMER

504.388.0138

Kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com

222 Vallette St., New Orleans, LA 70114

From: Annie K. LaRock <annie@larock.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 03, 2016 9:16 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: FW: Adult Live Entertainment Study: Petition -- Please sign-on by 5/18

PETITION

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KRISTIN GISLESON PALMER

504.388.0138

Kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com

222 Vallette St., New Orleans, LA 70114

From: Diana Lewis <dlewis1120@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Monday, May 02, 2016 12:46 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: FW: Adult Live Entertainment Study: Petition -- Please sign-on by 5/18

Please include me as a signatory to this petition. Diana Lewis

PETITION

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From: Jo Ann M. Jordan <jomcjordan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 02, 2016 11:47 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingelesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Adult Live Entertainment Study: Petition -- Please sign-on by 5/18

I agree, something must be done.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Kristin Palmer" <kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com>
Date: May 2, 2016 11:29 AM
Subject: Adult Live Entertainment Study: Petition -- Please sign-on by 5/18
To: "Manola Gonzalez" <magonzalez@covenanthouse.org>
Cc: "kgislesonpalmer@gmail.com" <kgislesonpalmer@gmail.com>

Dear Friends:

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City Planning Commission

selebailleur@nola.gov

And copy myself so we can track our impact:

kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com

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THE GISLESON GROUP, LLC

KRISTIN GISLESON PALMER

504.388.0138

Kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com

222 Vallette St., New Orleans, LA 70114

From: Lisa Herron <lherron@billespartners.com>
Sent: Monday, May 02, 2016 11:58 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Adult Live Entertainment Study: Petition -- Please sign-on by 5/18

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Lisa C. Herron, IIDA, NCIDQ
Chief Operations Officer

billespartners | CREATE INNOVATE INSPIRE

Billes Partners, LLC | 4141 Bienville Street | Suite 102
New Orleans, LA 70119 | T 504.301.1622 | F 504.324.6222
www.billespartners.com

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Kristin Palmer <kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com>
Subject: Adult Live Entertainment Study: Petition -- Please sign-on by 5/18
Date: May 2, 2016 at 11:29:12 AM CDT
To: Manola Gonzalez <magonzalez@covenanthouse.org>
Cc: "kgislesonpalmer@gmail.com" <kgislesonpalmer@gmail.com>

Dear Friends:

We have a problem in this country that permeates our society and our city. It is the objectification of women that leads to their exploitation. It is most egregious amongst those who are marginalized, who have no voice and no resources.

Nowhere is this more prevalent than in New Orleans Adult Entertainment/Strip Club industry. In a recent Times Picayune article, law enforcement found drug dealing and prostitution in 9 out of 14 clubs. These establishments create a culture of abuse against young women. Young women

who lack the capacity and the resources are systematically abused. Covenant House, a homeless shelter for teens, found that 25% of our kids were victims of human trafficking and/or sexual labor.

I humbly ask that you read the attached petition and should you agree, please forward it to the City Planning Commission and copy myself so that we can track their impact. Also, please forward to your friends and colleagues that would be supportive.

By the time a girl turns 18 in the United States 1 in 4 will be sexually victimized. *National Sexual Violence Resource Center*

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25% of Covenant House homeless youth have been the victims of human sex trafficking and or sexual labor, *Loyola University’s Modern Slavery Research Project*



Please forward the attached petition by May 18th to:

ATTN: Sabine Lebailleur

City Planning Commission

selebailleur@nola.gov

And copy myself so we can track our impact:

kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com

Regards,

Kristin Gisleson Palmer

PETITION

City Planning Commission's Study of Adult Live Entertainment Venues

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--

THE GISLESON GROUP, LLC

KRISTIN GISLESON PALMER

504.388.0138

Kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com

222 Vallette St., New Orleans, LA 70114

From: mellinny@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, May 05, 2016 3:28 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: Fwd: Adult Live Entertainment Study Petition

May 5, 2016

Dear Ms. Lebailleux,

I respectfully ask that you give consideration to the recommendations included in the petition below:

PETITION

City Planning Commission's Study of Adult Live Entertainment Venues

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- Enforcement of all regulations, existing and proposed, should be enforced by both NOPD and the State Police.

Please include my name, with the list of New Orleanians, petitioning for more stringent and updated laws for the local Adult Live Entertainment Venues.

Respectfully,

Melanie Linn
122 Lavergne St
NO LA 70114

-

From: anmagro@aol.com
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2016 8:12 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: Human trafficking
Attachments: Human trafficking.docx

I am in support of the attached document - the end of human trafficking.
Sister Angeline Magro, O. P.
Sent from Surface

From: NANCY <nancyhale4@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2016 6:13 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: Human Trafficking

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

We support the concern beliefs and recommendations regarding the future of New Orleans strip clubs. Please get rid of these type of clubs! They are horrible and put down women.

Sr. Nancy Hale, CHF

Sent from my iPad

From: Kendra Reade <kendramail@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 11:18 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com

PETITION

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Kendra Reade

70115

From: Marsh, Leslie R <lrmars@tulane.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 10:49 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: FW: Adult Live Entertainment Study: Petition -- Please sign-on by 5/18

From: MARSH JR., LEO P [<mailto:lm2651@att.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 05, 2016 8:24 PM
To: Marsh, Leslie R <lrmars@tulane.edu>; Marsh, Helen C <hmarsh1@tulane.edu>
Subject: Fwd: Adult Live Entertainment Study: Petition -- Please sign-on by 5/18

Leo Marsh
Regional Director
AT&T Louisiana
[504-756-5980](tel:504-756-5980)
Email Leo.Marsh@att.com

For more information on AT&T Louisiana, please visit the [AT&T Louisiana](#) site.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kristin Palmer <kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com>
Date: May 2, 2016 at 12:29:12 PM EDT
To: Manola Gonzalez <magonzalez@covenanthouse.org>
Cc: "kgislesonpalmer@gmail.com" <kgislesonpalmer@gmail.com>
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selebailleur@nola.gov

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kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com

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--

THE GISLESON GROUP, LLC

KRISTIN GISLESON PALMER

504.388.0138

Kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com

222 Vallette St., New Orleans, LA 70114

From: Marsh, Leslie R <lrmars@tulane.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 10:47 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Adult entertainment

Thank you for protecting the rights of young ladies.
Leslie

Leslie Marsh
Stewardship and Donor Relations
Tulane University
504-314-7371

From: Kathy Muse <kcgmuse@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 09, 2016 9:37 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Petition - Adult Live Entertainment Study

PETITION

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From: Gretchen Bomboy <secretary@faubourgmarigny.org>
Sent: Friday, May 06, 2016 2:29 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux; Kristen Palmer
Subject: petition Adult Entertainment

PETITION

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From: Carol S. Osborne <cclalady@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, May 02, 2016 1:47 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleur
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: PETITION City Planning Commission's Study of Adult Live Entertainment Venues

ATTN: Sabine Lebailleur

City Planning Commission

selebailleur@nola.gov

PETITION

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--

Carol S. Osborne, 8 Leeward Court, NOLA 70131
CELL PHONE: (504) 606-1347

From: Jennifer Golden <goldenlanguage@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 9:30 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: carolynleftwich@yahoo.com; kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Petition to protect New Orleans victims of human/sex trafficking

PETITION

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From: Kenny Tucker <kenny.tucker@forumforequality.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2016 4:53 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Attn, Sabine. Lebaileux -- signed Petition.

Dear Sabine Lebailleux,

Please note my advocacy/support of this Petition language regarding a severe problem affecting the Greater New Orleans Area:

PETITION

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Sincerely,
Kenny Tucker
Arabi, LA 70032
Kenny.tucker@forumforequality.org
(504) 376-3700 - cell

From: Jo Ann M. Jordan <jomcjordan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 02, 2016 11:50 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingeslesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Fwd: Adult Live Entertainment Study: Petition -- Please sign-on by 5/18

Yes, I agree something must be done about the situation at hand.

Sincerely,
Jo Ann M Jordan

On May 2, 2016 11:46 AM, jomcjordan@gmail.com wrote:

I agree, something must be done.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Kristin Palmer" <kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com>
Date: May 2, 2016 11:29 AM
Subject: Adult Live Entertainment Study: Petition -- Please sign-on by 5/18
To: "Manola Gonzalez" <magonzalez@covenanthouse.org>
Cc: "kgislesonpalmer@gmail.com" <kgislesonpalmer@gmail.com>

Dear Friends:

We have a problem in this country that permeates our society and our city. It is the objectification of women that leads to their exploitation. It is most egregious amongst those who are marginalized, who have no voice and no resources.

Nowhere is this more prevalent than in New Orleans Adult Entertainment/Strip Club industry. In a recent Times Picayune article, law enforcement found drug dealing and prostitution in 9 out of 14 clubs. These establishments create a culture of abuse against young women. Young women who lack the capacity and the resources are systematically abused. Covenant House, a homeless shelter for teens, found that 25% of our kids were victims of human trafficking and/or sexual labor.

I humbly ask that you read the attached petition and should you agree, please forward it to the City Planning Commission and copy myself so that we can track their impact. Also, please forward to your friends and colleagues that would be supportive.

By the time a girl turns 18 in the United States 1 in 4 will be sexually victimized. *National Sexual Violence Resource Center*

Over 5,000 Louisiana women per year will be victims of sexual abuse, *Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence*

Louisiana ranks #4 for women murdered by men, *Violence Policy Center*

Louisiana Dead Last in U.S. social justice; “*Just South*” index, *Loyola University March 2016*

“Equal Pay for Louisiana women still a century away report says,” *Times Picayune, March 2015*

New Orleans is viewed nationally as a hub for human sex trafficking

25% of Covenant House homeless youth have been the victims of human sex trafficking and or sexual labor, *Loyola University’s Modern Slavery Research Project*

Please forward the attached petition by May 18th to:

ATTN: Sabine Lebailleur

City Planning Commission

selebailleur@nola.gov

And copy myself so we can track our impact:

kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com

Regards,

Kristin Gisleson Palmer

PETITION

City Planning Commission's Study of Adult Live Entertainment Venues

We thank the City Council and the City Planning Commission for their recent efforts to study "Adult Live Entertainment Venues in the City of New Orleans." We are pleased that "the study will consider: limitations on the number of such establishments, best practices of other cities, land use regulatory mechanisms, use standards, and input from industry representatives and impacted businesses."

It is known that:

In October 2015, law enforcement found drug dealing and prostitution taking place in 9 out of 14 strip clubs in a month long undercover investigation. Drug dealing and prostitution (male and female) is also known to take place in other kinds of clubs and venues.

New Orleans is considered a major hub for human sex trafficking by national law enforcement and human trafficking experts (including the Polaris Project).

According to a lawsuit, reported by the Times Picayune and Wall Street Journal, dancers in strip clubs are often hired as independent contractors, not as employees with regular benefits. Dancers are constantly sexually harassed, and are forced to work in an environment that is neither safe nor crime free.

A Loyola University study estimated 87 residents from Covenant House, a homeless youth shelter, were survivors of human trafficking each year and an estimated 150 residents per year if the sex industry and strip clubs were included.

We believe that:

The existing number of strip clubs leads to an increase in overall French Quarter crime including violence, prostitution, lewd/improper acts, petty crime and drug dealing – and therefore does not promote the public health, welfare and safety of the City.

We, the undersigned, recommend that:

- No one under the age of 21 should be allowed to work in any capacity within a strip club or adult entertainment venue.
- A special designation should be made that defines these establishments which would allow tighter restrictions and regulations, such as no one under 21 should be allowed to work within the premises.
- In accord with the Federal Labors Standards Act, dancers should be hired as regular employees with standard benefits, should be provided a safe, crime free environment, and should not be allowed to be sexually harassed.
- The number of strip clubs in our city needs to decrease by 65%, any new or re-opened clubs should not be allowed outside of the “adult live performance venue IZD” or within 1,000 feet of residences, schools, or houses of worship.

- A special tax/fee needs to be levied against the strip clubs to pay for increased law enforcement on Bourbon Street, and for weekly inspections of the clubs including VIP rooms.
- Enforcement of all regulations, existing and proposed, should be enforced by both NOPD and the State Police.

--

THE GISLESON GROUP, LLC

KRISTIN GISLESON PALMER

504.388.0138

Kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com

222 Vallette St., New Orleans, LA 70114

From: Claire Regan <cregan53@att.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2016 8:52 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: Regulation of strip clubs

Dear Ms Lebailleux,

I send along this petition from Covenant House. I am a Catholic religious Sister who has lived the past six years in New Orleans. Our city as a world class tourist destination needs improved oversight of the adult entertainment industry. They are an eyesore and a stain to the reputation of this wonderful city. I fully endorse the recommendations listed herein and ask the City Planning Commission to do all in its power to pursue the regulatory directions outlined below. The Sisters of Charity of New York oppose human trafficking in all its forms.

Thank you for your work on this vital matter.

Sincerely,
Sr. Claire Regan, SC
2718 Cambronne St
New Orleans, LA 70118
(504)864-2058

We would like to thank the City Council and the City Planning Commission for their recent efforts to study “Adult Live Entertainment Venues in the City of New Orleans.” We are pleased that the study will consider “limitations on the number of such establishments, best practices of other cities, land use regulatory mechanisms, use standards, and input from industry representatives and impacted businesses.”

We are concerned:

- In October 2015, law enforcement found drug dealing and prostitution taking place in 9 out of 14 New Orleans’ strip clubs in an undercover investigation. Drug dealing and prostitution (male and female) are also known to take place in other kinds of clubs and venues.
- New Orleans is considered a major hub for human sex trafficking by national law enforcement and human trafficking experts (including the Polaris Project).
- A Loyola study estimates 87 Covenant House residents per year are survivors of human trafficking, increasing to 150 residents per year if the sex industry and strip clubs are included.
- According to recent lawsuits, and as reported by the Wall Street Journal and the Time Picayune, dancers in strip clubs are often hired as independent contractors and forced to share tips. They are constantly sexually harassed, and work in environments that are neither safe nor crime free.
- A Johns Hopkins study, in Baltimore, found 43% of dancers sold sex at strip clubs. The majority of dancers reported selling sex and drugs for the first time after beginning to dance at the clubs.
- A University of Louisville study found violent crime rates, in Louisville, to be 12.3 times higher within 500 feet of a sexually oriented business, and 8.3 times higher within 1000 feet.

We believe:

- The French Quarter's strip clubs have led to an increase in overall crime including violence, prostitution, lewd acts, and drug dealing – and therefore do not promote the public health, welfare, and safety of our City.
- As we approach our 300th anniversary, the strip clubs' affiliated crimes and negative reputations are completely out of sync with marketing New Orleans as a world-class destination.
- The number of strip clubs in our City should over time be reduced by at least 65 %.

We recommend:

- The existing laws and ordinances associated with strip clubs' liquor licenses/permits should be strictly and regularly enforced in each establishment including the V.I.P. rooms.
- A special tax/fee should be levied on the strip clubs to pay for increased and dedicated law enforcement (NOPD, ATC and State Police) on Bourbon Street, and for weekly inspections of the clubs.
- Strip clubs as business enterprises should have a particular set of rules, regulations, performance and safety standards (as adult live entertainment venues) which are regulated by the City.
- In accord with the Federal Labors Standards Act, dancers should be hired as regular employees with standard benefits, should be provided a safe, crime free environment, and should not be allowed to be sexually harassed.
- Any new strip club or any strip club seeking to re-open should not be permitted outside of the "adult live performance venue IZD" or within 1000 feet of current residences or schools.

RS 26:90

§90. Acts prohibited on licensed premises; suspension or revocation of permits

A. No person holding a retail dealer's permit and no agent, associate, employee, representative, or servant of any such person shall do or permit any of the following acts to be done on or about the licensed premises:

(1)(a) Sell or serve alcoholic beverages to any person under the age of twenty-one years, unless such person submits any one of the following:

(i) A valid, current, Louisiana driver's license which contains a photograph of the person presenting the driver's license.

(ii) A valid, current, driver's license of another state which contains a photograph of the person and birth date of the person submitting the driver's license.

(iii) A valid, current, special identification card issued by the state of Louisiana pursuant to R.S. 40:1321 containing a photograph of the person submitting the identification card.

(iv) A valid, current, passport or visa issued by the federal government or another country or nation, that contains a permanently attached photograph of the person and the date of birth of the person submitting the passport or visa.

(v) A valid, current, military or federal identification card issued by the federal government containing a photograph of the person and date of birth of the person submitting the identification card.

(vi) A valid, current, special identification card of another state which contains a photograph of the person and birth date of the person submitting the identification card.

(b) Each form of identification listed above must on its face establish the age of the person as twenty-one years or older, and there must be no reason to doubt the authenticity or correctness of the identification. No form of identification mentioned above shall be accepted as proof of age if it is expired, defaced, mutilated, or altered. If the state identification card or lawful identification submitted is a duplicate, the person shall submit additional identification which contains the name, date of birth, and photograph of the person. A duplicate driver's license shall be considered lawful identification for the purposes of this Paragraph, and a person shall not be required to submit additional information containing the name, date of birth, and picture of the person. In addition, an educational institution identification card, check cashing identification card, or employee identification card shall not be considered as lawful identification for the purposes of this Paragraph.

(2) Sell or serve alcoholic beverages to any intoxicated person.

(3)(a) Intentionally entice, aid, or permit any person under the age of eighteen years to visit or loiter in or about any place where alcoholic beverages or beer are the principal commodities sold, handled, or given away. The provisions of this Section shall in no way prohibit the presence of any person under the age of eighteen years on or about a licensed premises for any function sponsored by a religious or charitable organization with tax exempt status under Section 501(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States, or by a fraternal beneficiary society with tax exempt status under 501(8) of the said code, and no alcoholic beverages are sold, handled, given away, or accessible during the presence of any such person.

(b) Permit any person under eighteen years of age to work in any capacity unless that person is a musician performing in a band on the premises under written contract for a specified

period of time by the permittee, and the musician is under direct supervision of his parent or legal guardian.

(4) Permit any prostitute to frequent the licensed premises or to solicit patrons for prostitution on the licensed premises.

(5) Sell, offer for sale, possess, or permit the consumption on or about the licensed premises of any kind or type of alcoholic beverage, the sale or possession of which is not authorized under his permit, except as provided for in R.S. 26:793(A)(5).

(6) Intentionally conduct illegal gambling, as defined by law, on the premises described in the application for the permit.

(7) Employ or permit persons, commonly known as B drinkers, to solicit patrons for drinks and to accept drinks from patrons and receive therefor any commission or remuneration in any other way.

(8)(a) Employ anyone under the age of eighteen in any capacity in an establishment where the sale of alcoholic beverages constitutes its main business unless the minor is a musician performing in a band on the premises under written contract with the permittee for a specified time period and is under the direct supervision of his parent or guardian during such time. If the sale of alcoholic beverages does not constitute the main business of the establishment, anyone under the age of eighteen may be employed as long as the minor's employment does not involve the sale, mixing, dispensing, or serving of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises.

(b) If the sale or handling of alcoholic beverages does not constitute the main business and alcoholic beverages are not sold for consumption on the premises, an employee under the age of eighteen years may be permitted to participate in the sale of packaged alcoholic beverages to collect the price and taxes and issue receipts therefor, or may be permitted to bag packaged alcoholic beverages, or both, where immediate supervision is provided.

(9) Fail to keep the premises clean and sanitary.

(10) Permit the playing of pool or billiards by any person under eighteen years of age, or permit such a person to visit or frequent the licensed premises operating a pool or billiard hall, except in a structure where the position of the pool or billiards playing area is separate and distinct from the area where alcoholic beverages are dispensed to patrons.

(11) Illegally sell, offer for sale, possess, or permit the consumption on or about the licensed premises of any kind or type of narcotics or habit forming drugs.

(12) Accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program "SNAP" electronic benefit transfer cards as payment for alcoholic beverages in violation of the provisions of 7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq., and any federal regulation issued pursuant thereto.

(13) Permit any disturbance of the peace or obscenity, or any lewd, immoral, or improper entertainment, conduct, or practices on the licensed premises.

(14)(a) Play live or recorded music which is so unreasonably intrusive or offensive as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of the property of a person residing within two hundred feet of the premises. This prohibition shall not apply to any licensed premises which are not located within two hundred feet of a residence or which were not located within two hundred feet of a residence on the date that the first permit was granted for the premises or to any licensed premises which are not located in an unzoned unincorporated area. This prohibition shall not apply to any premises which provide an entry area with two separate doors or sets of doors separating the exterior of the entrance from the area where music is played. Any licensed premises which are not, on the effective date of this Paragraph, in compliance with the

provisions of this Paragraph, shall have a reasonable time either to modify the premises to comply with this Paragraph or to cease the playing of music as described herein.

(b) Any person residing within two hundred feet of licensed premises on which is played live or recorded music which is so unreasonable, intrusive, or offensive as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of his property shall have a cause of action for damages and may obtain injunctive relief if the premises are not in compliance with the provisions of this Paragraph.

(15) Sell or serve any alcoholic beverages at a price fixed on an "all you can drink" basis after the hour of 10:00 p.m.

(16)(a) Sell, deliver, or give away any alcoholic beverage for dispensation by means of an alcoholic beverage vaporizer.

(b) Purchase, possess, or use an alcoholic beverage vaporizer on the licensed premises or any area related to the licensed business over which the licensee exercises control or for which the licensee is responsible.

(c) Allow or permit any customer or person to bring, keep, maintain, or use an alcoholic beverage vaporizer on the licensed premises or any area related to the licensed business over which the licensee exercises control or for which the licensee is responsible.

B. The following acts or conduct on licensed premises are deemed to constitute lewd, immoral, or improper entertainment as prohibited by this Section and therefore no on-sale permit for beverages of high alcoholic content shall be held at any premises where such conduct or acts are permitted:

(1) Employment or use of any person in the sale or service of alcoholic beverages in or upon the licensed premises while such person is unclothed or in such attire, costume, or clothing as to expose to view any portion of the female breast below the top of the areola or of any portion of the pubic hair, anus, cleft of the buttocks, vulva, or genitals.

(2) Employment or use of the services of any hostess or other person to mingle with the patrons while such hostess or other person is unclothed or in such attire, costume, or clothing as described in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.

(3) Encouraging or permitting any person on the licensed premises to touch, caress or fondle the breasts, buttocks, anus, or genitals of any other person.

(4) Permitting any employee or person to wear or use any device or covering, exposed to view, which simulates the breast, genitals, anus, pubic hair, or any portion thereof.

C. Acts or conduct on licensed premises in violation of this Section are deemed to constitute lewd, immoral or improper entertainment as prohibited by this Section and therefore no on-sale permit for beverages of high alcoholic content shall be held at any premises where such conduct and acts are permitted.

D. Live entertainment is permitted on any licensed premises, except that no permittee shall permit any person to perform acts of or acts which simulate:

(1) Sexual intercourse, masturbation, sodomy, bestiality, oral copulation, flagellation, or any sexual acts which are prohibited by law.

(2) The touching, caressing or fondling of the breast, buttocks, anus, or genitals.

(3) The displaying of the pubic hair, anus, vulva, genitals, or nipple of the female breast.

E. Subject to the provisions of Subsection D of this Section, entertainers whose breasts or buttocks are exposed to view shall perform only upon a stage at least eighteen inches above the immediate floor level and removed at least three feet from the nearest patron.

F. No permittee shall permit any person to use artificial devices or inanimate objects to depict any of the prohibited activities described above.

G. The following acts or conduct on licensed premises are deemed to constitute lewd, immoral, or improper entertainment as prohibited by this Section and therefore no on-sale permit for beverages of high alcoholic content shall be held at any premises where such conduct or acts are permitted, including the showing of film, still pictures, electronic reproduction, or other visual reproductions depicting:

(1) Acts or simulated acts of sexual intercourse, masturbation, sodomy, bestiality, oral copulation, flagellation, or any sexual acts which are prohibited by law.

(2) Any person being touched, caressed or fondled on the breast, buttocks, anus, or genitals.

(3) Scenes wherein a person displays the vulva or the anus or the genitals.

(4) Scenes wherein artificial devices or inanimate objects are employed to depict, or drawings are employed to portray, any of the prohibited activities described above.

H. Violation of this Section by a retail dealer's agent, associate, employee, representative, or servant shall be considered the retail dealer's act for purposes of suspension or revocation of a permit.

I. Violation of this Section is punishable as provided in R.S. 26:171 and is also sufficient cause for the suspension or revocation of a permit.

J. Notwithstanding the issuance of a permit by way of renewal, the commissioner may revoke or suspend such permit, as prescribed by this Chapter, for violations of this Section occurring during the permit period immediately preceding the issuance of such permit.

K. Allow the sale, dispensing, or distribution of beverages of high alcoholic content in any type of automatic mechanical vending machine activated by the use of a coin, token, or similar instrument except in Class A establishments pursuant to rules promulgated by the commissioner in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. Such rules shall include procedures for the prevention of access to the machines by underage or intoxicated persons. The provisions of this Subsection shall not apply to establishments exempt from holding permits under this Chapter.

Amended by Acts 1950, No. 363, §1; Acts 1962, No. 463, §8; Acts 1968, No. 165, §1; Acts 1974, No. 451, §1; Acts 1974, No. 496, §1; Acts 1981, No. 130, §1; Acts 1982, No. 82, §1; Acts 1985, No. 243, §1; Acts 1985, No. 412, §1, eff. July 10, 1985; Acts 1986, No. 376, §1; Acts 1986, No. 1007, §1; Acts 1987, No. 696, §1; Acts 1990, No. 168, §1; Acts 1991, No. 985, §1; Acts 1992, No. 96, §1; Acts 1992, No. 602, §1; Acts 1992, No. 683, §1; Acts 1993, No. 623, §2; Acts 1995, No. 639, §2; Acts 1996, 1st Ex. Sess., No. 78, §2; Acts 2005, No. 83, §1; Acts 2006, No. 147, §1; Acts 2010, No. 953, §1, eff. July 2, 2010; Acts 2012, No. 28, §1; Acts 2012, No. 764, §1; Acts 2014, No. 357, §1.

From: C JG <gallagher.dr@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 02, 2016 12:22 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: Kristin Palmer
Subject: Fwd: Adult Live Entertainment Study: Petition -- Please sign-on by 5/18

City Planning Commission,

As a College Instructor for more than 2 decades, I've seen the negative impact these sex businesses have on my younger students. It is all too common for students to be "lured" into these strip clubs as a hostesses with what can be a significant amount of money. But it is also clear that these hostess positions are simply starter positions acclimating these young girls into a disturbingly broken culture of sex and money. After several weeks these girls are then pressured by the management and the working strippers to convert to a stripping position. It can be very difficult for the young women involved to resist the combined pressure of management, peer and money.

Only this year I had a very bright young women (19 yrs old) in my class who described the intense pressure she came under when she accepted a hostess position at a local strip club. Provided with a huge amount of money, her drinks were free and she was routinely offered drugs. Very clever she was slow to acclimate, but after several weeks she found herself remaining at the strip club drinking with the strippers well into the morning hours. While at the establishment she was approached and offered a sizable amount of money to prostitute.

She quit this establishment but unfortunately immediately began work as a hostess in another strip club. As she attempted to maintain her grades she was very honest with me on why her performance in school was suffering. She was able to clearly articulate the internal battle she was facing but was having an ever more difficult time identifying her ethical boundaries. I would like to tell you that this situation worked out well but this is not the case. She slowly stopped attending class and is now working as a stripper. A very bright and capable young women who has given up on an education. I feel I have failed her as an educator as well as a member of this society to protect and guide her toward what would have certainly been a bright and rewarding future.

Sincerely,

Skip Gallagher, Ph.D.
Department of Chemistry
University of New Orleans
gallagher.dr@gmail.com
(504) 388-1846

By the time a girl turns 18 in the United States 1 in 4 will be sexually victimized. *National Sexual Violence Resource Center*

Over 5,000 Louisiana women per year will be victims of sexual abuse, *Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence*

Louisiana ranks #4 for women murdered by men, *Violence Policy Center*

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PETITION

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It is known that:

In October 2015, law enforcement found drug dealing and prostitution taking place in 9 out of 14 strip clubs in a month long undercover investigation. Drug dealing and prostitution (male and female) is also known to take place in other kinds of clubs and venues.

New Orleans is considered a major hub for human sex trafficking by national law enforcement and human trafficking experts (including the Polaris Project).

According to a lawsuit, reported by the Times Picayune and Wall Street Journal, dancers in strip clubs are often hired as independent contractors, not as employees with regular benefits. Dancers are constantly sexually harassed, and are forced to work in an environment that is neither safe nor crime free.

A Loyola University study estimated 87 residents from Covenant House, a homeless youth shelter, were survivors of human trafficking each year and an estimated 150 residents per year if the sex industry and strip clubs were included.

We believe that:

The existing number of strip clubs leads to an increase in overall French Quarter crime including violence, prostitution, lewd/improper acts, petty crime and drug dealing – and therefore does not promote the public health, welfare and safety of the City.

We, the undersigned, recommend that:

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- The number of strip clubs in our city needs to decrease by 65%, any new or re-opened clubs should not be allowed outside of the “adult live performance venue IZD” or within 1,000 feet of residences, schools, or houses of worship.
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--

THE GISLESON GROUP, LLC

KRISTIN GISLESON PALMER

504.388.0138

Kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com

222 Vallette St., New Orleans, LA 70114

From: pauline O' Reilly <paulineoreilly2@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2016 6:14 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: Strip clubs

I support the petition of Jim Kelly in regards to Human Trafficking involved in the strip clubs of our city.
Thank you.
Sister Mary Pauline O'Reilly

Sent from my iPad

From: Ginger Cirone <gingercirone@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2016 11:01 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: Strip clubs--human Trafficking
Attachments: April 27.docx

I'm in support of the suggestions made by Jim Kelly in the attached letter.

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

From: Gretchen Dysart <gdysartmsc@cs.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2016 8:27 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: Support of Covenant House Proposal

I am in favor of the limitations on strips clubs as set forth in a letter sent to you by Jim Kelly, Director of Covenant House.

To think that this continues in our city and continues to ravage our youth and others involved saddens me deeply. May the City Council act on Mr. Kelly's initiative.

Thank you,
Sr. Gretchen Dysart, MSC
5744 Sutton Place
New Orleans, LA 70131

504/905-7704

From: cecilia castillo <ceciliastj@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2016 5:01 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: Support to Stop Human Trafficking

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am sending this email to support the efforts being made by the Covenant House to stop human trafficking in the area. Thank you for your consideration and support in protecting the youth and young men and women who are being abused in our city.

Message follows:

April 27, 2016

We would like to thank the City Council and the City Planning Commission for their recent efforts to study "Adult Live Entertainment Venues in the City of New Orleans." We are pleased that the study will consider "limitations on the number of such establishments, best practices of other cities, land use regulatory mechanisms, use standards, and input from industry representatives and impacted businesses."

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James R. Kelly
Covenant House
611 N. Rampart Street
Office: (504) 584 1102 Cell: (504) 975 0650
www.CovenantHouseNO.org

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Maria Cecilia Castillo, STJ
1611 Mirabeau Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70122
(504) 943-5566 (office)

(504) 875-6596 (cellular)

From: jANA NAPOLI <janaps@mac.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 05, 2016 8:44 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: time for change

PETITION

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The existing number of strip clubs leads to an increase in overall French Quarter crime including violence, prostitution, lewd/improper acts, petty crime and drug dealing – and therefore does not promote the public health, welfare and safety of the City.

We, the undersigned, recommend that:

- No one under the age of 21 should be allowed to work in any capacity within a strip club or adult entertainment venue.
- A special designation should be made that defines these establishments which would allow tighter restrictions and regulations, such as no one under 21 should be allowed to work within the premises.
- In accord with the Federal Labors Standards Act, dancers should be hired as regular employees with standard benefits, should be provided a safe, crime free environment, and should not be allowed to be sexually harassed.
- The number of strip clubs in our city needs to decrease by 65%, any new or re-opened clubs should not be allowed outside of the “adult live performance venue IZD” or within 1,000 feet of residences, schools, or houses of worship.
- A special tax/fee needs to be levied against the strip clubs to pay for increased law enforcement on Bourbon Street, and for weekly inspections of the clubs including VIP rooms.
- Enforcement of all regulations, existing and proposed, should be enforced by both NOPD and the State Police.



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House**

TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATIVE LABOR AMONG HOMELESS YOUTH IN NEW ORLEANS

Laura T. Murphy

Rae Taylor

Christian L. Bolden

Modern Slavery Research Project

Loyola University New Orleans

**LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY
NEW ORLEANS**



MODERN SLAVERY RESEARCH PROJECT // The Modern Slavery Research Project at Loyola University New Orleans produces thoughtful, geographically-informed, data-driven, community-based collaborative research that meets the needs of survivors and community stakeholders in addressing human trafficking in New Orleans, the US, and internationally.



COVENANT HOUSE // For over 25 years, Covenant House New Orleans has provided a safe haven for homeless, runaway and at-risk youth ages 16-22. Located on the edge of the French Quarter, we shelter and care for neglected, abused, and exploited kids from the New Orleans area and from across the United States.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

When Jim Kelly, executive director of Covenant House New Orleans, asked the faculty of Loyola's Modern Slavery Research Project if we would like to study the prevalence of trafficking and survival sex among Covenant House residents, we were honored to work with them and to be invited to talk with Covenant House's young residents about their work lives. As Covenant House New Orleans continues to enhance its care and services for vulnerable and at-risk youth, our study would inform the organization's possible expansion of outreach efforts and residential services for victims of human trafficking and those who engage in sexual labor. Moreover, our study would replicate one done in New York, providing comparative data that could be utilized across the country. We remain grateful for this opportunity and for the collaboration with Covenant House.

The Covenant House staff warmly welcomed us into their offices. We especially want to thank Isabelle Sun, Vantrelle Payton, Wyatt Hines, and David Jones for providing the support we needed and for representing our project to the clients with sensitivity and discretion.

We are lucky to have followed in the footsteps of Jayne Bigelsen of Covenant House New York and Stefanie Vuotto of Fordham University, who conducted the first of these studies. Their thoughtful and informed questionnaire inspired us and convinced us that this was a project we could invest in.

Of course, our greatest thanks go to the nearly 100 young people of Covenant House New Orleans who spoke to us despite the fact that we were complete strangers. You all entrusted us with your lives and experiences—many of which are difficult to discuss—and we are eternally grateful for that trust. We hope that this study will help to prevent others from encountering some of your worst experiences. Thanks, too, for sharing your jokes, laughter, aspirations, and curiosity along the way.

Loyola University New Orleans supported this work through a Marquette Fellowship and a Faculty Research Grant. Our student research assistants—Lanier Clement, Molly Alper, Jasmine Jackson, Kathleen Hardin, Diandra Kirk, and Mack Guillory—were integral to completing this project as well. Our sincerest gratitude goes to Randy Laumann for catching all of our mistakes and to Liz Jurey for making all this research look appealing.

Layout and design by: Liz Jurey

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Global Slavery Index estimates that approximately 60,000 people are currently suffering under conditions of forced labor in the United States (Figure 1).¹ Nonetheless, despite the recent rhetoric that locales such as New Orleans are “hubs for human trafficking,” there has been very little data collected in New Orleans or other U.S. cities on the prevalence of trafficking within those locales or even among their at-risk populations.

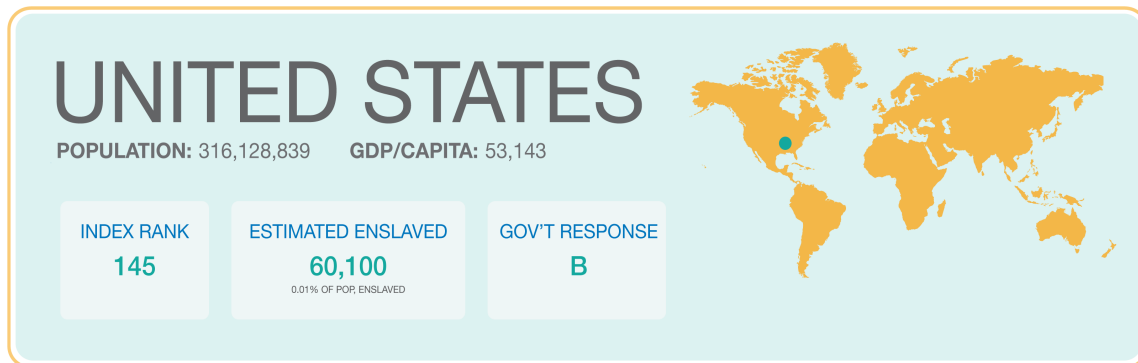


FIGURE 1: GLOBAL SLAVERY INDEX

Studies indicate risk for both sex and labor trafficking in the United States is highest when a confluence of individual risk factors collides with societal and familial pressures. Those individual indicators include poverty, homelessness, unemployment, a history of sexual abuse, and history of mental health issues.² Among young men and women, rejection by biological or foster families can increase vulnerability to sex trafficking.³ Familial and societal pressures that may increase risk of trafficking include family or relatives involved in commercial sex, a prevalent local gang culture,⁴ and socioeconomic disadvantages associated with race.⁵ The Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council suggest that in addition to these individual and societal risk factors, a lack of awareness of trafficking and sexual exploitation endangers young people and makes them even more vulnerable to sex trafficking (Figure 2).⁶ In terms of prevalence among certain racial groups, a Bureau of Justice Statistics report on characteristics of reported human trafficking incidents indicates that African American U.S. citizens under age 25 are potentially more likely to be victims of sex trafficking (or at least to be identified as such).⁷

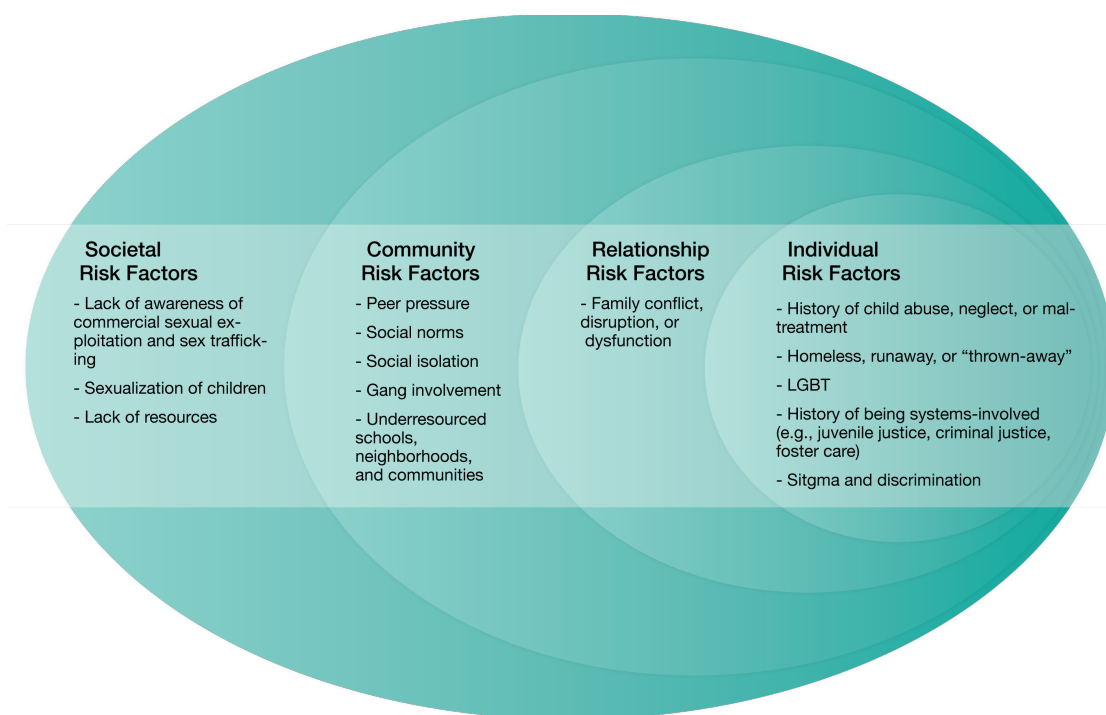


FIGURE 2: INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE AND THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, "CONFRONTING COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND SEX TRAFFICKING OF MINORS IN THE UNITED STATES: A GUIDE FOR THE HEALTH CARE SECTOR" (2014)

In light of the fact that their residents typically experienced a full range of these risk factors, Covenant House New York asked Fordham University to collaborate in the creation and validation of a questionnaire (the HTIAM-14) that could assist service providers in determining if their clients were victims of trafficking and ultimately ascertain the prevalence of trafficking among their population. The HTIAM-14 determines trafficking status as defined by federal law, which includes:

A sex trafficking in which a commercial **sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion**, or in which the person induced to perform such act **has not attained 18 years of age**, or

B the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person **for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion** for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

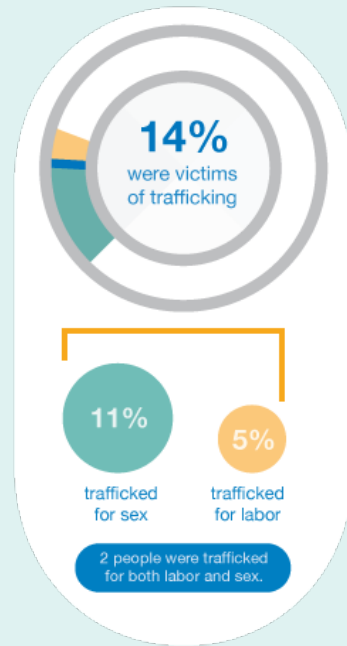
The Fordham study found that 14.9% of the 185 people they interviewed at Covenant House New York had experienced some form of trafficking victimization before their time at the shelter, and an additional 8% had engaged in survival sex. The study also found that, contrary to most claims that the age of entry into commercial sex is around 12–14 years old, 44% of its respondents did not begin to engage in commercial sex until after they were 18 years old.

In a replication and extension of that study, we interviewed 99 clients of Covenant House New Orleans. We administered the HTIAM-14 (Human Trafficking Interview and Assessment Measure 2014) and asked follow-up questions that allowed respondents to elaborate on their experiences of trafficking.

KEY FINDINGS

Human Trafficking

- **14%** of respondents were identified as **victims of some form of trafficking**, following the legal definition outlined by the 2000 U.S. Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act.
- **11%** of the total population had been **trafficked for sex**, **5%** for other **forced labor**. (Two respondents were trafficked for both sex and labor.)
- Based on the number of youth aged 16–23 that Covenant House New Orleans cares for over the course of a year (approximately 615), the findings indicate that approximately **86 residents a year are likely to be victims of human trafficking**.



Sex Trafficking

- Of those trafficked for sex (n=11), **73%** (eight respondents) were **female**, **27%** (three) were **male**, and **21%** (three) identified as **gay, lesbian or bisexual**. Of those trafficked for labor, the gender breakdown was **60% female**, **40% male**, and **0% transgender**.
- Of the 11 people who were trafficked for sex, **seven** are considered **trafficking victims by law** because they were selling sex (either voluntarily or through force) under the age of 18. Of those respondents, **three** were then **re-trafficked as adults** by coercive pimps.
- Seven (**63%**) of those who were identified as having been trafficked would **legally be recognized as trafficked** by virtue of their being under the age of 18 when the exploitation occurred. Nonetheless, four of them also reported situations of force, fraud, or coercion that compelled them to engage in the sex work, so they would be considered trafficked regardless of their age. Only the two young men who reported engaging in sex work as children indicated that they had not been compelled to participate at all.
- Among the 13 Covenant House youth who reported engaging in commercial sex work or “prostitution,” eight (**62%**) were identified as **trafficked**—forced by someone else to engage in the trade—at least once.

86 

residents a year are likely to be
victims of human trafficking

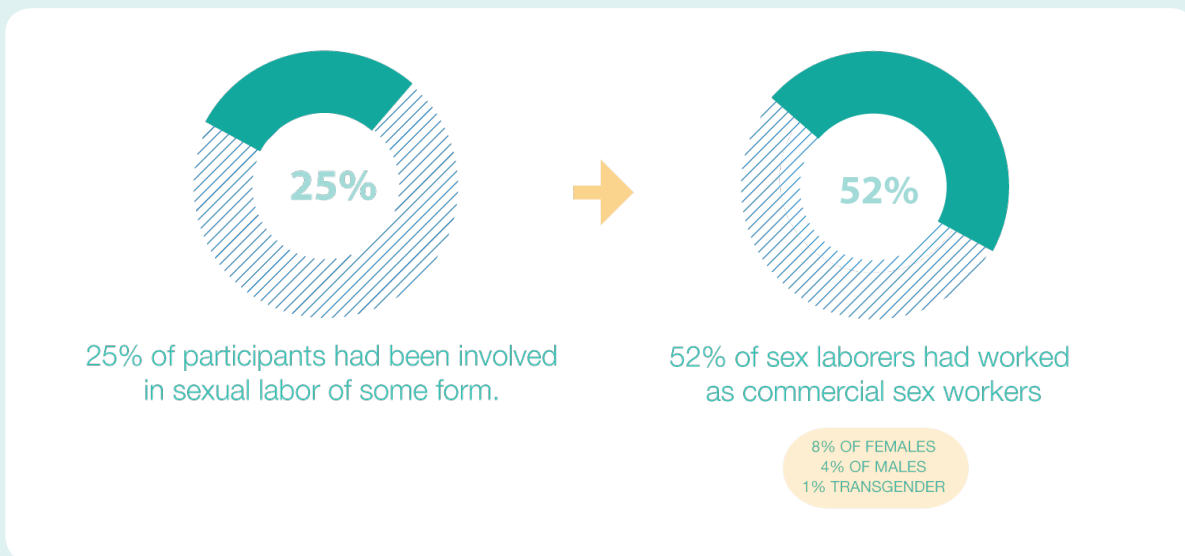
*based on the number of youth aged
16–23 that Covenant House cares for

Labor Trafficking

- Few respondents (**5%**) were found to have been **trafficked for labor**.
- Four of the five labor trafficking cases involved forced drug dealing, which was equally prevalent among males and females. These four cases represent **11.7%** of the 34 people who reported having **sold drugs**.
- Only **one** person reported **labor trafficking in a factory setting**, and that occurred in Mexico.

Sexual Labor

- **25%** of participants had been involved in **sexual labor** of some form. **Thirteen** respondents (52% of sex laborers) had worked as “prostitutes” or **commercial sex workers** (8% of females, 4% of males, 1% transgender). **Ten percent** (10%) had worked in the sex industry as **exotic dancers** (nine females, one male), and **two** of the respondents had worked in the French Quarter as “**shot girls**,” who entice people to buy shots through sexual flirtation.
- **33%** of women interviewed and **18%** of males engaged in **sexual labor** of some kind.
- This finding indicates that in an average year, Covenant House serves about **154** Covenant House residents who are likely to have **engaged in sexual labor**.



Survival Sex

- **15%** of respondents had engaged in “**survival sex**,” in which they performed a sex act in exchange for food, housing, or some other basic necessity because they believed they had no other way to access basic resources.
- Because there has been significant attention to survival sex prevalence among transgender youth, we analyzed that data and found that there were **no clear cases of trafficking among the three transgender respondents**. One reported resorting to survival sex during the occasional desperate situation. All three of the transgender respondents had experienced both sexual and physical abuse.

15%

engaged in
survival sex

“survival sex”:

sex act performed in exchange for food, housing, or some other basic necessity because they believed they had no other way to access basic resources.

Illicit and Exploitive Labor Activities

- **31%** of respondents reported having been approached by strangers on the street to **trade sex or to engage in other illegal or informal work**. The vast majority of those approached assumed or were told explicitly that they were being offered an opportunity to work in the sex trade.
- The **youngest reported age** of entry into the drug trade was **9 years old**. All of these respondents (who were 18–23 at the time of their interviews) had begun **drug dealing** in their teenage years.
- The study revealed a high incidence of other forms of labor exploitation, which indicates significant labor vulnerabilities among homeless youth. Twenty-five percent (**25%**) of respondents had encountered exploitative and/or **exceedingly dangerous labor situations**, the most significant of which was wage theft (19%).



31% of respondents reported having been approached by strangers on the street to trade sex or to engage in other illegal or informal work.

Utilization of HTIAM-14

- We found that the HTIAM-14 is most effective when respondents have had at least some work experience. Because the questions focus on dangerous or exploitative working conditions, those who have few work experiences (or few dangerous ones) don't have time to build a rapport with the interviewers that encourages them to open up about exploitation and sex in the latter part of the survey.
- We found that **men** were less likely to understand their work experiences as “**dangerous**” or “**forced**,” and therefore, their interviews tended to be shorter and to divulge less.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Despite growing awareness of domestic U.S. human trafficking and the suspicion that it is prevalent among marginally-housed youth, there is little data to support efforts to assist at-risk populations. In Louisiana, no state body was mandated to collect data related to human trafficking until a law was passed in the summer of 2014 (shortly after we performed this study), and thus there are no reports on how many cases have been identified in the New Orleans area. The Louisiana Human Trafficking Report, published in March 2014 by the Modern Slavery Research Project, indicates that calls to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline are increasing, and the state has seen some prosecutions of traffickers, but little hard evidence has been collected concerning the prevalence of trafficking at the local or state level.⁸ The lack of sufficient data on human trafficking is endemic throughout the United States. The current study is a first step toward ascertaining how trafficking affects the people of New Orleans and is part of a larger project to map the prevalence of trafficking among homeless youth in the United States.

This community-based research project, conducted by Loyola University New Orleans in conjunction with Covenant House New Orleans, is a replication and extension of a study conducted by a Fordham University research team in 2013 at Covenant House New York. Their report, “Homelessness, Survival Sex, and Human Trafficking: As Experienced by the Youth of Covenant House New York,” concluded that among the youth interviewed, approximately one in four had engaged in commercial sex, 14.9% of respondents had experienced some form of trafficking victimization by the time they arrived at Covenant House, and at least an additional 8% had engaged in survival sex.

Located on the edge of the French Quarter, Covenant House shelters and cares for neglected and abused youth ages 16-23 from the New Orleans area and across the United States.

After consulting with staff from the Covenant Houses in New York and New Orleans and lead researchers from the Fordham study, Loyola’s Modern Slavery Research Project designed the research methodology and measurement instrument for the New Orleans replication study. In February 2014, we began interviewing residents of Covenant House New Orleans. The researchers included three Loyola University New Orleans professors, Drs. Laura Murphy, Christian Bolden, and Rae Taylor. We were assisted by six Loyola student researchers.

OBJECTIVES

- Replicate the study conducted by Covenant House New York and Fordham to understand the prevalence of trafficking among Covenant House New Orleans residents.
- Analyze the trends and contexts of trafficking, sexual labor, and labor exploitation that emerged from those interviews.
- Provide feedback on the efficacy of the HTIAM-14 as a clinical instrument to identify human trafficking in social services settings and identify best practices in using the instrument.

DEFINITIONS

Following the lead of the original Fordham University study, we draw our definition of human trafficking from the U.S. Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, which stipulates that

THE TERM “SEVERE FORMS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS” MEANS

A sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age, or

B the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

When we discuss “commercial sex acts,” we also follow the TVPA of 2000’s definition, which includes “any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person.” When we discuss what is typically called “prostitution”—the professional trade of sex for money—we use the term “commercial sex work.”

“Sexual labor” takes into account commercial sex acts as well as other participation in the sex industry, including exotic dancing and stripping.

LIMITATIONS

This study was conducted only among a convenience sample of homeless youth who were present at Covenant House New Orleans between February and June 2014. All results refer to this sample and are not representative of the national homeless population or the larger U.S. population and should not be construed as such. Though not assessed in this study, it is possible that there is a significant difference in victimization rates between homeless youth who seek shelter and those who do not.

As with much social science dealing with sensitive topics, it is prudent to assume that the numbers presented here concerning sex and labor trafficking, sex work, forced drug dealing, domestic violence victimization, and experiences with being approached for illegitimate work are underestimated. This may be due to social desirability bias resulting from respondents feeling uncomfortable disclosing their participation, even when forced, in activities considered illicit, as well as the likelihood that some may have responded “no” to questions about certain experiences because they did not view their experiences to be relevant to the researchers.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The Fordham study employed a questionnaire called the Human Trafficking Interview and Assessment Measure (HTIAM-14, Appendix A). Questions on the HTIAM-14 were based on previously designed trafficking screening guidelines (including tools designed by the VERA Institute of Justice, the Department of HHS/Rescue and Restore Campaign, and Covenant House Nine Line), and additional questions were created specifically to assess trafficking victimization among the CHNY population.

The questions were designed to evoke stories from respondents regarding their work experiences that would indicate whether they had been victims of human trafficking. The questions focus on the “force, fraud, and coercion” that are the hallmarks of human trafficking and assess the age at which a respondent may have engaged in commercial sex acts (to determine if they are considered “trafficked” as a result of being under the age of 18 at the time of the transaction).

We utilized the HTIAM-14 as the foundation of our study, and we included follow-up questions that were of particular interest to the Covenant House New Orleans staff and for our New Orleans context. Our additional demographic variables included sexual orientation, mental illness, and domestic violence victimization. In addition, specific measures for sex work experience (including experiences in exotic dancing, escorting, commercial sex, selling shots, and survival sex) and a number of extended trafficking-related variables (including if/how a victim escaped, if intervention had occurred, location of the trafficking, recruiter, trafficking perpetrator, method of trafficking, and duration of trafficking) were identified throughout the interviews. Additionally, many respondents disclosed that they had been approached by someone to engage in work activities they perceived as dangerous or illegal or that otherwise made them feel uncomfortable. As this trend emerged in our very first interviews, we regularly included questions about how they were approached, though it was not in the official questionnaire.

Through the Loyola University New Orleans Institutional Review Board (IRB), we obtained approval to begin the research in the spring of 2014. In February 2014, we began conducting in-depth interviews in a private location in the Covenant House site with residents between the ages of 18 and 23. Our goal was to interview around 100 people, and our final valid total was 99 (six respondents were excluded: two selected participants were minors and thus not interviewed; three of the total scheduled were repeats who had already been interviewed; and one scheduled participant did not come to the interview).

Interviews were scheduled by Covenant House staff. Demographic data for participants were collected by Covenant House staff and coded with a “participant number” to ensure confidentiality and anonymity. Prior to each interview, participants were asked to sign an informed consent form and asked for their signature. These forms were kept off-site by the research team to ensure confidentiality.

Rotating research teams comprised of one researcher and one research assistant interviewed participants on-site all day on Wednesdays from February through June. Interviews were conducted in private rooms and were recorded with a digital voice recorder for the purposes

of transcription. Participants were informed of the recording, asked if they understood the informed consent, and given a brief introduction to the purpose of the study. We emphasized that participation in the study was voluntary and could be stopped at their request at any time. Interviews lasted between 20 minutes and two hours. At the conclusion of each interview, participants were given counseling referrals provided by Covenant House staff. Each participant received a \$10 gift card to Wal-Mart.

The interview phase of the study concluded in June 2014. Between July and September, the interview recordings were transcribed and then coded and analyzed using ATLAS.ti qualitative data analysis software.⁹ The original Covenant House New York variables were coded along with exploratory variables aimed at in-depth analysis of context. Pertinent findings from these additional variables are included in this report.

FINDINGS

SOCIODEMOGRAPHICS, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION, MENTAL ILLNESS DIAGNOSIS

Covenant House New Orleans typically serves approximately 150 youths each day and 700 individuals per year. In June 2014, their youth population was 78% African-American, 19% White, and 3% Other. Approximately 82% of their population was 18 years of age and older (12% are children of youth residents, ages 0–5). About 52% were men, 46% women, and 2% transgender. According to professional staff estimates, approximately 30% of the residents are LGBTQ.¹⁰

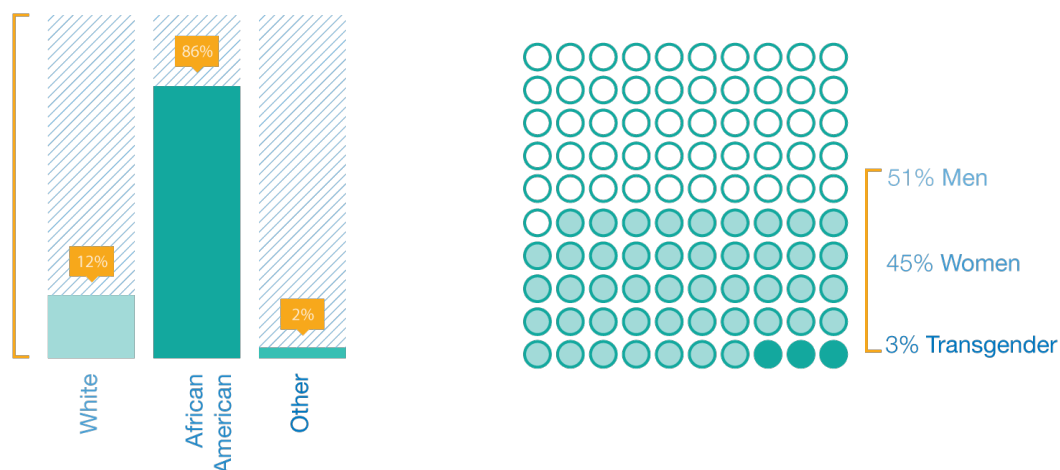
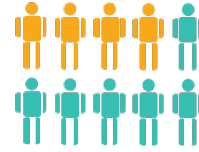


Table 1 illustrates the description of the sample of participants interviewed. Participants ranged in age from 18 to 23 years old, with most between 19 and 22 years old. Of those we interviewed, 84% were from Covenant House’s Crisis Center, 15% were in the Rights of Passage Program for transitional housing, and 1% came from Permanent Supportive Housing. The sample included 51% male, 45% female, and 3% who identified as transgender. The overwhelming majority of participants identified as African-American (86%), followed by White (12%), with Asian and Latino comprising the remaining 2%. Thus, our sample was relatively proportional to the typical demographics encountered at Covenant House New Orleans. While the Covenant House New York study had results pertaining to immigration experiences, 100% of our participants were U.S. citizens. Of the participants who disclosed their sexual orientation, 16% identified as bisexual and 9% as gay/lesbian.



Close to **30%** of participants disclosed domestic violence victimization.



Approximately **42%** of participants had been diagnosed with either developmental disabilities or mental illness.

Close to one-third (29) of the participants disclosed domestic violence victimization. This figure is likely an under-representation of actual prevalence among those in the sample, as we did not specifically ask participants about domestic violence. Finally, 42% had been diagnosed with either significant developmental disabilities or mental illness. Again, we anticipate that both the prevalence and range of mental illness are far greater, as many participants in social services and research do not disclose mental illness. As several participants were new to Covenant House (some had been there only one or two days), we know that some had not had the opportunity to be evaluated at the time of the interview.

TABLE 1. DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPANTS (n= 99)	
<i>Frequency</i>	
Age	
18	8
19	20
20	18
21	29
22	19
23	4
24	1
Sex	
Female	45
Male	51
Transgender	3
Race*	
African American	86
Asian	1
Latino	2
White	12
Citizenship	
U.S.	99
Other	0
Sexual Orientation	
Bisexual	16
Gay/lesbian	9
Victim of Domestic Violence	29
Mental Illness Reported	41

*Total exceeds 99 due to respondents identifying in more than one category.

PREVALENCE OF TRAFFICKING

Among those interviewed, 14% reported an experience that would be classified as “human trafficking” according to the legal definition provided by the U.S. TVPA. Eleven percent of the total population had been trafficked for sex, 5% for other forced labor (two respondents were trafficked for both sex and labor). Of the 14 individuals who were identified as having been trafficked, four of them reported multiple distinct experiences that qualified as trafficking— either having been managed by multiple pimps or trading sex underage after escaping a pimp. (Individuals who reported multiple experiences of sex trafficking are counted only once in the total count. For this reason, the total is less than the sum of victims of various forms of trafficking.) Of those trafficked for sex, 73% (eight respondents) were female, 27% (three) male; 27% (three) identified as gay, lesbian or bisexual. Of those trafficked for labor, the gender breakdown was 60% female, 40% male. Four of the five labor trafficking cases involved forced drug dealing, which was equally prevalent among males and females.

Covenant House New Orleans serves approximately 700 individuals in the course of a year, 12% (84) of whom are babies and toddlers. From these data, we can infer that of the remaining 616 individuals, approximately 14% of the youth respondents are victims of trafficking, which indicates that Covenant House New Orleans serves approximately 86 victims of trafficking in a year, more than three-fourths of whom would have been trafficked for sex.

HTIAM-14 QUESTION RESPONSES

We utilized Fordham’s validated HTIAM-14 questionnaire as part of the New Orleans study, and the results can be seen in Table 2. Because none of the respondents were foreign nationals, all questions in Section B regarding immigration status were unnecessary. Our questions focused on Sections C, D, and E, which inquire about psychological and financial coercion, control, and sexual exploitation (see Appendix A for questions). Section C, “Psychological/ Financial Coercion,” and Section D, “Control,” measure the seven potential indicators of trafficking described below.

	<i>Frequency</i>
Risky or Dangerous Work Conditions	9
Tricked or Forced into Work	11
Not Paid as Expected	6
Prevented from Quitting	9
Money Controlled by Employer	10
Refused Contact with Others	4
Asked to Lie About Work	3

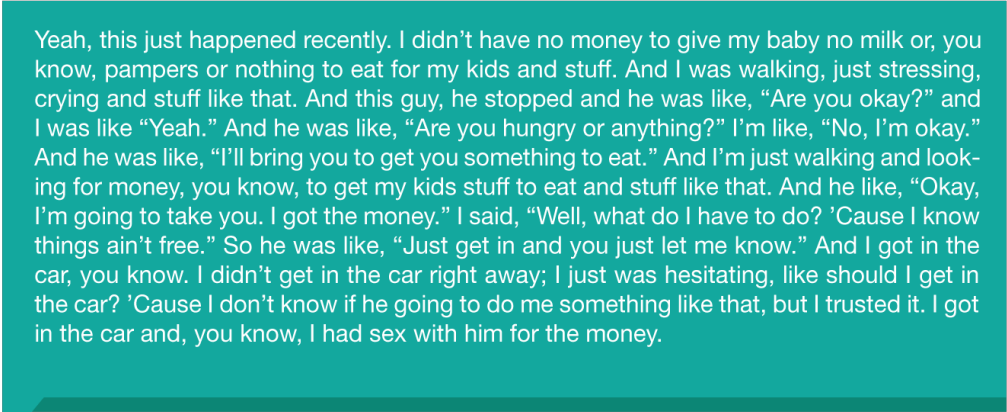
Utilizing these questions, we elicited stories from our interviewees that might reveal whether the legal characteristics of force, fraud, or coercion were involved in any of their formal or informal work experiences. Of course, an answer of “yes” to the questions in Sections C & D on the HTIAM-14 would not necessarily indicate trafficking. There are many reasons why

respondents might be paid less than they had expected or be asked to lie about their work, including participating in illegal activities that are not associated with trafficking. In many cases, however, the questions in the HTIAM-14 successfully uncovered situations of sex and labor exploitation that did indeed qualify as trafficking.

RISKY/DANGEROUS WORK CONDITIONS

Numerous clients talked about feeling endangered in the work they performed in their jobs, even in cases of legitimate work and in informal work arrangements that would not typically be considered dangerous. We heard accounts of working late night shifts, often alone, in high-crime areas and fearing victimization, working at extreme heights where one misstep would result in falling hundreds of feet (e.g., grain elevator, animal feed plant), being expected to perform unreasonable physical labor which caused health problems, working at establishments (e.g., restaurants, construction sites) where drug dealing and other illegal activities were being conducted by supervisors and coworkers, and working in extreme temperatures (e.g., below freezing while working in a food company freezer, extreme heat while doing yard work).

Many of the respondents who had been engaged in the sex industry, especially those who were dancers and shot girls, reported feeling endangered as a result of their work. One female dancer described the variety of risk factors in this way:



Yeah, this just happened recently. I didn't have no money to give my baby no milk or, you know, pampers or nothing to eat for my kids and stuff. And I was walking, just stressing, crying and stuff like that. And this guy, he stopped and he was like, "Are you okay?" and I was like "Yeah." And he was like, "Are you hungry or anything?" I'm like, "No, I'm okay." And he was like, "I'll bring you to get you something to eat." And I'm just walking and looking for money, you know, to get my kids stuff to eat and stuff like that. And he like, "Okay, I'm going to take you. I got the money." I said, "Well, what do I have to do? 'Cause I know things ain't free." So he was like, "Just get in and you just let me know." And I got in the car, you know. I didn't get in the car right away; I just was hesitating, like should I get in the car? 'Cause I don't know if he going to do me something like that, but I trusted it. I got in the car and, you know, I had sex with him for the money.



The same respondent also indicated that people would try to recruit her for other sex-related work every night during her shifts at the club. This feeling of constant threat and risk was common throughout our interviews with young people involved in informal work, particularly those in sex work and drug dealing.

TRICKED OR FORCED INTO WORK

"Force" is typically understood as characterized by physical violence or threats of violence. Respondents involved in illegal work, especially those engaged in the sex trade, often responded that they had been induced to perform their jobs under threat of violence.

A 23-year-old male reluctantly told us about a time when he was 12 years old and worked

in what he described as “a forced job” with other children. He was not initially comfortable disclosing what type of work he was forced to do, but he later admitted the work involved selling drugs in a gang and that he was forced to use drugs as well. When asked if he would have been free to stop the work, he replied, “No, it wouldn’t have been safe. I could have been killed if I had stopped. . . . They said if I stopped working for them they’d find me and kill me.” He escaped the situation only when his family relocated to another area.

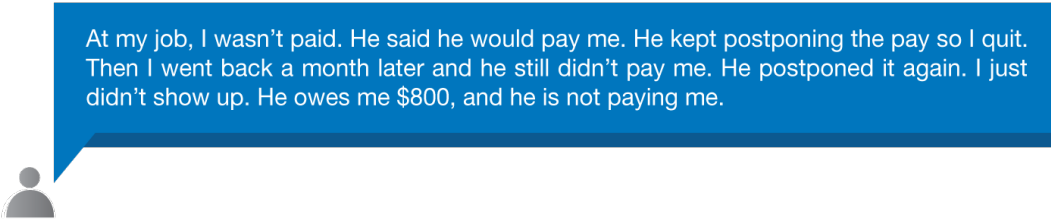
We heard from several males and females who were forced or coerced to do illegal things in the context of gang activity. As one client explained, “That’s the whole point of the gang. They evil. They rob my momma’s house and would kill her.” This use of gang-related violence to compel drug dealing constitutes a case of trafficking, one which might seem counter-intuitive but nonetheless aligns with the legal definition.

According to the interviewees, force was commonly employed in the sex industry. A longer discussion of the use of force in cases of sex trafficking is included in the section on sex trafficking below.

NOT PAID AS EXPECTED

Several respondents reported not being paid what was promised for informal work such as mowing yards, hairdressing, or handy work. Most of these situations involved wage theft, which is exploitative, but the respondents suggested that they were easily able to walk away from the situation and that they had quit as a result of their employers’ bad behavior.

One young man we interviewed talked about his time as a barista at a new restaurant, where the owner kept putting off paying him. He told us:



At my job, I wasn’t paid. He said he would pay me. He kept postponing the pay so I quit. Then I went back a month later and he still didn’t pay me. He postponed it again. I just didn’t show up. He owes me \$800, and he is not paying me.

In the case of the one woman who had been trafficked for forced labor in a factory, the experience of not being paid constitutes the “fraud” that is characteristic of trafficking. She reported that at 15 years of age, she and her family had worked for a fabric company in Mexico, where they were promised fair wages but were never paid. The company persisted in fraudulently promising her family that if they worked longer, they would eventually be paid. Because the owners were aware that there were few other opportunities for the family and because they discriminate against workers based on their ethnic status, the employers used these kinds of tricks and promises to coerce the family into unpaid labor.

PREVENTED FROM QUITTING

When people who are trafficked describe their desire to quit their jobs, they nearly always describe a process of “escaping” employers. Covenant House clients who reported not being allowed to leave or quit a job explained that violence or threats of violence were used to coerce them into continuing to work for the abusive employer.

One young woman told us about a pimp who said “No, I could not leave. And I attempted to leave and he stomped on my, like, he had like steel toe boots, and he stomped on my feet, and he bruised and battered me really badly, and I got really scared.” Traffickers routinely used such violence to prevent women from leaving the sex trade or from engaging a different pimp.

If a person feels he or she is unable to walk away from a work situation, it is often because of physical force or psychological coercion characteristic of trafficking cases is. The decisions to leave these dangerous situations, particularly given the threat of violence, were very difficult. One client reported that, after what would be her last shift at a strip club, she left everything at the club, came to Covenant House at 3 a.m., and sat outside the shelter for three hours, afraid to go inside. She explained that her pimp regularly beat her if she did something wrong, but he also consistently threatened her in other ways as well. “He always says ‘If you leave, don’t come back.’ I was scared of leaving. I knew I couldn’t go back. I was scared when I came here.” When asked if she ever sees him or if she hears anything from the other girls, she said “No. They didn’t leave. It is weird. It was a mind control thing.” Although the girls were “allowed” to leave, the context of fear and frequent violence made them feel as though they could not. Her pimp had conditioned her to fear what would happen to her if she left him as much as what would happen if she stayed. This kind of psychological coercion makes it difficult for people to escape, even when they have realized that they are being abused and exploited.

MONEY CONTROLLED BY EMPLOYER

Control of money was found mostly in sex work. We heard of situations in which young women lived with their employers (sometimes in ambiguous relationships under the guise of dating) and were forced to have sex with their employers and, commonly, other men as well. They were also often required to sell and/or deliver drugs, dance, and perform other illicit activities, often under age. In these situations, the employer controlled all the money.

While some reported that employers would keep all the money they earned, others experienced control by an employer who would give them allowances for food, medicine, and other necessities. For example, one woman said, “Well, he kept all of the money. We got food and stuff that I needed too with it sometimes.” Others were given a portion of their earnings, but that amount was unpredictable and dependent on their productivity. For example, one young woman was given a quota for her earnings from sleeping with men: “In the beginning, \$500. Then it went up. I had to make \$1000 today. It kept going up.”

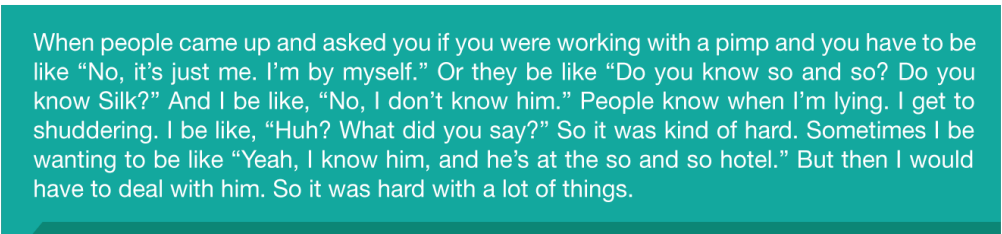
REFUSED CONTACT WITH OTHERS

One of the many means by which traffickers control people is by isolating them from others. Often people in forced sex work situations are convinced that their families do not care about them as much as their pimps do or that there is no one who will help them now that they are in “the life.” Isolation from loved ones and restricted contact with others helps traffickers maintain these ideas. One person who had admitted to trading sex was asked if she was allowed to contact anyone while she was working for a pimp, and she answered: “I couldn’t contact any of my family members unless it was a dying emergency, and the only time I did have my phone was when I was on my phone with a trick.” When asked if the pimp was watching her phone, she replied, “He was watching everything I do. When he is not here he would take [the phone] with him. ‘Whenever I take your phone that means it’s time to go to sleep or make some money.’” She continued, “I couldn’t call no one. My grandmother was sick and . . . I was sneaking through her phone, got on Facebook, and I had a message from my cousin saying they were trying to call because my grandmother was sick, and I just didn’t know what to say. It was hard.” Unprompted, she went on to say, “And I didn’t want to cross the line and have to get pimp slapped again. Those things hurt.”

Another woman explained how cutting off contact with her family allowed her pimp to psychologically control her: “He used reverse psychology. Sometimes I could call my family. [He] would say, ‘Your family doesn’t care about you. They don’t call and check on you.’ Then it makes me not call. I felt like they didn’t care, so I wouldn’t call them.” Traffickers maintain control by putting up barriers to escape, including cutting people off from support networks that might help them leave their exploiters.

ASKED TO LIE ABOUT WORK

Often people who are being trafficked are required by their employers to lie about the nature of their work or about their employers. For instance, the young woman who described not being allowed to contact anyone was also among those who were asked to lie about the nature of their work. She explained:



When people came up and asked you if you were working with a pimp and you have to be like “No, it’s just me. I’m by myself.” Or they be like “Do you know so and so? Do you know Silk?” And I be like, “No, I don’t know him.” People know when I’m lying. I get to shuddering. I be like, “Huh? What did you say?” So it was kind of hard. Sometimes I be wanting to be like “Yeah, I know him, and he’s at the so and so hotel.” But then I would have to deal with him. So it was hard with a lot of things.



Among our respondents, some indicated that pimps insisted on remaining anonymous and invisible, leaving the person trading sex to bear the brunt of police questioning and to feeling vulnerable to other risks such as violence.

When respondents answered “yes” to the questions in section C & D of the questionnaire, further elaboration on the experience was required to determine trafficking status. We discuss below the cases in which the respondents revealed experiences that met the legal definitions of trafficking.

Sexual Labor, Sex Trafficking, and Survival Sex

SEXUAL LABOR: COMMERCIAL SEX AND SEX-RELATED WORK

In addition to the formal and informal sex industry work that respondents divulged when asked about their labor histories, we also inquired about other work in the sex trade, including survival sex. Table 3 illustrates all respondents who identified as having performed some form of sexual labor. This includes all people who had engaged in commercial sex by exchanging sex for something of value and all those who worked in sex-related fields (a fairly prevalent industry in New Orleans). When a participant disclosed an experience of sexual labor performed, we asked them to elaborate about their experiences to discern the nature of the work, whether it was voluntary, coerced, or forced, and if they had chosen to perform any sexual acts because they felt they had to do it to survive (“survival sex”).

Sexual Labor	Number of Participants Involved*
Commercial Sex Work (trafficked)	10**
Commercial Sex Work (non-trafficked)	8 (3 were trafficked and later sold sex by choice)
Exotic Dancing	10 (6 of whom also traded sex)
“Shot girl” Employment	2 (both of whom also traded sex)
Survival Sex	15 (9 of whom engaged in some other form of sexual labor)
Total number participants involved in sexual labor	25

**Several individuals were involved in multiple forms of sexual labor. Overlaps are indicated in parentheses.
**One additional person was classified as having been trafficked for sex because she was “recruited” and “harbored,” but she escaped before any transaction was made for sex.*


Twenty-five percent (25%) of participants had been involved in sexual labor of some form. Thirteen (52% of sex laborers) had worked as “prostitutes” or commercial sex workers (eight females, four males, 1 transgender). Ten percent (10%) had worked in the sex industry as exotic dancers (nine females, one male), and two of the respondents had worked in the French Quarter as “shot girls,” who entice people to buy shots through sexual flirtation. Fifteen percent (15%) had engaged in survival sex (to be discussed at length later).

Respondents indicated that work in the sex industry was widely available and lucrative in New Orleans. One woman who described her experience as an “escort” said, “You can make thousands in one day,” and she broke it down: “Like if you go there and you be really, really, really nice you might get a \$300 tip, you know. You might get a \$600 tip. You know it depends on you and men are extremely easy to seduce. They are . . . men are extremely easy to seduce. It’s really easy.” In her case, she had to give her manager/pimp half of the agreed-upon price, and she was able to keep the full amount of her tip. The same respondent had worked as a shot girl, and she said her charm enabled her to make more than most other girls, but everyone made good commissions selling the shots. She said the other girls asked her, “‘You made \$700?’ Yes I did. But yeah, I don’t know. I like the money.”


This respondent described the business model through which she engaged in the sex trade. When she decided to find employment as a sex worker, she and a friend looked up “escort services” in the phone book, visited the manager who responded to her call, was interviewed by him, and was hired, after which her dates were managed through his call center. She said, “At the end of the day it’s still a business, and it’s legal, so he expected you to, yeah . . . handle yourself professional even though it’s not really a profession.” As an “escort,” she found a more professionalized environment for selling sex that avoided much of the danger others encountered and allowed her to earn a significant income.

Another respondent spoke about her own vested interest in working in the sex trade: “I have to admit I was extremely hooked. I wasn’t in it for the money. I was in it for what they could offer me. And they were like legit men.” When she escaped an exploitative pimp, she continued selling sex on her own because she enjoyed the status and luxuries that the sex trade afforded her.


Not all respondents reported such high incomes or professionalism, but some indicated that work in the sex industry was the best or only employment they could find. Excerpts from three respondents below describe a spectrum of routes to entry into sexual labor.



I had a friend named Naja at the hotel I was staying at. She said, “Your body dope. You can dance. Why don’t you come work at my strip club? I can call my friends, the owner. You can audition right now.” I was like, “Sure why not? Beats fucking for money.” I auditioned that night. The next night, they put me in the strip club. I did that for eight or nine months. The only reason why I stopped is because I had a pregnancy scare.



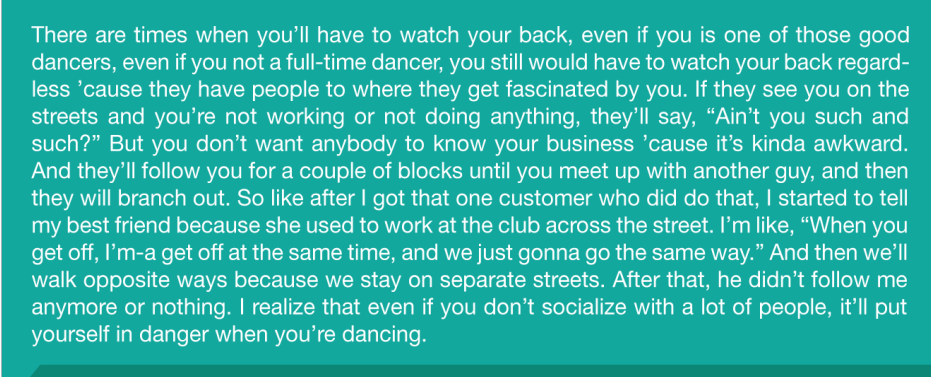
Oh God. For some reason, I don’t like 9-to-5 jobs. I know the reason—I am used to fast money. Working 9-to-5, I only get biweekly checks of \$400. Working 9-to-5 overnight at the strip club, I could make \$800 that night. Prostituting, I could make that a night. I’m thinking, “I work my ass off for a check in two weeks that I can make in a night.” Having that mentality fucks me up and messes up me with my decisions. I am a good worker. I hate slow money. I have never been fired. I up and quit. There is nothing wrong with the jobs. I can get a job real easily. I hate slow money. Like, I think the longest job I’ve ever had was when I was in [town redacted]. I worked at [hotel chain redacted] by the airport for two months before I quit. Every other job I’ve had for a month, two weeks, three weeks.



It was survival. When you are taking care of people like I was taking care of, the \$800 check didn’t do it. I was taking care of boys, girls, kids. It wasn’t enough. I went back to what I knew best. So I could take care of them. . . . For three months, I slept in Armstrong Park. I was using food stamps to eat. When that ran out, I started prostituting so I could get a hotel and shower, eat that week.

For the population we interviewed, who are largely marginalized by poverty and homelessness, sex work might represent a route to financial security, as well as a potentially more agreeable work schedule.

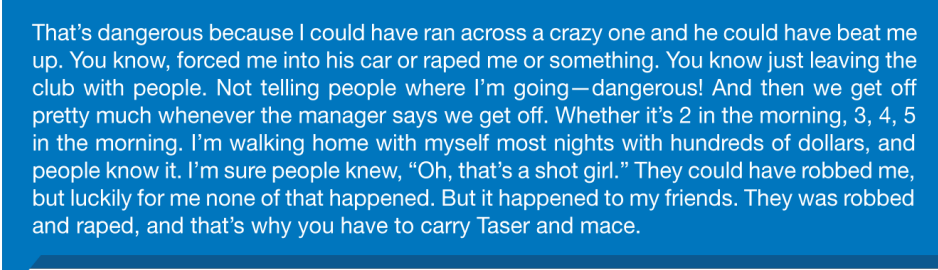
Nonetheless, many of the respondents who were employed in the sex industry said they experienced a high risk of violence in association with the work. One woman worried of predators who would try to attack her after she left the club.



There are times when you'll have to watch your back, even if you is one of those good dancers, even if you not a full-time dancer, you still would have to watch your back regardless 'cause they have people to where they get fascinated by you. If they see you on the streets and you're not working or not doing anything, they'll say, "Ain't you such and such?" But you don't want anybody to know your business 'cause it's kinda awkward. And they'll follow you for a couple of blocks until you meet up with another guy, and then they will branch out. So like after I got that one customer who did do that, I started to tell my best friend because she used to work at the club across the street. I'm like, "When you get off, I'm-a get off at the same time, and we just gonna go the same way." And then we'll walk opposite ways because we stay on separate streets. After that, he didn't follow me anymore or nothing. I realize that even if you don't socialize with a lot of people, it'll put yourself in danger when you're dancing.



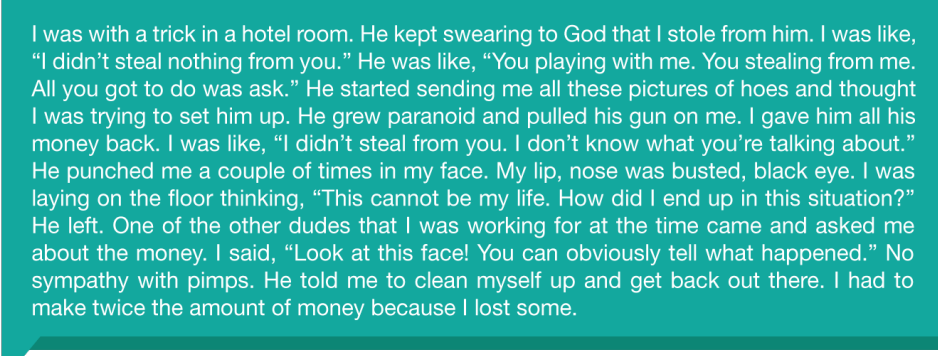
Another woman told us about similar problems encountered by “shot girls” on Bourbon Street. She described how she convinced the clients at the bars to give her money without having to exchange sex, a behavior that had risky consequences:



That's dangerous because I could have ran across a crazy one and he could have beat me up. You know, forced me into his car or raped me or something. You know just leaving the club with people. Not telling people where I'm going—dangerous! And then we get off pretty much whenever the manager says we get off. Whether it's 2 in the morning, 3, 4, 5 in the morning. I'm walking home with myself most nights with hundreds of dollars, and people know it. I'm sure people knew, "Oh, that's a shot girl." They could have robbed me, but luckily for me none of that happened. But it happened to my friends. They was robbed and raped, and that's why you have to carry Taser and mace.



One woman described a time when a client got extremely violent with her:



I was with a trick in a hotel room. He kept swearing to God that I stole from him. I was like, "I didn't steal nothing from you." He was like, "You playing with me. You stealing from me. All you got to do was ask." He started sending me all these pictures of hoes and thought I was trying to set him up. He grew paranoid and pulled his gun on me. I gave him all his money back. I was like, "I didn't steal from you. I don't know what you're talking about." He punched me a couple of times in my face. My lip, nose was busted, black eye. I was laying on the floor thinking, "This cannot be my life. How did I end up in this situation?" He left. One of the other dudes that I was working for at the time came and asked me about the money. I said, "Look at this face! You can obviously tell what happened." No sympathy with pimps. He told me to clean myself up and get back out there. I had to make twice the amount of money because I lost some.



For marginally housed youth in New Orleans, work in the sex industry is both a temptation and a threat. For many, the allure of an opportunity to make quick and substantial money encourages them to overlook the potential risks to their safety. However, many of our respondents indicated that they left the sex trade because of the dangers involved. None of our respondents admitted to working in the sex industry at the time of the interview, so it is unclear how many of them might have continued working in the trade despite the dangers they encountered. This may be a result of the fact that Covenant House strongly discourages and ultimately does not permit residents to work in the legal or illegal sex industry.


SEX TRAFFICKING

Sex trafficking is forced sexual labor. Engaging in sex work does not necessarily mean that a person is trafficked (despite widespread confusion on this matter). Sex trafficking occurs when commercial sexual acts are performed under force, fraud, or coercion, or when commercial sex acts are performed by someone under the age of 18, regardless of coercive factors.

Of our complete pool, 11 (11%) respondents described experiences that conform to the legal definition of sex trafficking. Seven are considered trafficking victims by law because they were selling sex either voluntarily or through force under the age of 18, but three of those were also re-trafficked by coercive pimps as adults. Among the 13 Covenant House clients who reported engaging in commercial sex work, eight (62%) had been trafficked—that is, forced to perform sex work in at least one of the situations in which they engaged in the sex trade.


In terms of the methods used to compel a person to engage in sex work, eight respondents (73% of those trafficked) had experienced incidents of force/violence that compelled them to engage in commercial sex. One respondent was initially brought into the sex trade through fraudulent promises that disguised the nature of the work she would do, but she was later held captive through violent means. At least four (36%) were compelled through psychological coercion, one of whom also reported violence. Overlapping forms of compulsion are certainly likely in cases of trafficking. Of the seven who were identified as victims by virtue of their being under the age of 18, five also reported situations of force, fraud, or coercion that compelled them to engage in sex work. The two young men who reported being exploited as children indicated that they had not been compelled to participate in sex work at all. (See “Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children” below for more discussion.)

When victims described the forms of force used to compel them to perform sex work, they reported severe threats to their lives and to their family’s lives. One woman said, “He threatened to shoot up my sister’s house and he was crazy. . . . For my sister’s safety too, I had to. He threatened to shoot up the house and she had kids so I didn’t want that.” Another woman told us about the first time a pimp used violence and threats to convince her that she had to comply to his will.



“He was like, ‘No, you’re going to be having sex for money.’ I was like, ‘Oh no! I can’t do that!’ And that is when I kind of stood up, and he pushed me down. He was like, ‘You are either going to work or I am going to sell you to another pimp or kill you.’ Then I got terrified and he forced me to take pictures in lingerie.”

One young woman said of her pimp, “In the beginning, he was like a boyfriend to me. He changed. I was 17.” He forced her to sell sex, and she left him after a year. Shortly thereafter, she returned, and she found that he had been mentored by another pimp and that he had become more violent. She told us,



“His friend taught him that sometimes the girl needs to be disciplined and maybe the girl shouldn’t leave. That was not a good thing that he taught him. The first time, he wasn’t violent. He taught him bad stuff—to be more violent, less caring.”

Another woman summed it up this way: “I could have been killed if I had stopped.” One woman even reported that one of her pimps had locked her in a dog cage at night. Violence held the majority of the trafficked respondents captive in their situations of exploitation.

Those who experience what the law calls “coercion” are psychological captives of their pimps. Some respondents had been recruited through what is commonly called “finesse pimping,” in which a pimp dates or pretends to be in love with a target and then reveals that s/he is a pimp and forces the intimate partner to sell sex. When one respondent was asked how a pimp managed to keep her from running away, she admitted that he would “buy me stuff and love me like I didn’t have anybody love me before.” She continually wanted to run away because he was brutally beating her, but she was constantly manipulated by him to believe that they were in love.

Another respondent reported that when she was very young, her mother had given her up to be sexually abused so they could have a place to live. Though she would be considered a victim of sex trafficking because of her age, there was psychological coercion involved as well. She said the owner of the house (also a relative) made her feel “that I had done something wrong and I was being punished. I didn’t know . . . I just felt like I was being punished for something and to me I didn’t do anything wrong so it was very confusing what was I being punished for.” The idea that she had brought the sexual abuse upon herself haunted her and made her vulnerable to other forms of sexual assault and trafficking later in her life. Indeed, these forms of psychological coercion can be just as entrapping as the physical threats that others experienced.

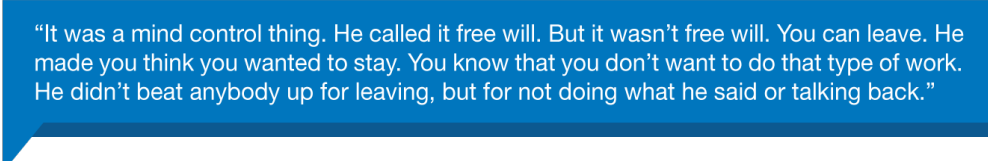
In the one case of fraud that we encountered in the sex trade, a female recruiter tricked a 21-year-old into thinking they were simply moving to New Orleans to have fun, but instead turned her over to a brutal pimp.

Traffickers were often people the respondents knew, including family members and intimate

partners. One woman said her mother “gave me to this man so that way we could spend the night with him.” Because the family needed a place to stay, her mother traded her for sex. Later, when she was only 11 years old and a runaway from group homes, the same respondent reported engaging in survival sex in exchange for places to stay and so that she would have enough money to eat.

At least one of the respondents was recruited from the Covenant House shelter. She recalled, “Yeah, it was my first time going to a Covenant House. I was 18, and I came here, and I didn’t like the rules, you know, and one of his girls came at me.” A young woman recruited her from within the shelter and brought her to a pimp, for whom she was forced to sell sex. Covenant House has a Child Protection System which works to ensure the safety and security of its residents, which is no doubt necessary, as our study showed that homeless youth in New Orleans are targeted by predators everywhere they turn.

One respondent was recruited to be a sex worker while she was dancing in a strip club. She was forced to hand over all her money to her boyfriend, who managed her work and forced her to continue selling sex even after she refused. She said of him:

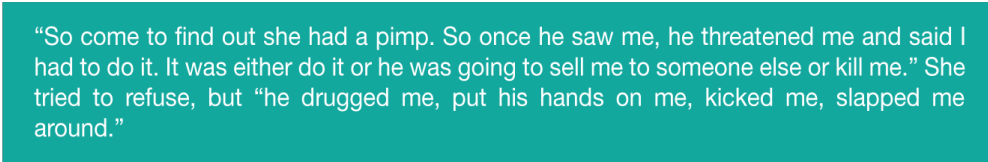


“It was a mind control thing. He called it free will. But it wasn’t free will. You can leave. He made you think you wanted to stay. You know that you don’t want to do that type of work. He didn’t beat anybody up for leaving, but for not doing what he said or talking back.”



Many others reported that pimps often attempted to recruit girls who were dancing in clubs, but that they had resisted the entreaties. One respondent said that the pimps often turned mean if they refused: “Usually pimps . . . they are going to approach the women they want to work with them very nicely. They did approach me when I first started working [as a stripper]. They talked to me very nicely; they told me that I can make this money, and they were going to take care of me, and I wanted to want for nothing. That’s how they do it. They come at you nice and then the mean side come out.”

Two respondents had been abducted by strangers or recent acquaintances who intended to sell them for sex. One respondent had only arrived at Covenant House days before the interview, after she escaped from a captor who was forcing her to sell sex out of a local hotel room. Just before her 21st birthday, she met a young woman in her hometown who quickly convinced her to move to New Orleans. When she arrived in New Orleans, she was introduced to the new friend’s pimp and was told that she would have to sell sex. She recalled,



“So come to find out she had a pimp. So once he saw me, he threatened me and said I had to do it. It was either do it or he was going to sell me to someone else or kill me.” She tried to refuse, but “he drugged me, put his hands on me, kicked me, slapped me around.”



Like this person, three other respondents reported being tricked by a “recruiter” into a relationship with a pimp who forced her to have sex. Those recruiters were other women who worked for the pimp. Five were recruited directly by pimps. (See “Approached for Work” below for examples of unsuccessful recruitment.)

Another respondent was 18 years old when she was abducted off the streets of New Orleans, after she accepted a ride from a stranger while walking home. When she got into the car, she was introduced to several other young women who told her they were prostitutes. The respondent said she was not interested, but she was not allowed to leave. The pimp took pictures of her nude and partially clothed to post online. Though the young woman claims that she escaped before the pimp was able to make her have sex with a client, she is technically considered “trafficked” because she was recruited, harbored, and transported for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude.

CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

Engaging in commercial sex under the age of 18 is considered a severe form of human trafficking by the U.S. TVPA and by Louisiana law. The commercial sexual exploitation of children includes both sex trading and other work in the sex industry. Among our 99 respondents, seven of them had either commercially traded sex or engaged in survival sex under the age of 18. The majority of those young people who were forced to engage in the sex trade later engaged voluntarily. In addition, two worked as exotic dancers under legal age. Four of those who traded sex were forced into commercial sex work; five voluntarily sold sex commercially (including three who had previously been forced); and four were involved in survival sex (including three who had previously been forced). It became clear that being forced into the sex industry at a young age meant that trading sex became a more likely option after they escaped the situation of force.

Despite the fact that, by definition, “trafficking” does not require that a child be induced to trade sex through the means of force, fraud, or coercion, all the women who reported trading sex as a minor indicated at least one sex work experience that involved systematic force or coercion. One young woman told us about the first of many people who trafficked her as a child:

A: In the beginning it wasn't by choice. Took me and another girl from a shelter and he put us in a hotel room that we can't get out.

Q: How old were you?

A: Ten.

Q: Ten years old—you were living in a shelter by yourself or with your family?

A: No, I ran away from a foster home because my parents [unintelligible].

Q: Your foster parents did what?

A: They loved me too much.

Q: What do you mean by that?

A: They touched me.



Vulnerable as a runaway and as a survivor of sexual abuse in the foster system, she was targeted when she was only 10 years old by a pimp who beat her and locked her up so she couldn't run away. After she managed to escape, she ran to another pimp because she didn't know how to protect herself on the street otherwise.

The risk factors chart produced by the Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council (above in "Introduction") describes many of the same risk factors that made this respondent vulnerable to a trafficker, and we found these risk factors to be common throughout our interviews, both with those homeless youth who had been trafficked and those who had not. Any one of these factors presents heightened risk for trafficking, but we commonly see multiple factors present as well.


Previous sexual assault victimization was particularly common among those who reported sex trafficking—some within the family, some by strangers or acquaintances, and some both. One young woman reported being beaten and raped by four men in a McDonald's parking lot shortly after being abandoned by her mother when she was 15 years old. She was hospitalized for three weeks. Her mother called her in the hospital to tell her "I don't want to have nothing to do with you. You do what you got to do to survive and stand on your feet." Her mother had previously refused to believe her when she told her she had been molested by family members. It was only a short time later that she was targeted by a pimp and kidnapped to be sold for sex.

In another case, we learned about a child sex trafficking victim who was raped by a police officer, leading her to feel that the police could not be trusted: "That's why I don't talk to the police. I don't care if I got raped. I don't care if I get stabbed. I don't care if I saw something. I don't get involved with the cops. And I don't trust the cops. I don't trust anybody. Even if I saw something, I won't tell nobody. It gets you in situations you don't want to be in." Indeed, though she was in her mid-20s at the time of her interview, she had never reported her experience to the police.

One young woman described being raped by a man who took her in off the streets when she was 14. After describing a lifetime of abuse and neglect that led to her homelessness, she summed up her experiences with rape by saying, "When you live a risky lifestyle like that, shit going to happen." Her experiences of being excluded from her family for her sexuality, her resultant homelessness, and her experience of abuse left her incredibly vulnerable to a pimp, who sexually and physically abused her.

YOUNG MEN AND SEX TRAFFICKING

Young men accounted for one-third (three out of nine) of the reported cases of child sex trafficking in our study; in fact, all of the reported cases of sex trafficking of males happened when the respondent was a minor. Two of the boys were engaged in regular trading of sex, and one reported doing so only out of necessity. Young men described their experiences much differently than young women. They never described being forced or tricked into selling sex. Instead, the two who were engaged in regular sex work described their experiences with great pride. When asked if he ever sold sex as one of the many "hustles" he was describing, one respondent smiled and replied:



Yes indeed! What?! All my life, you heard me. Alright. I broke my virgin with a 24-year-old when I was 11. Yeah, so all my life I've been fascinated with older females—having another female that was my age or even 5 years older than me. So when you selling dope or doing your thing out there, hustling, you meet a lot of older women. You know and that comes to play. All the time they might not give me money. But they might let me stay there for a week or two, or they might let me hustle out their house. Let me drive their car, buy me clothes. So, oh yeah. That's like a must.


Because he was under 18 when he was exchanging items of value for sex, he is considered a victim of trafficking. He expresses a great deal of agency in the decision, and he even worked as a pimp later, but he demonstrates clearly the fact that young men are being exploited for sex in commercial ways, though male trafficking is not as widely studied or discussed. One of the respondents did not necessarily consider himself a sex worker. He described his commercial sexual encounters more in terms of survival sex—he simply embraced the opportunity when he was in need.

Q: Girls did try to buy sex from you?

A: Yes. A lot. Older women. They ask me if I want to have sex with them for money? All I need to do is get a condom or two. Why not? The first time was [when I was] 17. Some of them approach me on the Internet, some in the street, some drunk.

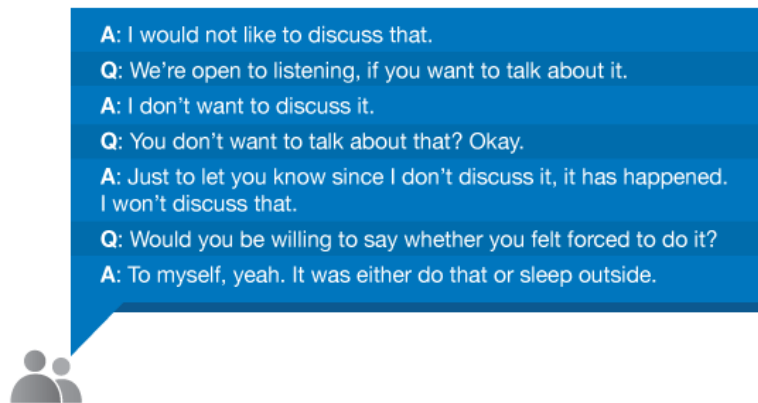
Q: You go with it?

A: I go if I am hurting or need it. I am already taking a chance. Condoms don't protect you from everything. I need the money. It will be quick money rather than breaking into someone's car or robbing someone. It will be a good way to get me out of trouble. Sometimes it is right and sometimes it is wrong.



One respondent, who said that he voluntarily engaged in commercial sex with women, also mentioned that members of his gang took his earnings. When asked whether he got to keep the money he earned, he said, “When I was 15, 16—it was for them. When I was older, it was for me.” This was the only gang-related sexual exploitation that was reported by men, but it seems that there may be more to learn on this issue.

We suspect that male child sexual exploitation is under-reported, as men were less likely to discuss selling sex. Several male respondents implied that they may have sold sex, but they were unwilling to discuss it at length. For instance, one respondent was asked if he had ever engaged in trading sex for shelter or other needs. He replied:



Another avoided any detailed discussion of trading sex by saying, “I’m not going to say it but, yeah, I’ve been approached. That’s it. I’m not going to say ’cause they’re still doing it.” Then he added, “I’m not going to say it. That’s it. Next.” When asked if he had any other experiences he would like to share along those lines, he interrupted the interviewer and said, “No. I’m not going to say it. I was tricked. I was tricked, you know, a couple of times. I will say that. But I’m not going to say who exactly. So next question.”

When respondents are hesitant to discuss intimate experiences in this way, it is difficult to discern the nature of the experience, the level of force, or often even the age at which the experience took place. This leads us to suspect that engagement in the sex trade is likely more under-reported among men than among women.

In general, the language men used to describe their sexual encounters was markedly different from women’s, and men required significantly more time with the interviewer before they would discuss sexual matters. Typically, if a respondent had little or no experience in dangerous employment, he or she would answer the questions with a very simple “no,” leading to a very brief interview which did not allow time to build the rapport necessary for them to begin to describe sexual exploitation or sexual labor when those questions were asked at the end of the questionnaire. Men, in particular, were less likely to see their work as having been dangerous or forced, and therefore they shared less over the course of the interviews than women. (See “Utilizing the HTIAM-14” for more discussion of interviewing challenges and discoveries.)

SURVIVAL SEX

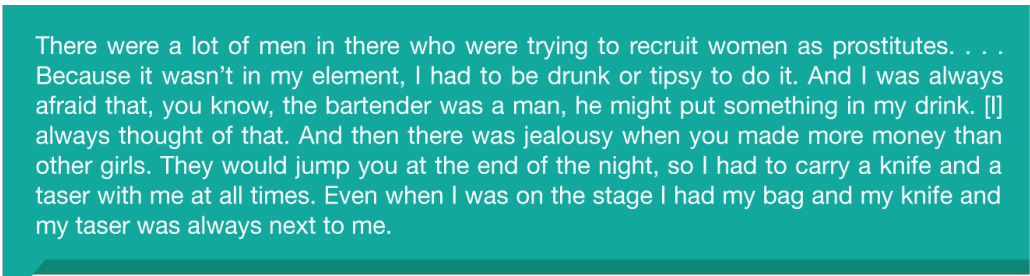
“Survival sex” is a form of commercial sexual exchange engaged in by people in situations of extreme economic vulnerability. They trade sex for food, shelter, or other basic needs—and sometimes drugs—out of necessity or desperation. It is a practice that is more prevalent among homeless youth, though it is not a form of sex trafficking unless the person is under the age of 18.¹¹ Among Covenant House New York respondents, 13.8% had engaged in survival sex (8% over the age of 18).

In the New Orleans study, 15 respondents (15%) indicated they had engaged in “survival sex.” Of the 11 who engaged in survival sex as adults, only one of them related another experience that involved trafficking. Thus the vast majority of adults who engaged in survival sex reported doing so because of significant need and desperation, and they had not otherwise been victims of forced sex work.

The reasons for engaging in survival sex ranged from practicality (“They ask me if I want to have sex with them for money. All I need to do is get a condom or two. Why not?!”) to exhaustion (“You get tired of having to ask people for stuff and me having to go from home to home to home to home. You have to have sex with some dudes to stay with them.”) to desperation (“[I do that] only in desperate situations. Like I know that I’m going to go hungry or if I know that I’m going to starve or I have no other option left, then I feel as though I’m left with no choice.”).

Vulnerable young people who are marginally housed look for any kind of work that might help them support themselves and their families. One woman used the Internet to engage in survival sex. “I met a guy online who said he would help me. He forced me, you know, to do it. I met him on Facebook. I was thinking about the money and about my kids. I was not thinking he was going to be a boyfriend or anything like that.” She concluded that “Jobs don’t pay enough or give you hours, and that’s what you have to do.”

In other cases, engaging in survival sex is simply an opportunity that a homeless young person finds difficult to refuse when it provides an avenue for meeting one’s basic needs:



There were a lot of men in there who were trying to recruit women as prostitutes. . . . Because it wasn’t in my element, I had to be drunk or tipsy to do it. And I was always afraid that, you know, the bartender was a man, he might put something in my drink. [I] always thought of that. And then there was jealousy when you made more money than other girls. They would jump you at the end of the night, so I had to carry a knife and a taser with me at all times. Even when I was on the stage I had my bag and my knife and my taser was always next to me.



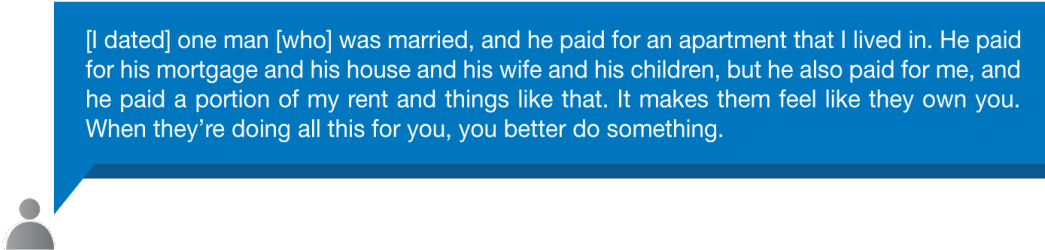
Many of the young people who described engaging in survival sex indicated that they hesitated the first (or first few) times that they encountered the opportunity, but several participants reported engaging in survival sex on multiple occasions when they had exhausted other options because they knew that sex could provide them with the quick income they needed in an economy that provided little else in the way of employment.

TRANSGENDER EXPERIENCE OF SEXUAL LABOR

Only three of our respondents identified as transgender. Few conclusions can be drawn from such a small sample. However, because research has focused on the question of transgender engagement in sexual labor and especially survival sex,¹² it is useful to note what we found in this study.

Of the three transgender respondents, none reported experiences that would be categorized as human trafficking. However, one respondent's experience was what we considered a borderline case of trafficking, and another engaged in commercial sex work as well as survival sex as an adult.

The one transgender youth whose story was considered potentially indicative of trafficking did not provide clear evidence that would meet the legal definition of trafficking. She was, however, in a series of extraordinarily abusive relationships that bordered on trafficking. She told us:



[I dated] one man [who] was married, and he paid for an apartment that I lived in. He paid for his mortgage and his house and his wife and his children, but he also paid for me, and he paid a portion of my rent and things like that. It makes them feel like they own you. When they're doing all this for you, you better do something.

She said she did drugs to please him and provided sex to him and to other men. This arrangement made her feel “owned” because she suspected that if she hadn't had sex with them, “It would have turned out very ugly because they were very built men. They were strong.” Nonetheless, the respondent resisted the notion that she was acting under duress in these relationships, insisting that she had lived with her abusive partner by choice, but she also indicated that it would have been very dangerous for her to leave. This is a borderline case that we did not include in the count for trafficking, in part because the respondent considered these to be consensual relationships.

Though there were no clear cases of trafficking, one of the transgender respondents had engaged in—and indicated that she enjoyed—voluntary commercial sex work, but she also reported resorting to survival sex that provided her with basic food and short-term shelter in the occasional desperate situation.

All three of the transgender respondents had experienced both sexual and physical abuse.

LABOR TRAFFICKING

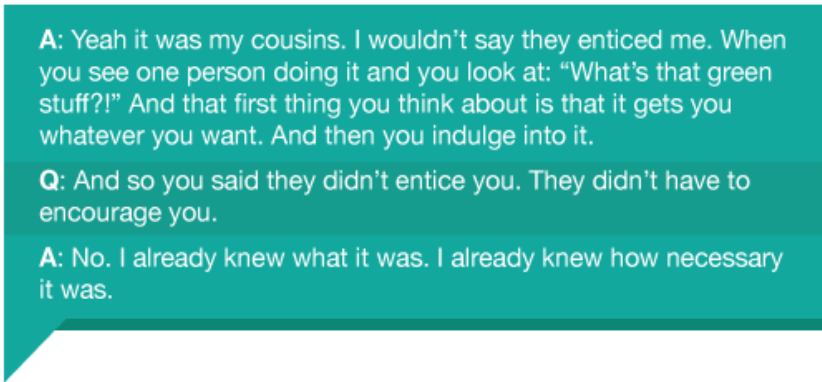
Of the 99 respondents, five (5% of total, 38% of trafficked) described experiences of labor trafficking.

FORCED DRUG DEALING

Four of those cases (80%) reported being forced to sell drugs. Of those forced to sell drugs, half were male and half were female. These four cases represent 11.7% of the 34 people who reported having sold drugs. Similarly, in the Covenant House New York report, forced drug selling accounted for four of their five cases of labor trafficking as well.

The questionnaire did not include questions that specifically inquired about work in the drug trade. Nonetheless, when asked about dangerous work, respondents often recounted stories related to their time dealing drugs before entering Covenant House. The youngest reported age of entry into the drug trade was 9 years old. All of our participants who had been engaged in the drug trade (and who were 18–23 at the time of their interviews) had begun drug dealing in their teenage years. Young people engaged in drug dealing for a number of reasons, with a similar range of responses to those provided for trading sex—from desperation to the simple desire to find steady paid work to the sheer thrill of the work. Several people indicated that drug dealing simply allowed them to make a lot of money and live a lavish lifestyle.

One young man was asked how he got into the trade, and he said:



A: Yeah it was my cousins. I wouldn't say they enticed me. When you see one person doing it and you look at: "What's that green stuff?!" And that first thing you think about is that it gets you whatever you want. And then you indulge into it.

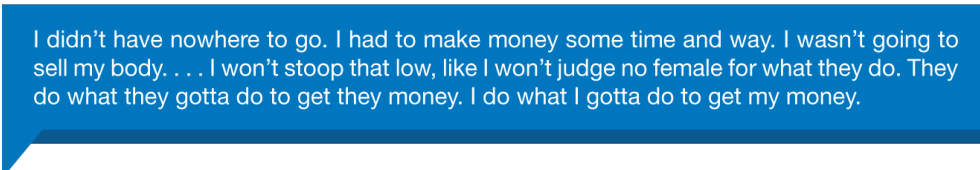
Q: And so you said they didn't entice you. They didn't have to encourage you.

A: No. I already knew what it was. I already knew how necessary it was.



One young man recounted how selling weed was an easy way to help him support his family's needs: "I ran across this guy who sold weed. I sold with him. When you get your money, get out of it and go about your business. He was trying to help me out. He knew it wasn't for me."

One young woman chose drug dealing over trading sex when she was homeless and looking for ways to make money. She told us:

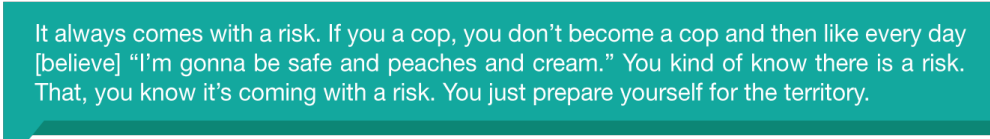


I didn't have nowhere to go. I had to make money some time and way. I wasn't going to sell my body. . . . I won't stoop that low, like I won't judge no female for what they do. They do what they gotta do to get they money. I do what I gotta do to get my money.



Many suggested that they had no trouble leaving the drug trade. When asked whether he was afraid of his supplier, one young man replied: “No. I went to him and I said, ‘Dude, I can’t do this no more.’ He said he understood. And I said, ‘Dude, you need to stop doing this too.’”

Another explained that the violence involved in the work was something dealers take on knowingly. It is simply an occupational hazard.



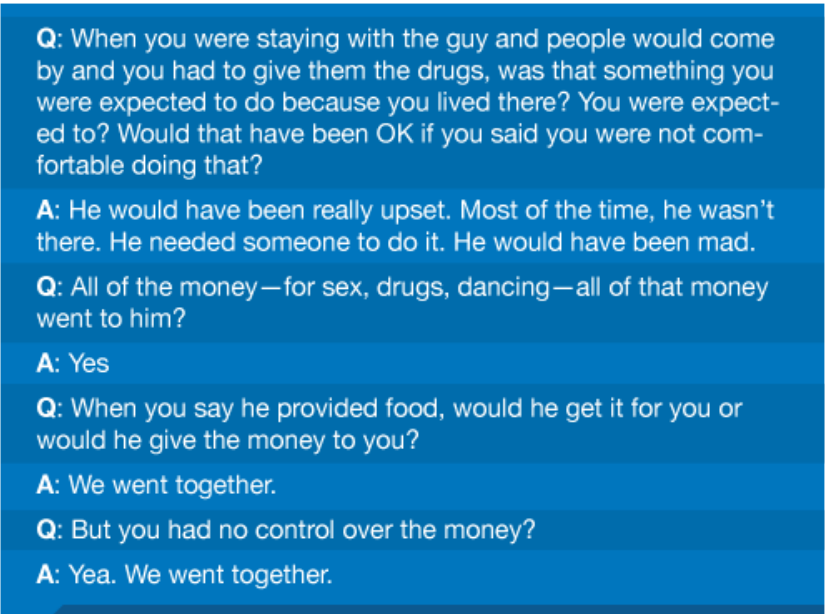
It always comes with a risk. If you a cop, you don’t become a cop and then like every day [believe] “I’m gonna be safe and peaches and cream.” You kind of know there is a risk. That, you know it’s coming with a risk. You just prepare yourself for the territory.



Those who voluntarily sold drugs said they negotiated or agreed to a set cut of the income made on sales, and while they reported that there was always the risk of violence involved in the work, they largely felt free to disengage from the business as they chose.

We considered an experience “forced drug dealing” when the requisite “force, fraud, or coercion” was clearly involved. The cases involved people who considered themselves as not making an individual choice in pursuing that line of work. Three of the four people who reported being forced to sell drugs also discussed times when they did so voluntarily, marking a clear contrast between the times when they felt compelled to do so and other times when they made the choice for themselves. The fourth was forced to sell drugs in connection with being the victim of a brutal pimp, and while she sold sex voluntarily when she was not with the pimp, she did not report selling drugs voluntarily otherwise.

The woman who was forced to sell drugs when she was under pimp control told us about how he forced her to sell drugs and he controlled all of the money:



Q: When you were staying with the guy and people would come by and you had to give them the drugs, was that something you were expected to do because you lived there? You were expected to? Would that have been OK if you said you were not comfortable doing that?

A: He would have been really upset. Most of the time, he wasn’t there. He needed someone to do it. He would have been mad.

Q: All of the money—for sex, drugs, dancing—all of that money went to him?

A: Yes

Q: When you say he provided food, would he get it for you or would he give the money to you?

A: We went together.

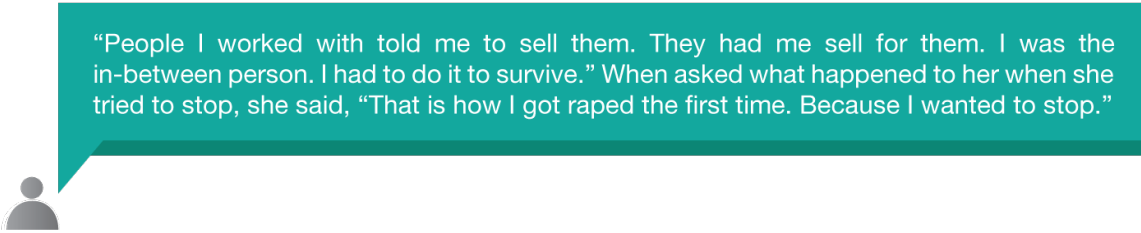
Q: But you had no control over the money?

A: Yea. We went together.



In her case, she was under a pimp’s complete control because he was violent with her and because she felt she had no funds to help her escape or live on her own. As a result, whatever kind of work he decided she had to do for him—whether it was legal or illegal—was his decision to make. She felt entirely enslaved to him.

One young woman who reported being forced to sell drugs spoke of the risk of trying to quit dealing:



“People I worked with told me to sell them. They had me sell for them. I was the in-between person. I had to do it to survive.” When asked what happened to her when she tried to stop, she said, “That is how I got raped the first time. Because I wanted to stop.”

The use of or perceived threat of force was the primary way forced drug dealing was enforced.

Another young man reported that he was forced to join a gang at the age of 12. He was forced to sell drugs, and he told us, “They said if I stopped working for them they’d find me and kill me.” He was explicitly told that he had no choice but to do their bidding if he wanted to stay alive. Luckily for him, his family moved six months later, and he was able to escape the control of the gang. Later, when he was 16, he began dealing drugs again, but this time he was self-employed and he seemed to suggest that he was a supplier for other drug dealers.

Much like those who were forced into sex work, the young people who were forced to sell drugs were victims of serious violence and persistent threats of violence to themselves and to their loved ones. They felt that if they tried to walk away from the work, their very lives would be in danger.

Despite the fact that there are some clear distinctions that can be made between work in the drug trade that is voluntary and work that is performed because of force, people who are forced to sell drugs are typically not counted among trafficking victims. However, these cases indicate a need for further research into forced labor in the informal and illicit sectors of the U.S. economy.

INTERNATIONAL FACTORY LABOR TRAFFICKING

Only one respondent reported a more familiar case of factory labor trafficking. She was an American born of Mexican descent and lived in Mexico with her parents for several years when she was a teenager. When she was 15, she worked in a fabric factory where she was not paid for her labor. She remembered the discriminatory practices of her employer: “The people that are minorities in Mexico City, we don’t have a lot of good work, so we look for other alternatives. And we get small jobs in fabric or something of that fashion, and they say they are going to pay us the salary but we wait three weeks, three more weeks, three more weeks—and they are very behind or they will just give us a part.” The respondent indicated that this was not unusual in the town where she lived, and therefore she did not find it remarkable enough to discuss at length in the interview. Hers was the only interview conducted in Spanish through an interpreter. It is hard to determine from the interview what level of coercion was involved to force her to remain at the job, but as she indicates, she and her family continued to work for extended periods of time without being paid.

OTHER FORMS OF LABOR EXPLOITATION

Very few Covenant House New Orleans respondents had experienced full-fledged labor trafficking. However, the study revealed a high incidence of other forms of labor exploitation, which indicates significant labor vulnerabilities among homeless youth.

Nineteen percent (19%) of respondents reported incidents of wage theft. In these cases, clients had worked for an employer who promised to pay them an agreed-upon wage (which was sometimes less than minimum wage but nonetheless agreed upon), but when it came time to collect payment, the employer did not make good on the promise.

One respondent worked for a major entertainment and sporting venue in the city, and she reported that “The workers met there and no one showed up to pay us. We were slaving” for the employer and “working nonstop till the time we leave. They cut off the faucets for water.” Unpaid and not allowed to take breaks or use bathrooms, the respondent refused to return to the job.

Other respondents were promised certain wages but were shortchanged. One interviewee told us about a job where “you never got checks [because] everything was paid under the table. And I did get shortchanged many a times and that’s why I left.” All of the respondents quit their jobs because of this abuse, but they remained vulnerable to such fraud because they faced incredible difficulty in locating legitimate paid jobs.

Because of their vulnerability in the labor market and the high rate of unemployment, many young people reported experiences where they performed extremely dangerous work as well. An additional 6% reported working in excessively dangerous work situations. One had been hit by the garbage trucks on which he worked; another had a fingertip cut off in a restaurant job. Others felt compelled to do work that exceeded their physical limits, including one petite woman who took on heavy lifting jobs to support her family. One person reported, “I had a shift at the brick yard. I was working in the heat. Because of my head injury, I was coughing up blood. He said, ‘Work faster.’ I was getting sick and was working slow. So he said you will either get fired or go home. I tried to work. I didn’t get no break. I worked all day. I worked on the rail cart. No breaks.” For fear of losing his only source of income, he had to continue working far beyond what his physical strength allowed.

APPROACHED FOR WORK OR SEX

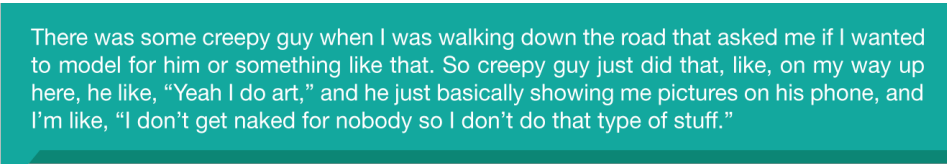
In the very early stages of our interviewing, a concerning trend emerged in the stories of the young people with whom we spoke. In addition to the typical recruitment techniques that people in the sex trade reported, many of our respondents described being approached, typically by strangers or new acquaintances who offered them opportunities for sex work, sales work (e.g., magazines, phone cards, children’s books, etc.), drug dealing, and a variety of other work situations. Thirty-three percent (31%) of the participants reported having been approached in this way. Many of them described being approached in or directly outside Covenant House, in and around Armstrong Park (located next to Covenant House), in the French Quarter, along Bourbon Street, and all over the downtown New Orleans area. They disclosed being approached in other areas of the city and in other cities as well, but we

found it interesting that young people were regularly approached by people who offered them opportunities that ranged from suspicious legitimate work to illegal activities. The vast majority of that work, however, centered on sex work.

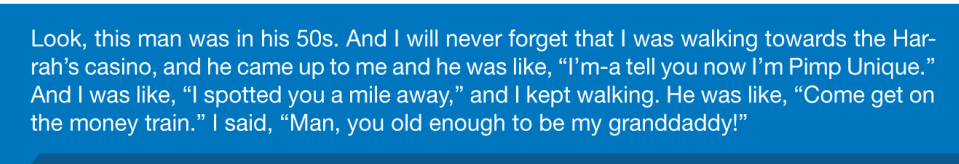
One person was approached at Covenant House by a young man who wanted to take her out of town with him. “There was this guy. I don’t know why he came here. He was here for one day. He tried to convince me to leave with him. One girl left with him. She came back one month later. I tried to convince her to stay too. That was the second day I was here. He stayed here one night. Then he left.” Though the reason for leaving town was unclear, the implication was that he might have been recruiting women to work in the sex trade within the shelter, though the respondent didn’t indicate what precisely had happened to her friend while she was away.

Another woman said she had been offered several escort jobs by strangers who “made it seem like it was something simple, legal.” Another pimp encouraged a young woman by insisting, “Y’all are missing out on money. Y’all are young and don’t know no better. This is good money that y’all could be having.”

Women reported being approached by strangers who want to recruit them into the sex trade regularly. When asked what the strangers offer her, one woman said, “They say they will take care of me and my baby” — certainly a difficult offer to turn down. Others described the techniques pimps had used to recruit them right off the street:



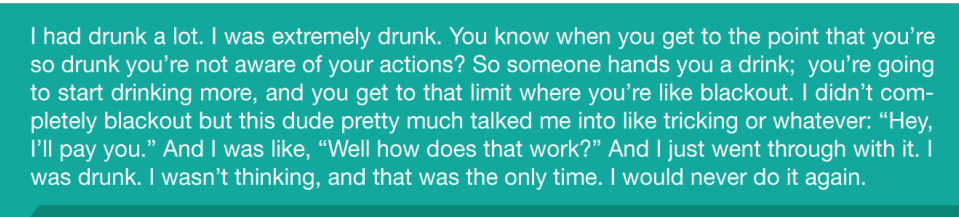
There was some creepy guy when I was walking down the road that asked me if I wanted to model for him or something like that. So creepy guy just did that, like, on my way up here, he like, “Yeah I do art,” and he just basically showing me pictures on his phone, and I’m like, “I don’t get naked for nobody so I don’t do that type of stuff.”



Look, this man was in his 50s. And I will never forget that I was walking towards the Harrah’s casino, and he came up to me and he was like, “I’m-a tell you now I’m Pimp Unique.” And I was like, “I spotted you a mile away,” and I kept walking. He was like, “Come get on the money train.” I said, “Man, you old enough to be my granddaddy!”



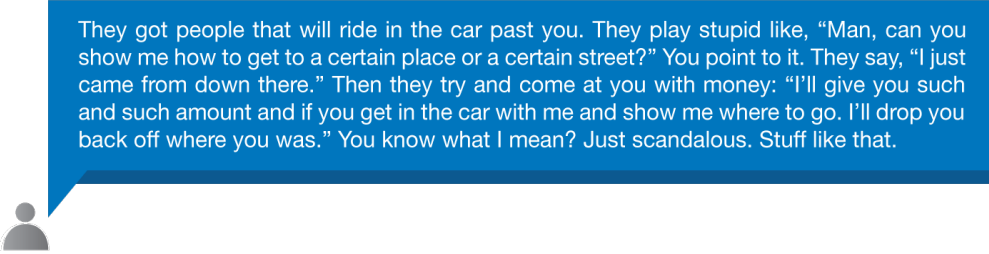
One male respondent discussed a recent episode in which he was drunk and encountered a complete stranger on the street who convinced him to trade sex for quick money while he was homeless:



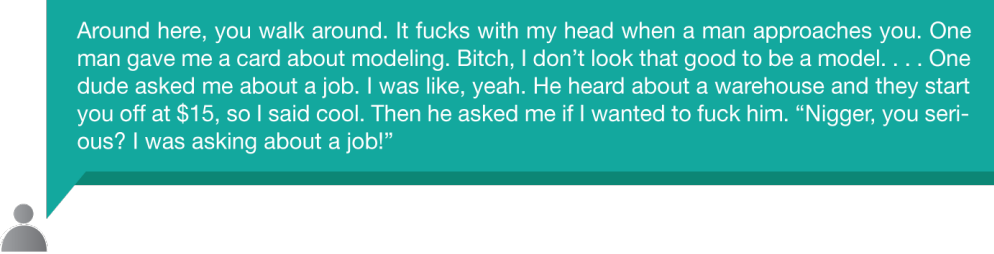
I had drunk a lot. I was extremely drunk. You know when you get to the point that you’re so drunk you’re not aware of your actions? So someone hands you a drink; you’re going to start drinking more, and you get to that limit where you’re like blackout. I didn’t completely blackout but this dude pretty much talked me into like tricking or whatever: “Hey, I’ll pay you.” And I was like, “Well how does that work?” And I just went through with it. I was drunk. I wasn’t thinking, and that was the only time. I would never do it again.



Because he perceived that his sexual identity was at stake in the experience, the respondent felt great deal of anxiety talking about using sex to make money. He indicated that he is offered many opportunities like this, though, because he often encounters a man “in the Quarter that always tries to [convince him to trade sex], but I’m like, ‘Dude, my mind’s sharp. You’re not going to manipulate me into doing this, you know.’ He tries and he tries and I’m like, ‘I’m not going to do it.’” Several male respondents explained that people approach young men for “scandalous” reasons all the time:



They got people that will ride in the car past you. They play stupid like, “Man, can you show me how to get to a certain place or a certain street?” You point to it. They say, “I just came from down there.” Then they try and come at you with money: “I’ll give you such and such amount and if you get in the car with me and show me where to go. I’ll drop you back off where you was.” You know what I mean? Just scandalous. Stuff like that.



Around here, you walk around. It fucks with my head when a man approaches you. One man gave me a card about modeling. Bitch, I don’t look that good to be a model. . . . One dude asked me about a job. I was like, yeah. He heard about a warehouse and they start you off at \$15, so I said cool. Then he asked me if I wanted to fuck him. “Nigger, you serious? I was asking about a job!”

Many of our informants described the kind of “creepy” encounters we’ve seen above. As a result of the persistent predatory behaviors they encountered while walking around alone, the clients at Covenant House expressed a great deal of anxiety about the risks involved in staying out at night downtown.

At the same time, the residents consistently described many of the mechanisms that made Covenant House a safer space for them than living on the streets. Many of them had turned to Covenant House for protection from just these sorts of dangers. As part of the case management structure at Covenant House, residents follow a curfew of 6 p.m. on weekdays and 8 p.m. on weekends. When respondents discussed being approached, they repeatedly indicated they knew they needed to avoid talking to strangers on the street altogether, and they often concluded that it was best for them to remain indoors at Covenant House as much as possible to avoid these situations.

UTILIZING THE HTIAM-14

The HTIAM-14 is a brief questionnaire that allows service providers, medical professionals, or law enforcement to determine if a person is a victim of trafficking in as little as 20 minutes.

We found that typically, the first question regarding “dangerous work” would elicit a story from the respondent, which would then allow us to ask more specific questions about exploitative work situations. However, the HTIAM-14 is most effective when respondents have had at least some work experience. Because the questions focus on dangerous or exploitative working conditions, those who have few work experiences (or few dangerous ones) don’t have the time to build a rapport with the interviewers that encourages them to open up about exploitation and sex in the latter part of the survey.

We found that men were less likely to perceive their work experiences as “dangerous” or “forced,” and therefore, their interviews tended to be shorter and to divulge less. We found it useful to ask about work experience in general before launching into questions that required respondents to admit their vulnerability. We also found that asking young New Orleans men if they perceived their work as dangerous would typically result in a negative response, at least in part because of the bravado required of men in our culture. However, when asked whether an outside observer might find some of their work experiences dangerous, they often began to describe incredibly hazardous work, in a wide variety of occupations, but including sex work and drug dealing. This indicated to us that men in particular were less likely to reveal their fear and vulnerability and were aided in opening up if they were allowed to project that fear onto an observer or interviewer.

We also found that respondents often disclosed relevant experiences when, at the end of the interview, we asked if they had experienced anything else they felt we could learn from in our study. In several cases, it was in response to this question that the young women and men would reveal experiences of exploitation that they did not feel were appropriate responses to any of the more work-related questions in the HTIAM-14. We suspect that this indicates reluctance in some interviewees to understand what we would consider “informal labor” as “work.”

We found it useful to ask questions about being “approached” for work or other activities because it not only allowed us to understand the environment in which the youth were living, but it also sometimes allowed us to shift the conversation to illicit activities. When they admitted that people had approached them for illegal or informal work, it gave us an opportunity to ask if they had ever accepted that kind of work. This line of questioning is likely most useful for shelters that are attempting to lower the risk factors for their clients who are attempting to extract themselves from these activities. The prevalence of strangers approaching youth to engage in sex work leads us to believe that youth are vulnerable to ubiquitous temptations to engage in potentially dangerous work and that they may be under-reporting their acceptance of such offers.

This discussion might also be useful to those who are utilizing the short version of the recently released Vera Institute of Justice Trafficking Victim Identification Tool, as it is quite similar to the HTIAM-14 in its questions and methods, approaches to trafficking in all its forms, and sensitivity to the way victims frame their experiences.¹³

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY AND PRACTICE

I. SERVICES AND CARE

- **Covenant House and similarly qualified shelters should increase the number of beds and space available for homeless youth, especially those involved in the sex trade.** Given that young people reported that they are persistently approached by strangers presenting them with opportunities to engage in illicit activities when they are sleeping on the streets and also noted that shelters provide the protection they seek, it is imperative that we offer them the shelter and resources they need. Predatory pimps and other potential exploiters haunt our city's streets and prey upon vulnerable youth. Respondents believed that these predators recognized them as homeless and admitted they were often particularly susceptible to pie-in-the-sky offers because of their desperate situations. Increased shelter space, beds, and resources for youth when they are most vulnerable will help safeguard them against acquiescing to such offers.
- **Covenant House, their service partners, and other qualified service providers should continue to increase the availability of specialized services for victims of sex trafficking.** With more than one in 10 of Covenant House's residents reporting incidents of sex trafficking, it is clear that impoverished youth in our city are particularly vulnerable to sex traffickers. Some of the young people were victimized by desperate family members who used them to make money, while others were held captive by intimate partners who made money from their labor. At least two of the respondents were even kidnapped into the sex trade. Despite the fact that all of the women who had been trafficked indicated a high level of emotional trauma, many of them admitted that they had not spoken openly to counselors about that experience. We recommended counseling services for them during the interview, but there is little specialized counseling offered to victims of human trafficking to meet their particular intersection of needs, and there are only three shelters dedicated to care for victims of trafficking in all of Southern Louisiana, offering a total of only 30 beds. We need to invest in specialized care for people who are exploited for sex to address the complex of traumatic responses unique to that population.
- **Covenant House, their service partners, and the New Orleans community in general should continue to increase work opportunities and job skills training for young adults.** Lack of work opportunities encourages young people to perform any kind of work that provides an income. Providing a living wage, increased jobs, and greater opportunities for job skills training is likely the most important step we can take in preventing sex trafficking and survival sex as well as voluntary engagement in the sex trade that results from economic desperation. The vast majority of the people who were trafficked or exploited in other ways for their labor indicated they were compelled to take jobs that they suspected could be harmful or dangerous because they had no other work opportunities. Nationally, there are more than 5.6 million youths age 18–34 who are unwillingly unemployed.¹⁴ In New Orleans, at least 10% of youth (and 16% of African-American youth) age 18–24

are “disconnected”—both unenrolled in school and unemployed.¹⁵ If we are going to take the issue of human trafficking seriously in our region, we have to take unemployment seriously.

- **Service providers and others interacting with at-risk populations should increase attention to male youth who engage in trading sex.** The two men who indicated they had engaged in trading sex under the age of 18 bragged about their experiences and seemed proud of them. While we must acknowledge their agency and their confidence, we should also be aware of the potential needs of this population, who may not be as comfortable discussing the ways they were harmed by those experiences. Many young men were hesitant to talk about work in the sex trade, and a more comprehensive approach to male sexuality and male sexual labor will be required if we are to identify young men who are being victimized.

II. POLICY AND ADVOCACY

- **Legislators and service providers must collaborate to address the problem of “aging out” of foster care.** “Aging out” refers to the process by which young people no longer receive services through the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) or through the foster care system after they turn 18. In 2013, the Louisiana DCFS eliminated their Young Adult Program that helped foster youth who aged out of the system to pay for transitional housing and other services. As a result, 18 and 19-year-olds are especially vulnerable to homelessness, informal and exploitative labor arrangements, and predatory offers. Many of our respondents suggested that they only participated in survival sex or the sex trade once they found themselves homeless as a result of aging out. DCFS should provide greater long-term care and transitional opportunities for those young people who age out of their system.
- **Legislators must remedy the problem of “aging out” from legal protections.** “Aging out” can also refer to the way the law protects people who engage in the sex trade if they do so before the age of 18, but after which, they are considered to be engaging in criminal activity. Among those child victims of sex trafficking interviewed for this study, nearly half were re-trafficked when they were of adult age. Currently, however, if a person is arrested at the age of 18 (or older) for trading sex, their age of entry is not a consideration. This aging out leaves young adult trafficking victims vulnerable to criminalization (and re-traumatization) through the criminal justice system. Legislation should address this issue so that law enforcement and judges can consider the context in which a person entered the sex trade as part of his or her defense.
- **Community activists, legal professionals, and service providers should raise awareness of Louisiana’s new law to vacate convictions of trafficking victims.** As a result of being treated as criminals instead of victims, survivors of human trafficking often have extensive arrest records and even felony convictions. In 2014, Louisiana passed HB 1025 that allows people who are found to be victims of sex trafficking to have prostitution and “crimes against nature” charges removed

from their records. Though this law is in place to assist survivors, few people have been made aware of its remedies. We need to actively disseminate this information so that people who have been wrongfully convicted will be able to have these violations removed from their records.

- **The legislature and local police departments should fund and require law enforcement training for identification of victims of trafficking.** Of the 15 people who reported being forced to work—whether in the sex trade, the drug trade, or factory work—not one of them had been identified by law enforcement or the legal system as a victim of trafficking. Nearly half of them had been arrested for offenses related to dealing drugs or trading sex, but none of them were identified at that time as having been forced to engage in the work—and of course that means likely none of them were provided specialized services that could have aided their escape. A 2010 study showed that 40% of juveniles allegedly involved in commercial sex work were treated as criminals by law enforcement rather than as victims of a crime.¹⁶ The HTIAM-14 and the new Vera Institute Trafficking Victims Identification Tool are validated instruments that allow not only service providers but also law enforcement officers to ascertain whether a person has been trafficked or not. We need to fund mandatory training for law enforcement and legal professionals to utilize this tool in their work so that we do not continue to criminalize people who are in need of support, legal defense, and specialized services.
- **Researchers need to study the existence and realities of forced drug dealing, and our communities should pursue a more informed approach to this form of trafficking.** New Orleans has invested enormous resources in uncovering illicit gang activity and understanding violent crime rates in our city. However, there is little research at the local, national, or international level about the experience of being forced into drug dealing.¹⁷ Though drug dealing occurs as part of an informal economy, those who participate in it can nonetheless be victims of the “force, fraud, and coercion” that we use to characterize trafficking. We need to respond better to the force factors that encourage gang involvement and work with young people to understand the context within which they have engaged in such dangerous, criminalized activities.

FOOTNOTES

¹"The Global Slavery Index 2014" (2nd ed., report by the Walk Free Foundation; West Perth: Hope for Children Organization Australia, 2014).

²Heather J. Clawson, Nicole Dutch, Amy Solomon, and Lisa G. Grace, "Human Trafficking Into and Within the United States: A Review of the Literature" (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, 2009). Online: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/07/HumanTrafficking/LitRev/index.shtml>; Ric Curtis, Karen Terry, Meredith Dank, Kirk Dombrowski, Bilal Khan, Amy Muslim, Melissa Labriola, and Michael Rempel, "The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in New York City" (report by the National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice, 2008). Online: http://www.courtinnovation.org/sites/default/files/CSEC_NYC_Executive_Summary.pdf; Sharon Cooper, Angelo P. Giardino, Brad Russ, Cherry Kingsley, and Faye Battiste-Otto, *Psychosocial Context Leading Juveniles to Prostitution and Sexual Exploitation* (St. Louis: STM Learning, 2005).

³Clawson, "Human Trafficking"; Michel Dorais and Peter Feldstein, *Rent Boys: The World of Male Sex Workers* (Montréal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2005).

⁴Michel Dorais, Patrice Corriveau, and Peter Feldstein, *Gangs and Girls: Understanding Juvenile Prostitution* (Montréal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2009).

⁵Lisa A. Kramer and Ellen C. Berg, "A Survival Analysis of Timing of Entry into Prostitution: The Differential Impact of Race, Educational Level, and Childhood/Adolescent Risk Factors," *Sociological Inquiry* 73, no. 4 (2003): 511–28.

⁶Ellen Wright Clayton, Richard D. Krugman, and Patti Simon, eds., "Confronting Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking of Minors in the United States" (Institute of Medicine and National Research Council of the National Academies; Washington, D.C.: National Academies Press, 2014). Online: http://books.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=18358.

⁷Duren Banks and Tracey Kyckelhahn, "Characteristics of Suspected Human Trafficking Incidents, 2008–2010" (Publication No. NCJ 233732; Bureau of Justice Statistics; Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2011).

⁸Laura T. Murphy and Brian Ea, "The Louisiana Human Trafficking Report" (report; New Orleans: Modern Slavery Research Project, 2014).

⁹Atlas.ti Version 7.1 (computer software; Berlin: Scientific Software Development, 1999).

¹⁰"Demographics for Fiscal Year 2013, 2014" (internal document; Covenant House, November 2014).

¹¹N. E. Walls and Stephanie Bell, "Correlates of Engaging in Survival Sex among Homeless Youth and Young Adults," *Journal of Sex Research* 48, no. 5 (2010): 423–36; Kimberly A. Tyler & Katherine A. Johnson, "Trading Sex: Voluntary or Coerced? The Experiences of Homeless Youth," *Journal of Sex Research* 43, no. 3 (2006): 208–216.

¹²Walls and Bell, "Correlates"; "Sel Julian Hwahng and Larry Nuttbrock, "Sex Workers, Fem Queens, and Cross-Dressers: Differential Marginalizations and HIV Vulnerabilities among Three Ethnocultural Male-to-Female Transgender Communities in New York City." *Sexuality Research and Social Policy* 4, no. 4 (2007): 36–59; Brandon D. L. Marshall, Kate Shannon, Thomas Kerr, Ruth Zhang, and Evan Wood, "Survival Sex Work and Increased HIV Risk Among Sexual Minority Street-Involved Youth," *JAIDS: Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes* 53, no. 5 (2010): 661–64; Lydia A. Sausa, Joanne Keatley, and Don Operario, "Perceived Risks and Benefits of Sex Work among Transgender Women of Color in San Francisco," *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 36, no. 6 (2007): 768–77.

¹³"Guidelines for Administering the Trafficking Victim Identification Tool (TVIT)" (New York: Vera Institute of Justice, 2014).

¹⁴Catherine Ruetschlin and Tamara Draut, "Stuck: Young America's Persistent Job Crisis" (New York: Demos, 2013). Online: [http://www.demos.org/sites/default/files/publications/Stuck\(uploaded\)_3.pdf](http://www.demos.org/sites/default/files/publications/Stuck(uploaded)_3.pdf).

¹⁵Susan Sellers, Andre Perry, Petrice Sams-Abiodun, Allison Plyer, and Elaine Ortiz, "Building an Inclusive, High-Skilled Workforce for New Orleans' Next Economy" (report, 2012). Online: https://gnocdc.s3.amazonaws.com/reports/GNOCDC_BuildingAnInclusiveHigh-SkilledWorkforceForNewOrleansNextEconomy.pdf.

¹⁶S. Halter, "Factors That Influence Police Conceptualizations of Girls Involved in Prostitution in Six U.S. Cities: Child Sexual Exploitation Victims or Delinquents?" *Child Maltreatment* 15, no. 2 (2010): 152–60; Amy Farrell and Jack McDevitt, "Improving Law Enforcement Identification and Response to Human Trafficking," in *Human Trafficking: Exploring the International Nature, Concerns, and Complexities* (ed. John Winterdyk, Benjamin Perrin, and Philip L. Reichel; Boca Raton, Fla.: CRC, 2012), 181–206.

¹⁷Brief references to forced drug dealing as a form of human trafficking can be found in the following sources: Farrell and McDevitt, "Improving Law Enforcement"; Banks and Kyckelhahn, "Characteristics"; and "Combating Trafficking as Modern-Day Slavery: A Matter of Rights, Freedoms and Security" (Vienna: OSCE Office of the Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, 2010).



**MODERN
SLAVERY**
RESEARCH PROJECT

LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY
NEW ORLEANS

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U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs *Office for Victims of Crime*

Dear OVC Human Trafficking Program Grantee:

Washington, D.C. 20531

The purpose of this letter is to provide updated guidance regarding client eligibility and services through the Office for Victims of Crime's (OVC's) Human Trafficking Program.

Eligible Victims

A. Client is under 18

1. Client is a victim of sex trafficking

Sex Trafficking: The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age.

2. Client is a victim of labor trafficking

Labor Trafficking: The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

3. Client is a victim of sex and labor trafficking

B. Client is over 18

1. Client is a victim of sex trafficking

Sex Trafficking: The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion.

2. Client is a victim of labor trafficking

Labor Trafficking: The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

3. Client is a victim of sex and labor trafficking

Examples of Sex Trafficking: Note that the definition of sex trafficking differs for adults and minors.

Sex trafficking of minors requires a commercial sex act with a minor, which includes any sex act or an attempted sex act with a minor on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person. The exchange need not involve cash, but may consist of an exchange of food, shelter, drugs, or other things of value.

Commercial sex acts may occur in the context of street prostitution, brothels, escort services, online ads, gang-related activity, abusive family members or others, or during the production of images or videos of the sexual exploitation of a minor if something of value is exchanged in connection with photographed or filmed sex acts.

Sex trafficking of adults requires force, fraud, or coercion in the inducement of the commercial sex acts. This may include, but is not limited to: physical and/or sexual assault, threats of violence to the victim and/or the victim's loved ones, or threats to reveal information about the victim, false promises of work, exploitation and/or creation of drug or alcohol use and/or dependency, and exploitation of mental and/or physical disabilities.

Examples of Labor Trafficking: In labor trafficking, force, fraud, or coercion are required elements of the crime for both adults and minors. Labor trafficking occurs in almost every segment of the workforce, including, but not limited to: agriculture, factory work, construction, restaurants, hotels, domestic labor (cleaning, childcare, eldercare), janitorial work, door-to-door sales, street peddling, begging, drug smuggling or selling, hair/nail/beauty salons, and **sexualized industries (including massage parlors, nightclubs, and strip clubs)**. Labor trafficking also occurs within families, including servile marriages (where victims are forced to perform labor and/or services in the home or family business and the victim is married to the trafficker) and trafficked child laborers (where the child is forced to perform labor and/or services in a home or business). Traffickers use everything from violence, threats of violence, withholding of documents, manipulation of legal systems, exploitation of mental and physical disabilities, and mounting debt to enslave their victims.

Examples of Labor Trafficking That Include Sexual Assault: Some labor trafficking victims have been subjected to sexual assaults. Where there is no commercial element to

the sexual assault, it does not qualify as sex trafficking but may constitute rape or employment harassment or discrimination.

Examples of Labor Trafficking in Sexualized Industries: Some labor trafficking victims have been forced to perform sexualized labor, such as stripping or being photographed where no commercial sex acts have taken place. While there is a commercial element, there are no sex *acts*, and thus this is labor trafficking and may also constitute employment harassment or discrimination.

Examples of Both Sex and Labor Trafficking: Human trafficking cases can also include elements of both commercial sex and forced labor, such as a victim who was forced to both serve drinks and perform commercial sex acts in a bar. This example includes labor trafficking (serving drinks) and sex trafficking (forced commercial sex acts).

From: Jennifer Avegno <javegn@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 14, 2016 4:57 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux; kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: FW: Adult Live Entertainment Study: Petition -- Please sign-on by 5/18

I am happy to sign the petition below.

Thanks,

Jennifer Avegno
New Orleans, LA 70115

PETITION

City Planning Commission's Study of Adult Live Entertainment Venues

We thank the City Council and the City Planning Commission for their recent efforts to study "Adult Live Entertainment Venues in the City of New Orleans." We are pleased that "the study will consider: limitations on the number of such establishments, best practices of other cities, land use regulatory mechanisms, use standards, and input from industry representatives and impacted businesses."

It is known that:

In October 2015, law enforcement found drug dealing and prostitution taking place in 9 out of 14 strip clubs in a month long undercover investigation. Drug dealing and prostitution (male and female) is also known to take place in other kinds of clubs and venues.

New Orleans is considered a major hub for human sex trafficking by national law enforcement and human trafficking experts (including the Polaris Project).

According to a lawsuit, reported by the Times Picayune and Wall Street Journal, dancers in strip clubs are often hired as independent contractors, not as employees with regular benefits. Dancers are constantly sexually harassed, and are forced to work in an environment that is neither safe nor crime free.

A Loyola University study estimated 87 residents from Covenant House, a homeless youth shelter, were survivors of human trafficking each year and an estimated 150 residents per year if the sex industry and strip clubs were included.

We believe that:

The existing number of strip clubs leads to an increase in overall French Quarter crime including violence, prostitution, lewd/improper acts, petty crime and drug dealing – and therefore does not promote the public health, welfare and safety of the City.

We, the undersigned, recommend that:

- No one under the age of 21 should be allowed to work in any capacity within a strip club or adult entertainment venue.
- A special designation should be made that defines these establishments which would allow tighter restrictions and regulations, such as no one under 21 should be allowed to work within the premises.
- In accord with the Federal Labors Standards Act, dancers should be hired as regular employees with standard benefits, should be provided a safe, crime free environment, and should not be allowed to be sexually harassed.
- The number of strip clubs in our city needs to decrease by 65%, any new or re-opened clubs should not be allowed outside of the “adult live performance venue IZD” or within 1,000 feet of residences, schools, or houses of worship.
- A special tax/fee needs to be levied against the strip clubs to pay for increased law enforcement on Bourbon Street, and for weekly inspections of the clubs including VIP rooms.
- Enforcement of all regulations, existing and proposed, should be enforced by both NOPD and the State Police.

Signed,

Jennifer Avegno

--



HOUSE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

2016 Regular Session

Amendments proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to Reengrossed Senate Bill No. 90 by Senator Johns

1 AMENDMENT NO. 1

2 On page 1, line 2, after "reenact" delete the remainder of the line, delete lines 3 through 15
3 in their entirety and insert the following:

4 "R.S. 14:46.2(A)(1) and (B)(2) and R.S. 15:541(2)(o) and (12)(b), relative to
5 human trafficking; to expand the crime of human trafficking to include
6 specific elements and penalties relative to the trafficking of persons under the
7 age of twenty-one years for the purpose of engaging in commercial sexual
8 activity; to require persons convicted of human trafficking to register as a sex
9 offender when the victim is under the age of twenty-one years; and to
10 provide for"

11 AMENDMENT NO. 2

12 On page 2, line 1, after "Section 1." delete the remainder of the line, delete line 2 in its
13 entirety, and insert "R.S. 14:46.2(A)(1) and (B)(2) are hereby"

14 AMENDMENT NO. 3

15 On page 2, delete lines 4 through 29 in their entirety and insert the following:

16 "§46.2. Human trafficking
17 A. It shall be unlawful:
18 (1)(a) For any person to knowingly recruit, harbor, transport,
19 provide, solicit, receive, isolate, entice, obtain, or maintain the use of another
20 person through fraud, force, or coercion to provide services or labor.
21 (b) For any person to knowingly recruit, harbor, transport, provide,
22 solicit, sell, purchase, receive, isolate, entice, obtain, or maintain the use of
23 a person under the age of twenty-one years for the purpose of engaging in
24 commercial sexual activity regardless of whether the person was recruited,
25 harbored, transported, provided, solicited, sold, purchased, received, isolated,
26 enticed, obtained, or maintained through fraud, force, or coercion. It shall
27 not be a defense to prosecution for a violation of the provisions of this
28 Subparagraph that the person did not know the age of the victim or that the
29 victim consented to the prohibited activity.

30 * * *

31 B.

32 * * *

33 (2)(a) Whoever commits the crime of human trafficking when the
34 services include commercial sexual activity or any sexual conduct
35 constituting a crime under the laws of this state shall be fined not more than
36 fifteen thousand dollars and shall be imprisoned at hard labor for not more
37 than twenty years.

38 (b) Whoever commits the crime of human trafficking in violation of
39 the provisions of Subparagraph (A)(1)(b) of this Section shall be fined not
40 more than fifty thousand dollars, imprisoned at hard labor for not less than
41 fifteen years, nor more than fifty years, or both.

42 * * *"

1 AMENDMENT NO. 4

2 Delete pages 3 through 7 in their entirety and insert the following:

3 "Section 2. R.S. 15:541(2)(o) and (12)(b) are hereby amended and
4 reenacted to read as follows:

5 AMENDMENT NO. 5

6 On page 8, delete lines 1 through 10 in their entirety

7 AMENDMENT NO. 6

8 On page 8, delete line 18 in its entirety

9 AMENDMENT NO. 7

10 On page 8, delete lines 23 through 29 in their entirety and insert the following:

11 "(12) "Criminal offense against a victim who is a minor" for the
12 purposes of this Chapter means conviction for the perpetration or attempted
13 perpetration of or conspiracy to commit any of the following offenses:

14 * * *

15 (b)(i) A violation of any of the following provisions when the victim
16 is under eighteen years of age: R.S. ~~14:46.2, 84(1)~~, 14:84(1), (3), (5), or (6),
17 or 86, or R.S. 23:251(A)(4).

18 (ii) A violation of R.S. 14:46.2 when the victim is under twenty-one
19 years of age.

20 * * *"

21 AMENDMENT NO. 8

22 Delete pages 9 through 17 in their entirety

HOUSE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

2016 Regular Session

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6 specific elements and penalties relative to the trafficking of persons under the
7 age of twenty-one years for the purpose of engaging in commercial sexual
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9 offender when the victim is under the age of twenty-one years; and to
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27 not be a defense to prosecution for a violation of the provisions of this
28 Subparagraph that the person did not know the age of the victim or that the
29 victim consented to the prohibited activity.

30 * * *

31 B.

32 * * *

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35 constituting a crime under the laws of this state shall be fined not more than
36 fifteen thousand dollars and shall be imprisoned at hard labor for not more
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39 the provisions of Subparagraph (A)(1)(b) of this Section shall be fined not
40 more than fifty thousand dollars, imprisoned at hard labor for not less than
41 fifteen years, nor more than fifty years, or both.

42 * * *"

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

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18 (ii) A violation of R.S. 14:46.2 when the victim is under twenty-one
19 years of age.

20 * * *"

21 AMENDMENT NO. 8

22 Delete pages 9 through 17 in their entirety

From: James Kelly <jkelly@covenanthouse.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 7:41 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleur
Cc: Robert D. Rivers
Subject: Statewide legislation -- human trafficking and dancers -- age 21

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Sabine,

Thought the following news media links should be a part of your website electronic file. Thanks,

www.theneworleansadvocate.com/news/.../louisiana-senate-approves-bid-to-raise-hum...

1.

<http://www.theneworleansadvocate.com/opinion/15849761-123/grace-notes-for-rep-kenny-havard-blaming-political-correctness-no-free-pass-for-incivility>

<http://www.theneworleansadvocate.com/opinion/15850489-123/stephanie-grace-mcfarland-havard-spark-talk-about-sexism>

http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2016/05/louisiana_fat_house_strippers.html#incart_river_mobile_index

http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2016/05/strippers_louisiana_legislatur.html#incart_river_mobile_index

Jim Kelly

--

James R. Kelly
Executive Director
Covenant House
611 N. Rampart Street
Office: [\(504\) 584 1102](tel:5045841102) Cell: [\(504\) 975 0650](tel:5049750650)



Opening Doors for Homeless Youth

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not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify the sender immediately by e-mail and delete the original message.

From: Elenore Falshaw <elenoref@mcgeheeschool.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 05, 2016 3:44 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Adult Live Entertainment Study - Petition

PETITION

City Planning Commission's Study of Adult Live Entertainment Venues

We thank the City Council and the City Planning Commission for their recent efforts to study "Adult Live Entertainment Venues in the City of New Orleans." We are pleased that "the study will consider: limitations on the number of such establishments, best practices of other cities, land use regulatory mechanisms, use standards, and input from industry representatives and impacted businesses."

It is known that:

In October 2015, law enforcement found drug dealing and prostitution taking place in 9 out of 14 strip clubs in a month long undercover investigation. Drug dealing and prostitution (male and female) is also known to take place in other kinds of clubs and venues.

New Orleans is considered a major hub for human sex trafficking by national law enforcement and human trafficking experts (including the Polaris Project).

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A Loyola University study estimated 87 residents from Covenant House, a homeless youth shelter, were survivors of human trafficking each year and an estimated 150 residents per year if the sex industry and strip clubs were included.

We believe that:

The existing number of strip clubs leads to an increase in overall French Quarter crime including violence, prostitution, lewd/improper acts, petty crime and drug dealing – and therefore does not promote the public health, welfare and safety of the City.

We, the undersigned, recommend that:

- No one under the age of 21 should be allowed to work in any capacity within a strip club or adult entertainment venue.

- A special designation should be made that defines these establishments which would allow tighter restrictions and regulations, such as no one under 21 should be allowed to work within the premises.
- In accord with the Federal Labors Standards Act, dancers should be hired as regular employees with standard benefits, should be provided a safe, crime free environment, and should not be allowed to be sexually harassed.
- The number of strip clubs in our city needs to decrease by 65%, any new or re-opened clubs should not be allowed outside of the “adult live performance venue IZD” or within 1,000 feet of residences, schools, or houses of worship.
- A special tax/fee needs to be levied against the strip clubs to pay for increased law enforcement on Bourbon Street, and for weekly inspections of the clubs including VIP rooms.
- Enforcement of all regulations, existing and proposed, should be enforced by both NOPD and the State Police.

Elenore Falshaw
223 Verret Street
New Orleans, LA 70114
504-232-8131

From: Madalyn Schenk <madschenk@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2016 3:46 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: Palmer Kristin
Subject: Adult Live Entertainment Venues

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

PETITION

City Planning Commission's Study of Adult Live Entertainment Venues

We thank the City Council and the City Planning Commission for their recent efforts to study "Adult Live Entertainment Venues in the City of New Orleans." We are pleased that "the study will consider: limitations on the number of such establishments, best practices of other cities, land use regulatory mechanisms, use standards, and input from industry representatives and impacted businesses."

It is known that:

In October 2015, law enforcement found drug dealing and prostitution taking place in 9 out of 14 strip clubs in a month long undercover investigation. Drug dealing and prostitution (male and female) is also known to take place in other kinds of clubs and venues.

New Orleans is considered a major hub for human sex trafficking by national law enforcement and human trafficking experts (including the Polaris Project).

According to a lawsuit, reported by the Times Picayune and Wall Street Journal, dancers in strip clubs are often hired as independent contractors, not as employees with regular benefits. Dancers are constantly sexually harassed, and are forced to work in an environment that is neither safe nor crime free.

A Loyola University study estimated 87 residents from Covenant House, a homeless youth shelter, were survivors of human trafficking each year and an estimated 150 residents per year if the sex industry and strip clubs were included.

We believe that:

The existing number of strip clubs leads to an increase in overall French Quarter crime including violence, prostitution, lewd/improper acts, petty crime and drug dealing – and therefore does not promote the public health, welfare and safety of the City.

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- Enforcement of all regulations, existing and proposed, should be enforced by both NOPD and the State Police.

Signed By:

Madalyn Schenk
600 Port of New Orleans Place
New Orleans, LA 70130

After 30 Years, Times Square Rebirth Is Complete

By CHARLES V. BAGLIDEC. 3, 2010

[Continue reading the main story](#) [Share This Page](#)



A look at 42nd Street at night. The redevelopment of Times Square, which started three decades ago, will be done with the opening of 11 Times Square next month. Credit Richard Perry/The New York Times

Next month, 11 Times Square, a new, glassy 40-story office tower at 42nd Street and Eighth Avenue, will formally open with its first tenant. Compared with the metamorphosis that has occurred around it, there is nothing extraordinary about the building except for this: Its completion officially marks the end of the long and tortuous redevelopment of Times Square, an effort that began 30 years ago.

The plan, to radically make over 13 acres, between Broadway and Eighth Avenue, primarily fronting 42nd Street, outlived three mayors, four governors, two real estate booms and two recessions. It faced widespread derision in the

beginning from jaded New Yorkers who were wise to grand plans. It faces occasional derision today from New Yorkers who speak of the old Times Square with newfound fondness.

It embodied both the hubris of urban master planning and its possibilities, and showed the value of ripping up blueprints and starting over in midstream. And it has been a touchstone experience for a city that is now building, or trying to build, several multibillion-dollar projects, including ground zero, the Atlantic Yards, Willets Point and the Hudson Yards.

“So often, people say New York can’t build large-scale projects anymore,” said Lynne B. Sagalyn, a professor of real estate finance at Columbia University and the author of “Times Square Roulette: Remaking the City Icon.”

But, Professor Sagalyn said, “Times Square is an example of how a city was able to think on a grand scale and carry it out.”

“It can take a decade or two for the complete vision to become a reality,” she continued. “But it happened here.”

Success is evident. Crime is down significantly from the days when pimps, prostitutes, drug addicts and dope pushers prowled Times Square and the Deuce, as that stretch of 42nd Street was known. The number of tourists is up 74 percent since 1993, to an estimated 36.5 million last year, and attendance at Broadway shows has soared to nearly 12 million.

Morgan Stanley, Allianz Global Investors, Viacom and Condé Nast now make their corporate homes there. Retailers are paying rents as high as \$1,400 a square foot, second only to those on chic stretches of Fifth and Madison Avenues.

And while many billboards in Times Square were blank in 1979, today the area is a kaleidoscope of moving images depicting financial institutions, automakers and fashion houses, with the best spots on 1 Times Square’s facade commanding as much as \$4 million a year in rent.

“The irony is that this place represents in many ways the epitome of free-market capitalism,” said Tim Tompkins, president of the [Times Square Alliance](#). “But its transformation is due more to government intervention than just about any other development in the country.”

Times Square, of course, has certain unique qualities that none of the city’s current projects enjoy: it sits in the middle of Manhattan, has a rich, century-long history and is recognized internationally as the crossroads of the world. Even at the worst of times, tourists from England to Italy, Algeria to Japan came to New York to have their pictures taken in Times Square.

But the often painful rebirth also took perseverance and a long-term approach, rare characteristics in a city obsessed with making things happen in a New York minute.

The concerted effort began in 1980, when after years of complaints and false starts, Mayor Edward I. Koch and state officials announced the coming rejuvenation of Times Square.

The developer George Klein, who later formed a joint venture with Prudential, was selected to build four sedate skyscrapers at the famous intersection of 42nd Street, Broadway and Seventh Avenue. The state would take over the decrepit theaters, evict the peep shows and X-rated movie houses and restore the former dignity. The subway stations would be refurbished, and a huge merchandise mart would be built on Eighth Avenue, between 40th and 42nd Streets, across from the Port Authority Bus Terminal.

The plan envisioned the use of eminent domain, and the owners of the theaters and nearby office towers, like the Durst family, resisted.

There also was criticism of the large tax breaks showered upon developers and tenants in the new Times Square; the Municipal Art Society, a private planning and preservation group, once estimated that the redevelopment would entail more than \$1 billion in “unnecessary” property tax abatements and other benefits like zoning changes that allowed for taller towers than would otherwise be permitted.

By the time the state had fended off 47 lawsuits brought against the project, a severe recession in 1991 brought the city to its knees. The next year, for the first time, Gov. Mario M. Cuomo failed to mention Times Square in his State of the State address.

Rebecca Robertson, who was then president of the state’s 42nd Street Development Project, worried that the whole plan was unraveling. Prudential, which had already put up \$241 million for the land, threatened to pull out if it was forced to build towers at a time when it would be hard to fill them with tenants. It was given more time.

But this gloomy period, Ms. Robertson said, also proved to be an opportunity to overhaul the much-criticized development plan, whose four huge skyscrapers were designed more to bury Times Square’s sordid past than to celebrate its connection to popular culture.

Ms. Robertson, together with the architect Robert A. M. Stern and the graphic designer Tibor Kalman, devised an interim plan that reconnected with the “razzmatazz” of Times Square’s past by emphasizing entertainment, big garish signs, an eclectic mix of tenants and glassier, flashier office towers, with lobbies that seemed to flow onto the sidewalk rather than wall it off.

“To me, the market crash was a wonderful time to rethink the whole thing,” Ms. Robertson said, referring to a stock market crash in 1987. “We couldn’t have gotten our plan through in a hot market. The development pressures would’ve been way too strong. Everyone would’ve been talking about what big tenant can we get, and not about restoring popular culture and entertainment.”

The oft-heard complaint about the Disneyfication of Times Square sometimes loses sight of the fact that it was the Walt Disney Company, perhaps more than any other, that helped start the turnaround.

Disney wanted its own Broadway theater, but feared being a lonely outpost on a hostile block. A fierce negotiator despite its Mickey Mouse image, Disney reached an agreement to take over the New Amsterdam theater in the last days of Mayor David N. Dinkins’s tenure, got a low-interest loan from the state and prodded officials to sign deals with Madame Tussauds wax museum and the AMC Theaters, which moved in down the block. The restored theater has now been home to two wildly successful Disney plays, the Lion King, which later moved a few blocks away to the Minskoff Theater, and now Mary Poppins.

The economy recovered and then some, and the multicolored Westin Hotel, more movie theaters and the B. B. King Blues Club and Grill soon followed on the north side of 42nd Street. Douglas Durst, an early opponent, built 4 Times Square, the Condé Nast building, on land he acquired from Prudential. Then followed the Reuters building, the Ernst & Young tower and a fourth skyscraper as the wrecking ball demolished hot-dog stands and pornography shops.

One Times Square, the building atop which the ball drops every New Year’s Eve, and now the most expensive advertising space in the world, sold for \$110 million in 1997, four times what it had fetched just two years earlier after a foreclosure.

The New 42nd Street, the nonprofit group that oversees the redevelopment of seven historic theaters, created the New Victory children’s theater with low prices and an award-winning educational program.

Instead of a merchandise mart on Eighth Avenue, there is the New York Times’s new headquarters. Over objections from landowners, the state condemned a parcel that was home to 55 businesses, including a technical school, a hat store and sex shops, to build The Times’s third headquarters in the neighborhood in a century.

And there is 11 Times Square, on the last parcel to be redeveloped, and a sign of Times Square’s progress but also its challenges ahead. It was built speculatively, without tenants already lined up, and is now seeking to fill its floors amid competition from other buildings, including those going up at

ground zero. Proskauer Rose, a major law firm and its first occupant, is scheduled to move in next month.

The adoption of a revised redevelopment plan was a critical moment, said Mary Ann Tighe, a real estate executive. “They recognized that this wasn’t going to be Rockefeller Center West,” she said. “Each part of the city is unique and demands its own solution.”

One of the last remnants of the old Times Square is Jimmy Glenn, the owner of Jimmy’s Corner, a bar on West 44th Street east of Seventh Avenue. A boxing trainer, Mr. Glenn was the owner of the late Times Square Gym, located one floor above 42nd Street; boxers with names like Ali, Frazier and Tyson used to mount the long stairwell to his ring.

Now, he said, “it’s like a pinball machine out there.”

But Mr. Glenn, now 80, does not miss the drug addicts, pornography shops and criminals. “Everybody loves Times Square now,” he said.

Correction: December 14, 2010

An article on Dec. 4 about the end of the 30-year rehabilitation of Times Square misspelled the surname of a Columbia professor who wrote a book about the redevelopment, “Times Square Roulette: Remaking the City Icon.” She is Lynne B. Sagalyn, not Sagalynn.

Boston Journal; Cleanup Comes to the Combat Zone

Special to The New York Times

Published: July 20, 1989

BOSTON, July 19— Fifteen years ago, when the operators of peep shows and pornographic bookstores were threatening to open shop in colonial mansions on Beacon Hill, it seemed like a good idea for the city to create a special zone for adult entertainment that would keep such things away from the eyes of the Brahmin. The Combat Zone was born.

But years of crime in the Combat Zone have led Boston officials to believe that there is no place downtown for adult entertainment. Last month, city officials approved three major development projects that are expected to sweep away the dilapidated red-light district and replace it with a luxury hotel, five office towers and a large department store.

Developers have already bought the buildings that are home to the city's last peep shows, X-rated movie theaters and adult bookstores in the two-block Combat Zone. Plans call for the zone to be incorporated into a 28-block midtown cultural district, where theaters intended for family entertainment are to be spread among the new office buildings.

Because zoning laws forbid adult entertainment outside the Combat Zone, officials are hopeful that the construction projects will permanently displace the adult entertainment establishments as well as the prostitutes and criminals who have populated the area for years.

"I think the X-rated movies will all be gone, but that the Combat Zone image will linger," said Carl Geupel, project director for the Campeau Corporation, which is planning to build two office towers and a Bloomingdale's. "The average guy in suburbs like Wellesley Hills will still think of this as the Zone unless it is marketed well."

Alexander C. Twining, senior vice president of the F. D. Rich Company of Boston, predicted that adult entertainment would go to the suburbs once construction began. His company plans to build two office towers and a hotel in the Zone.

Red-light districts in New York City and in Washington have also been considered for fresh development, but only in Boston is it likely that adult entertainment will disappear. Because of Boston's zoning law, the displaced peep shows are not allowed to move to other city neighborhoods.

Although Boston's reputation as a city with a Puritan streak persists, officials say the demise of the Combat Zone has nothing to do with the morality of adult entertainment. Factors like the availability of adult videocassettes and the spread of AIDS have diminished the district's appeal.

The election in 1984 of Raymond L. Flynn, who as Mayor placed the interests of Boston's residential neighborhoods at the top of his priority list, also helped create a climate that was intolerant of the problems that the Combat Zone engendered.

At the 1974 creation of the Combat Zone through zoning legislation, city officials tried to lend legitimacy to their concept by naming the area the Boston Adult District, or BAD. Under Mayor Flynn, that acronym came to stand for Boston Against Drugs.

"Ten years ago, on a given weekend, we used to arrest between 80 and 120 people there, mostly for prostitution," said Lieut. Ed McNelley, a former chief of the police vice squad. "Today, it would take you a month to arrest 80 people. The numbers aren't there."

A heavy police presence and strict scrutiny of the practices of theaters and clubs have allowed city officials to chisel away at the Combat Zone through law enforcement. Last month, a week before the new projects were approved, the Boston Licensing Board revoked the last valid liquor license in the area, which belonged to a striptease club. The board has revoked 22 licenses there since 1977, citing a variety of violations.

Back in 1974 and for a while thereafter, city officials tried to put a good face on the idea of an adult entertainment zone, stressing that it would contain the spread of peep shows. The club owners even hired their own publicist to smooth community relations.

But the Combat Zone's reputation soured almost immediately, after a Harvard football player was stabbed to death there in 1975. Even though city officials

agreed early on that the experiment had gone awry, it took years before they could entice developers to move into the blighted district.

"We expected that the pace of development would eventually help it to be eradicated," said Robert Kenney, who headed the Boston Redevelopment Authority in 1974. "It just took a little longer than we had thought."

map of Boston highlighting Boston Common

Correction: August 4, 1989, Friday, Late Edition - Final An article July 20 about an adult entertainment zone in Boston misstated the year in which a Harvard football player was stabbed to death in the neighborhood known as the Combat Zone. It was 1976.

Petitioning New Orleans City Planning Commission

New Orleans Strip Club Study

Covenant House

We would like to thank the City Council and the City Planning Commission for their recent efforts to study “Adult Live Entertainment Venues in the City of New Orleans.” We are pleased that “the study will consider: limitations on the number of such establishments, best practices of other cities, land use regulatory mechanisms, use standards, and input from industry representatives and impacted businesses.”

We are concerned that:

In October 2015, law enforcement found drug dealing and prostitution taking place in 9 out of 12 strip clubs in a month long undercover investigation. Drug dealing and prostitution (male and female) also takes place in other kinds of clubs and venues.

New Orleans is considered a major hub for human sex trafficking by national law enforcement and human trafficking experts (including the Polaris Project).

A Loyola University study estimates 87 Covenant House residents per year were involved in human trafficking and an estimated 150 residents per year if the sex industry and strip clubs were included.

According to a lawsuit, reported by the Times Picayune, dancers in strip clubs are often hired as independent contractors. They are not employees with regular benefits therefore denying them their fundamental rights to receive minimum wage and to retain their tips from customers.

Strip club owners and management (licensed business establishments) are failing to ensure that their employees are not sexually harassed, and are failing to provide a safe, secure and crime free work environment.

We believe that:

The existing number and concentration of strip clubs leads to an increase in overall French Quarter crime including violence, prostitution, lewd/improper acts, petty crime and drug dealing – and therefore does not promote the public health, welfare and safety of the City.

As we approach our 300th anniversary, the strip clubs’ affiliated crimes and negative reputations are completely out of sync with marketing New Orleans as a world-class destination.

Please sign so that the City Planning Commission takes our concerns and beliefs seriously when making their recommendations for the future of New Orleans strip clubs.

This petition will be delivered to:

New Orleans City Planning Commission

Read the letter

Human rights

New orleans

Youth

Louisiana

Trafficking

Human trafficking

Covenant House started this petition with a single signature, and now has 87 supporters. Start a petition today to change something you care about.

Start a petition

Updates

2 months ago

50 supporters

3 months ago

Covenant House started this petition

Supporters

TOP COMMENTS

I detest the idea of "at risk" men and women 'forced' by circumstance into this life. The potential of these clubs for a life of selling oneself is an anathema to civilized society. I for one do not even support clubs that offer this form of entertainment in general.

William Terry, New Orleans, LA 2 months ago

1

Report

"The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to

its children.”

“We must learn to regard people less in the light of what they do or omit to do,
and more in the light of what they suffer.”

“Action springs not from thought, but from a readiness for responsibility.”

“Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating. By judging others we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled to as we are.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

If you have climbed a high mountain, you will find that there are still many other mountains to climb.

The ability to fight will be won in battle.

Nelson Mandela

A kind of very cruel human trafficking and forced prostitution are the crimes of so called loverboys. My Muslim Ex-tenant seems to be a lover boy and with this money he and his family has a great life! His girl friends was mostly underaged. The Muslim ‘Loverboys’ : Grooming And Pimping Epidemic In The Netherlands and Europe

Britain is not the only place in the world to have problems with Muslim men grooming schoolgirls to sexually exploit. The Netherlands also has its own problems with ‘Religion Of Peace’ followers and their grooming of non-Muslim young girls. These deviant Muslim men are known by the Dutch as ‘The Loverboys’ and the issues that result as their actions is referred to as “The Romeo Problem”

In a chilling parallel to the scandal sweeping Britain’s towns and cities, where a multitude of girls have been lured into sex-for-sale rings run by gangs, the Dutch pimps search out girls at school gates and in

cafes, posing as 'boyfriends' promising romance, fast car rides and restaurant meals. The men ply their victims with vodka and drugs. They tell them lies: that they love them and their families don't care for them. Then, the trap set, they rape them with other gang members, often taking photos of the attack to blackmail the girl into submission. Frightened, and too ashamed to tell parents or teachers, the girls are cynically isolated from their old lives and swept into prostitution.

With Amsterdam being renowned as the erotic capital of Europe that attracts visitors from all over the world due to its relaxed drug laws and its open minded attitude to all things sexual. Amsterdam's red light district is a maze of canal side narrow streets filled with small glass doors where the prostitutes sit on display or the curtains drawn across when their otherwise engaged. These doors are sandwiched between bars, peep shows, live xxx shows and sex shops. The saying sex sells is more relevant in Holland's capital than anywhere else in Europe. Unfortunately the Muslim 'loverboys' know this also, with little morales and no conscience all these Muslims groomers see is € signs and money to be made.

In Britain the Muslims responsible for the grooming epidemic sweeping the country are usually of Pakistani descent or its neighbouring nations. Those Muslims in the Netherlands carrying out the grooming and exploitation are normally always of Moroccan/North African descent or Turkish Muslims. This is more down to each country immigration over recent times. Mass Pakistani immigration into the UK, mass Moroccan / Turkish into Netherlands. Im pretty sure if you was to ask the Sweedes if they have any grooming problems they would cite Arabs being the culprits as that's where alot of Swedish Islamic immigrants have come from. The common factor in all is that its Muslims carrying the exploitation out .

Two years ago, 242 lover boy crimes were investigated by police, half of them involving the forced prostitution of girls under 18. Campaigner Anita de Wit says this is a fraction — 'one per cent' — of the true number. 'There are thousands of girls being preyed on by male gangs in Holland,' she says. Anita visits schools to warn girls exactly what a lover boy looks like, and makes no bones of the fact that most of the gangs are operated by Dutch-born Moroccan and Turkish men. 'I am not politically correct. I am not afraid of being called a racist, which would be untrue. I tell the girls that lover boys are young, dark-skinned and very good looking. They will have lots of money and bling as well. Anita's bluntness is a far cry from the approach in Britain, where political correctness has stopped police and social workers telling girls the same home truths: that in many towns, particularly in the north of England. " The lover boys seem to see white girls as worthless, to be abused without a second thought."

Anita began her campaign when her own daughter, Angelique, then aged 15, was lured into a sex gang after meeting a 21-year-old Moroccan boy at a coffee bar near her school. She would disappear from home for hours, often coming back only late at night. Sometimes, she would go missing for days, saying

she had been with friends. In fact, Angelique had been sleeping with a host of Moroccan men and earning money for her 'boyfriend', Mohammed. 'Her mobile phone would ring continuously, all day and through the night, too. She would even take it into the loo with her. Later Anita found out that the Muslim loverboys had been turning up at her school in flash cars, forcing her to leave class by intimidation and bullying 'When I looked at it later, there were violent texts saying: "If you don't come out now, you are for it and your family, too,"'

A Dutch report claimed the number of under-age girls forced into prostitution has been greatly underestimated, one year ago, some 195 out of the 1,200 officially-registered victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking were under age, the report's author Corinne Dettmeijer claimed. She also said that many young victims – those aged 18 to 23 – were also forced into prostitution when they were minors by Muslim sex gangs.

Anita Kanitz, Stuttgart, Germany 1 month ago

0

Report

As a social worker at Charity Hospital 1970-1994, the teen victims of the Bourbon St. sex industry were not only "teen brained", but psychologically damaged from their past history as to be incapable of rational decision making. Covenant House has been a God send for these very isolated young people. I am a strong advocate for the individual's rights to make his or her own decisions, but in this case, protective laws are warranted.

Alice Lowry, New Orleans, LA 1 month ago

0

Report

[View all comments](#)

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87 supporters

13 needed to reach 100



**Covenant
House**

*I would like to
sincerely affirm
everything written in
this letter,
Dr. Rose Powell
Domestic Center
N.O., LA 70118*

611 North Rampart Street
New Orleans, LA 70112-3505
(504) 584-1102
www.covenanthouseNO.org

JUN 06 11:26 AM

June 6, 2016

We would like to thank the City Council and the City Planning Commission for their recent efforts to study "Adult Live Entertainment Venues in the City of New Orleans." We are pleased that the study will consider "limitations on the number of such establishments, best practices of other cities, land use regulatory mechanisms, use standards, and input from industry representatives and impacted businesses."

We are concerned:

- In October 2015, law enforcement found drug dealing and prostitution taking place in 9 out of 14 New Orleans' strip clubs in an undercover investigation. Drug dealing and prostitution (male and female) are also known to take place in other kinds of clubs and venues.
- New Orleans is considered a major hub for human sex trafficking by national law enforcement and human trafficking experts (including the Polaris Project).
- A Loyola study estimates 87 Covenant House residents per year are survivors of human trafficking, increasing to 150 residents per year if the sex industry and strip clubs are included.
- According to recent lawsuits, and as reported by the Wall Street Journal and the Time Picayune, dancers in strip clubs are often hired as independent contractors and forced to share tips. They are constantly sexually harassed, and work in environments that are neither safe nor crime free.
- A Johns Hopkins study, in Baltimore, found 43% of dancers sold sex at strip clubs. The majority of dancers reported selling sex and drugs for the first time after beginning to dance at the clubs.
- A University of Louisville study found violent crime rates, in Louisville, to be 12.3 times higher within 500 feet of a sexually oriented business (strip club, massage parlor,...), and 8.3 times higher within 1000 feet.

We believe:

- The French Quarter's strip clubs have led to an increase in overall crime including violence, prostitution, lewd acts, and drug dealing – and therefore do not promote the public health, welfare, and safety of our City.
- As we approach our 300th anniversary, the strip clubs' affiliated crimes and negative reputations are completely out of sync with marketing New Orleans as a world-class destination.
- The number of strip clubs in our City should over time be reduced by at least 65 %.

We recommend:

- The existing laws and ordinances associated with strip clubs' liquor licenses/permits should be strictly and regularly enforced in each establishment including the V.I.P. rooms.
- A special tax/fee should be levied on the strip clubs to pay for increased and dedicated law enforcement (NOPD, ATC and State Police) on Bourbon Street, and for weekly inspections of the clubs.
- Strip clubs as business enterprises should have a particular set of rules, regulations, performance and safety standards (as adult live entertainment venues) which are regulated by the City.
- In accord with the Federal Labors Standards Act, dancers should be hired as regular employees with standard benefits, and should be provided a safe, crime free environment to work.
- Any new strip club or any strip club seeking to re-open should not be permitted outside of the "adult live performance venue IZD" or within 1000 feet of current residences, schools or parks.

June 6, 2016

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Ladies and Gentlemen:

JUN7'16 02:42PM

This is to commend you for your efforts in regard to the Bourbon Street "adult live Entertainment" study which is now before you.

Trusting you will have the courage of your convictions and be able to reverse the disgraceful and pernicious conditions your predecessors have allowed , so that the Street can return to its potential as a JAZZ mecca and a credit to New Orleans, Its birthplace.

Sincerely with thanks,

M. J. Maggiore

MJMaggiore

JUN8'16 11:26AM



EDEN HOUSE
New Orleans

June 7, 2016

City Planning Commission
1300 Perdido St., 7th floor
New Orleans, LA 70112

To the Members of the City Planning Commission:

Eden House fully supports the efforts of Covenant House (see attached letter) to prevent the victimization of young women (and men) through commercial sexual exploitation in the adult entertainment industry in the French Quarter.

Eden House is a non-profit organization that provides comprehensive recovery services to victims of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, and we know from first-hand experience with our residents that strip clubs and human trafficking often go hand in hand. In fact, we wish that some of the protective measures that have been instituted recently had been in place when our residents were recruited into the life as teenagers. Limiting the number of adult entertainment venues not only protects vulnerable populations and reduces the number of victims, but also sends a clear message that New Orleans cares about underserved populations and wants to create an environment that is based on our rich cultural and historical heritage, and not on the sexual exploitation of women.

We look forward to sharing more of our concerns with you during the public hearing on June 28, 2016.

Sincerely,

Susanne B. Dietzel, Ph. D.
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Kara Van de Carr
Co-Founder and President

Katherine K. Green
Co-Founder

Peggy Babin

John Krentel

Honorable Joy Lobrano

Erin Luetkemeier

Kara McQueen-Borden

Emily Palit

Caroline Robert

Gina Rachel

Ronal Serpas

Rev. Mitchell Smith

Rev. Becca Stevens

Advisory Board

Stacy Head

Honorable Karen Herman

Natalie LaBorde

The mission of Eden House is to end human and sex trafficking one woman at a time. We empower women to transform their lives through the healing power of life in community. Eden House does this by providing a safe home, coordinating recovery services, and through advocacy, outreach, education, and love.

Grace Notes: For Rep. Kenny Havard, blaming ‘political correctness’ no free pass for incivility

BY STEPHANIE GRACE

May 20, 2016; 11:18 a.m.

[0 Comments](#)

There’s no indication that state Rep. Kenny Havard, R-Jackson, was aiming for anything other than a turn as class clown when he introduced his jokey amendment to a serious bill aimed at cracking down on human trafficking.

[Nor has he seen the light and apologized](#) for greeting a proposal to raise the minimum age to 21 for dancers at strip clubs with an amendment mandating that they also must be no older than 28 or weigh no more than 160 pounds, which he quickly withdrew. The fault for the subsequent hubbub, he insisted, didn’t lie in his own not-so-implicit commentary on women’s desirability but on rampant political correctness.

But by stumbling into this mess, Havard has inadvertently started a discussion that’s well worth having.

Credit the women in the House, starting with state Reps. Julie Stokes, R-Kenner, and Nancy Landry, R-Lafayette, who immediately spoke up, labeled his comments offensive and linked them to more general attitudes in the Legislature.

And credit those who are continuing to talk about it, such as state Rep. Helena Moreno, D-New Orleans, who explicitly linked the episode to the House Labor Committee’s rejection of a bill aimed at helping women receive equal pay for equal work, and state Sen. Regina Barrow, D-Baton Rouge, who told The

Advocate's Rebekah Allen that many men don't get that comments about how women are supposed to look can put them on the defensive.

And don't forget the men who do get it, such as state Rep. Walt Leger III, D-New Orleans, who bemoaned a Donald Trump-era culture in which "making offensive comments and then feeling entitled not to apologize is politically expedient."

Allen found plenty of women who said they don't feel they're subject to sexism in the state government, and that's fine. Not everyone is going to have the same experiences or respond to situations the same way.

But if there's a lesson here, it should be that blaming the excesses of political correctness is not a get-out-of-jail-free card that absolves the speaker of any responsibility for causing offense, intentional or not. Judging by his defiance the day after the firestorm, that's a lesson that the guy who started it all has yet to learn.

Follow Advocate political columnist Stephanie Grace is on Twitter, @stephgracela.

Louisiana needs a law banning stupid after stripper 'joke'

By [JR Ball, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune](#)

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on May 19, 2016 at 3:14 PM

A thought came to mind watching state Rep. Kenny Havard try to turn a bill to combat human trafficking into a referendum on the physical assets of your quintessential stripper: Louisiana really needs a law banning stupid from its state Legislature.

We all get that Louisiana struggles with a little thing I like to call education, but a short supply on book smarts is no excuse for real-world ignorance. Especially when we're talking about the elected leaders of our state.

The bill (Senate Bill 468) in question would raise the minimum age of dancers at strip clubs to 21, up from 18. But when the intent of the legislation is to curb human trafficking it's not a smart play — joking or not — to offer an amendment further requiring strippers to be "between twenty-one and twenty-eight years of age and ... no more than one hundred sixty pounds in weight."

The amendment, as one might expect, went over about as well as Nick Saban walking into Tiger Stadium. Julie Stokes, a state representative from Kenner, took the House mic to blast Havard's "joke amendment," declaring it typical of the misogyny far too common in the testosterone-dominated Legislature. State Rep. Nancy Landry said she found the amendment offensive, prompting Havard to pull the amendment.

What he didn't do, however, was apologize. Instead he gave the equivalent of a "go to hell, Ole Miss" to anyone who couldn't take a joke.

This isn't about political correctness, it's about professionalism: A serious conversation on the tragedy of homeless youth and foster children being led into a life of prostitution and drug addiction wasn't an appropriate time for Havard to crack wise about his fantasy female.

I get it; this is America. All of us possess the unalienable right to be as dumb as we wanna be. But this was neither the time, nor the place, for stupidity disguised as wit.

They call it locker room humor for a reason.

The governor said that if more women were elected to the House, it's likely the controversy wouldn't have happened.

Here's the real laughter: Havard said his "joke" was a facetious attempt to "trim the fat" on overregulation. "It was satire to say, 'Hey, when are we going to stop overregulating everything?'"

OK, let's go with that for the moment. Then why did Havard then vote in support of the bill?

If we can't legislate couth, perhaps these good 'ol boys can make it illegal for legislators to prostitute themselves to lobbyists. Parading around Ruth's Chris stripping their dignity in the hope of having a few bucks tossed their way is just plain unseemly — no matter how old the legislator or how much he or she weighs.

Aw, relax, I'm just kidding. Can't you people take a joke?

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Shame on those who think fat-shaming is funny

By [Jarvis DeBerry, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune](#)

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on May 19, 2016 at 1:04 PM, updated May 19, 2016 at 1:56 PM

Los Angeles-based comedian Mike Faverman recently sent a text to a woman he'd met asking, "When am I taking you to dinner?" The woman, who reportedly has a boyfriend, sent back a response that was polite but unambiguous. "I'm sorry," she wrote, "if I gave you the impression I wanted to date you by becoming your FB friend ... That wasn't my intention."

A decent man would say, "Sorry about the misunderstanding" or "I apologize" or "No biggie" or some similar courtesy. But Faverman, apparently, is not a decent man. He responded, "You have to remember I met you. So I know you're not out of my league in the least, please stop acting as if I wouldn't have a chance."

He continued: "I hope me asking you to dinner doesn't give you any impression that you are more attractive than you think you are. You just seem like an easy target with potential low self esteem." He then said that he knows that "fat chicks" are great at oral sex "and are easy to push to the curb when you're done with them."

He didn't stop there. "[A plump chick with high self esteem](#) is like a unicorn out here."

Maybe Faverman has recorded some routines worth remembering, but I'd never heard of him until after his name started trending on Facebook. His attempt to shame a woman because of her size may be the most notable thing he's ever done.

When his misogyny was first exposed, Faverman attempted to divert the attention and the blame. He couldn't understand, he said on Twitter, why nobody seemed upset at the woman he insulted for publishing the messages he sent her. "Seems odd that she's a victim."

I don't know if the anonymous woman considers herself a victim or not, but she was the target of Faverman's insults. How dare she like herself? Where does she get off turning down a date when everybody knows fat girls should leap at every man who can bring himself to look at them?

Later on Facebook, according to screenshots published at The Huffington Post, he was more apologetic.

"I hope you understand that I made a mistake and I'm trying to rectify the situation," he wrote to somebody giving him the business for his words. "I know what I did was wrong, and I'm trying to figure out the right way to let people know that I was wrong and I want to make this right."

"A mistake is when you forget the ice cream in the car," his critic wrote back. "This is a little different than a mistake."

Yes, it is.

Unfortunately, Faverman isn't the only man to embarrass himself this month with unflattering talk about women's bodies. State Rep. Kenny Havard, a Republican from Jackson, thought he was being cute Wednesday when he added a so-called joke amendment that would make it illegal for strippers to weigh more than 160 pounds or be more than 28 years old. That amendment was to be attached to an anti-sex-trafficking bill that would require strip-club dancers to be at least 21 years old. But Havard couldn't maintain his focus on the plight of teenagers who have reportedly been exploited and forced to dance for money. No, he had to take out after – to use Faverman's phrase – "fat chicks."

Rep. Julie Stokes, R-Kenner, said Havard's remark was emblematic of the general disrespect her male colleagues have for women. "I've never been more repulsed to be part of" the House of Representatives, Stokes said. "I can't even believe the behavior. I hear derogatory comments about women, I see women get treated differently than men. That was utterly disrespectful and disgusting."

After his joke amendment was removed and the un-amended bill passed the House 96-0, Havard was asked about Stokes' comments. He said that he hadn't seen women legislators be treated differently so he wasn't going to apologize. If he hasn't seen it, then it can't be happening, can it? Do you realize how often that kind of response is used to dismiss a legitimate complaint of mistreatment and marginalization? As a woman, Stokes is probably a better source than Havard on how women are treated at the Capitol. But Havard thinks his perspective is as good as hers.

He denied that he'd even made a crack about women because the legislation under consideration broadly addressed dancers in strip clubs and now women in particular. We're not fools. The folks in the chamber who laughed at Havard's joke weren't laughing because they were imagining portly men wiggling their bottoms for dollar bills. They were laughing because they were imagining big women exposing themselves.

That's absurd, you know: a big woman believing that she's somebody men would want to see.

"The woman I love is fat," sang a 19th-century blues progenitor, "and chocolate to the bone. / And every time she shakes, some skinny woman loses her home."

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Stephanie Grace: McFarland, Havard spark talk about sexism

BY STEPHANIE GRACE|

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May 21, 2016; 4:27 p.m.

[0 Comments](#)

I didn't really feel like sitting down to write this column Friday morning. I wasn't feeling sick or anything, just not in the mood. Then a thought occurred to me: Maybe I could call in female.

I never would have conjured up such an idea up on my own, so credit goes to state Rep. Jack McFarland. In justifying his House Labor Committee vote against legislation aimed at helping women close a well-documented wage gap last week, the Jonesboro Republican asserted that women in the workplace simply aren't as reliable as their male counterparts.

“When it comes to the wage discrepancies and all that between men and women, it's been my experience, both professionally and in my private business, that the women tend to miss work more,” he said. “They have other ... so many other things.”

I'm guessing that came as news to all the women in the hearing room, who had indeed shown up that day, just as they presumably do most other days. But hey, that's only their experience. What do they know?

Of course, McFarland's complaint wasn't why the equal pay bill, authored by state Sen. J.P. Morrell, D-New Orleans, and strongly backed by Gov. John Bel Edwards, was shot down. The Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, the National Federation of Independent Business and other employer

advocates made the bill's defeat a mission. The Labor Committee, which House leaders had stacked with opponents of Edwards' employee-focused agenda, voted along party lines, with five Democrats in support and 10 Republicans opposed.

If McFarland succeeded in anything, it was in making an ass of himself — just as fellow state Rep. Kenny Havard, R-Jackson, had done the day before when he offered up a joke amendment to a serious bill aimed at cracking down on human trafficking in the exotic dancer biz. The measure, which passed the House unanimously, proposed raising the minimum age for dancers to 21, and Havard tried to get a laugh by adding a maximum age of 28 and weight of 160 pounds.

Instead, he drew [angry rebukes](#) from female colleagues, some of whom declared themselves disgusted at Havard's judgmental insinuation about women's attractiveness, and deemed it part of a frat house culture in which women are routinely marginalized. Anyone looking for evidence to back up that second part needed only to hear McFarland's blithe dismissal of women's status as full partners in the workplace the very next day.

Are either of these statements matters of life or death? Of course not.

Nor does everyone agree that conditions are bad. The Advocate's [Rebekah Allen interviewed](#) a number of female politicians who work in the Capitol and found a range of opinion. That's fine. Not everybody is going to have the same experiences or react to situations the same way.

But clearly enough see a pattern of disrespect, overt or subtle, to launch a conversation about the topic.

State Rep. Nancy Landry, R-Lafayette, pushed back as soon as Havard introduced his amendment, calling it offensive. State Rep. Julie Stokes, R-Kenner, followed up with an angry floor statement about what she sees as a

pattern of sexist behavior. State Rep. Helena Moreno, D-New Orleans, directly linked the Havard episode with the failure of the equal pay bill.

“Overall, it’s been a terrible week for women at the Capitol,” she said. “We’re once again reminded that work to end sexism and inequality is far from over.” Moreno also announced plans to launch a social media campaign to build awareness of women’s issues.

And Edwards’ Health and Hospitals Secretary Rebekah Gee chimed in on Twitter, posting a chart showing that, percentage-wise, Louisiana’s Legislature has fewer women than any other state body. “We should encourage women to go into public service,” Gee wrote.

It would be nice if Havard and those who defend him would participate in the discussion he’s now inadvertently launched. Instead, he insisted that he has no apologizing or soul-searching to do, that the hubbub is all just a symptom of rampant political correctness. That’s become a thing in this country: Shout “PC” and you don’t have to worry about how your words or actions might be received by others. Rather than start a conversation, you simply shut it down.

That’s a shame because it’s now obvious that nerves were frayed long before Havard decided to introduce his amendment. If everyone could at least agree on that much, maybe there’s hope that some good might come of the embarrassing episode — with or without the guy who set it off in the first place.

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The Unexpected Lessons of Times Square's Comeback

FROM THE MAGAZINE

[William J. Stern](#)

Autumn 1999

Economy, finance, and budgets

Public safety

The Social Order

New York

Almost everybody rightly celebrates Times Square's revival as one of New York City's greatest recent success stories. Just a short while ago it was sleazy, blighted, and crime-ridden; today it is all but crime free, it has driven out the prostitutes and pornographers who made it so seedy, it bustles with tourists by day and night, and world-spanning corporations such as AMC, Disney, and Viacom prosper within it. But if everyone knows about Times Square's remarkable comeback, few understand what made it happen.

I thought I knew what the ingredients for success were back in 1984, when I worked for Governor Mario Cuomo as head of the Urban Development Corporation (UDC). On my watch, the UDC put in place a gigantic project, first conceived in 1981, to revitalize Times Square, then at its absolute nadir. The \$2.6 billion 42nd Street Redevelopment Plan would extend tax-abatement deals to developers and direct them to transform Times Square by building grand office towers, a huge merchandise market, and a fancy hotel; by restoring historic theaters; and by revamping the dingy 42nd Street subway station. Also sponsoring the plan were Mayor Ed Koch and—unofficially but prominently—the *New York Times*, whose headquarters gave the square its name in 1905.

But almost nothing we planned ever came to fruition. Instead, Times Square succeeded for reasons that had nothing to do with our building schemes and everything to do with government policy that, by fighting crime, cracking down on the sex industry, and cutting taxes—albeit only selectively—at last allowed the market to do its work and bring the area back to life. The lesson: there's a right way and a wrong way for government to pursue economic development. It's a lesson that needs spelling out, since it's crucial to future economic recovery in New York.

It's important to recall accurately what Times Square was like when we officially launched our plan in November 1984, since today you still find a few people perversely nostalgic for it. Samuel R. Delany's new book, *Times Square Red, Times Square Blue*, is a case in point: it is a lament for defunct Times Square sex clubs like the Capri, the Eros, and the Venus. These risqué establishments, Delany argues, provided a harmless, playful way to subvert stuffy bourgeois morality.

But the Times Square Delany mourns was anything but playful. The area began going to seed during the late fifties after the sex industry—waved on by ill-advised federal and state court decisions that extended First Amendment protections to pornography—edged out and took over once-lustrous theaters that had been economically struggling since the Depression. The decline was rapid thereafter: the porn establishments attracted to Times Square an unsavory and increasingly criminal crowd. Already by 1960, the *New York Times* was calling the heart of Times Square—42nd Street between Seventh and Eighth—the "worst block in the city." By the eighties, things got worse still, with an amazing 2,300 crimes on the block in 1984 alone, 20 percent of them serious felonies such as murder or rape. Dispirited police, at the time more concerned with avoiding scandals than fighting crime—especially low-level crime like the prostitution that was swamping Times Square—would investigate the serious felonies but mostly stood by and watched as disorder grew (see "[What We've Learned About Policing](#)," Spring 1999).

The lawless climate had devastating economic consequences. In 1984, the entire 13-acre area that we sought to revitalize employed only 3,000 people in legitimate businesses and paid the city only \$6 million in property taxes—less than what a medium-size office building typically produced in tax revenue.

No legitimate business—indeed, scarcely a normal person—would willingly visit so blighted and threatening an area. As head of the UDC during the mid-eighties, I would walk through Times Square at night, a state trooper by my side, and feel revulsion. We'd hurry past prostitute-filled single-room-occupancy hotels and massage parlors, greasy spoons and pornographic bookstores; past X-rated movie houses and peep shows and a pathetic assortment of junkies and pushers and johns and hookers and pimps—the whole panorama of big-city low life. Everywhere I'd look, I'd see—except for female prostitutes—only men. A UDC study later verified my impression empirically: 90 percent of those who walked Times Square's streets were adult males. Times Square was haunted with them, like a circle of lost souls in Dante.

All of us involved in the redevelopment project were New Yorkers, born and bred. We remembered a better Times Square. In the early fifties, Times Square had been a childhood delight for me. On Saturday, my father and I would bus down from Harlem to see a movie, often a Roy Rogers or Gene Autry cowboy picture. Then we'd get something to eat at Nedick's and afterward just stroll around, gazing up at the giant signs that adorned Times Square's buildings, then as now. Mario Cuomo and Ed Koch had similar happy memories. The mayor was old enough even to have heard firsthand accounts of Times Square's heyday during the 1920s, when 13 theaters studded 42nd Street between Seventh and Eighth and lit up in neon the legendary "Great White Way," as theatergoers crowded into the latest creations of impresario George M. Cohan or of musicians such as George and Ira Gershwin. The regret we felt over the passing of this glamorous world of our youth gave the project a powerful emotional boost.

Our plan was Neronian in scale. Its biggest component was to be Times Square Center: four giant office towers, containing 4.1 million square feet of floor space in all, looming over Times Square's southern border. Offered a \$240 million tax abatement, George Klein's Park Tower Realty would develop the site. Perennial modernist Philip Johnson, together with fellow architect John Burgee, would design the buildings. In Johnson's controversial design, four-story red-granite bases would support glass towers topped with iron-crested glass mansard roofs. Each tower would light up at night to dispel the shadow world below; at street level, a pedestrian thoroughfare would connect the four towers and establish a new hub for subway travel.

Johnson's gargantuan buildings weren't the only part of the redevelopment project conceived on a grand scale. We also called for a 2.4 million-square-foot computer and garment wholesale mart between 40th Street and 42nd Street on the east side of Eighth Avenue, and a 550-room luxury hotel with additional office and retail space on West 42nd Street at Eighth Avenue. Nine historic theaters, including the legendary New Victory and the New Amsterdam, would get a \$9 million spruce-up and reopen as nonprofit cultural centers featuring legitimate entertainment. The final component was a major \$100 million makeover of the 42nd Street subway station, which would be outfitted with a computerized information center, scores of shops, and six new entrances, among other improvements. As part of the overall deal, Park Tower Realty would pick up most of the tab for the nonprofit theaters and the subway. Everything had to go forward at the same time, we felt, since the sheer momentum of the development would push out the sleaze for good.

Unveiling the plan early in 1984, we felt enormous pride. After all, how many people have the opportunity to leave such a deep and positive mark on the history—and in the landscape—of a world city? But, though I can't speak for the others, I felt doubt, too. Perhaps the Pharaohs could

contemplate such a mega-project with equanimity, but could a group of New York City kids really pull it off? But I suppressed my doubt: I had informed Governor Cuomo that I would soon step down as head of the UDC—I had grown disgusted with New York's pervasive political corruption and would leave public service for good in 1985—and I wanted to feel as if I had accomplished something big and worthwhile in government before I left. This project would be it.

On November 8, 1984, the now-defunct New York City Board of Estimate approved the project, removing the last political hurdle to its implementation. We all exhaled in relief, since reaching that point hadn't been easy. From the moment state and city officials first announced the redevelopment scheme in February 1981, it faced opposition from activists, who worried that it would displace lower-income people from their homes, and from the cultural left, who defended Times Square's sex businesses as constitutionally protected speech—speech that had the added virtue of subverting bourgeois proprieties. And after Johnson and Burgee's blueprint for the towers went public, civic groups lobbied for a less obtrusive design that took more account of smaller surrounding buildings. But none of these forces mustered enough support to defeat the project.

An internal disagreement had also broken out over who would get the potentially lucrative nod to develop the mart. The dispute was really part of a larger battle over who would predominantly shape the new Times Square. The city and the *New York Times* favored a team of Trammel Crow (a Texas-based developer) and George Klein; the state, thinking that Klein already had enough on his hands, preferred Paul Milstein, a major New York developer. An artful political compromise between Mayor Koch and Governor Cuomo—two politicians who harbored deep mutual suspicion from past political campaigns against each other—eventually settled on a consortium that brought together Klein and Milstein, though neither the mayor nor the governor ever questioned the idea that government should be picking developers in the first place. By the autumn of 1984, everything was set to go.

Yet after the Board of Estimate vote, the plan withered. The four new towers never went up, the wholesale mart never opened, the hotel never appeared, the subway renovations never happened, and the nonprofit theaters never materialized. What happened?

The commercial real estate market, perhaps already beginning to peak in 1984, tanked with the stock-market crash of 1987, and Klein hesitated to start work on what were now unlettable office towers. Already in 1986, the Dewey, Ballantine law firm, which was to have been a major tenant in Times Square Center, had withdrawn. In 1989, Chemical Bank, another anchor tenant, dropped out. By 1992, Governor Cuomo was letting the developers off the hook: "It doesn't make sense to go forward immediately with the building of the office towers—there's no market for them," the governor observed. "To hold these people to the contract is to ask them to commit an act of economic self-mutilation," he added. Later, after more than a decade on the project, Klein would leave, having built or renovated nothing.

But while the original building project remained stalled, something surprising happened: Times Square started to revive. First, it was a trickle of activity. In 1990, Viacom, the huge entertainment firm that owns Nickelodeon and MTV, signed a lease at 1515 Broadway. In 1992, the publishing giant Bertelsmann AG bought 1540 Broadway from Citicorp. In 1993, the Morgan Stanley investment firm purchased 1585 Broadway from Salomon Equities.

Then the trickle became a flood. On the last day of the Dinkins administration in 1993, the Walt Disney Company signed a memo of understanding with the city to refurbish and reopen the New Amsterdam Theater, though it didn't finalize the deal—which included a \$25 million low-interest government loan—until 1995. In 1995, AMC, the

entertainment conglomerate, agreed to move to the neighborhood; Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum decided to open a Times Square branch to join its famous London counterpart; the Tishman Urban Development Corporation contracted to build a big hotel; and the Durst Organization announced that it would erect a 1.5 million-square-foot office building, taking over one-quarter of the site originally intended for Times Square Center. By the summer of that eventful year, the left-wing urbanist Marshall Berman was complaining that Times Square had "become the focus of some of the most ambitious commercial development New York has ever seen"—and it hasn't stopped since.

The ever-accelerating development has brought back the whole neighborhood. Disney refurbished the New Amsterdam Theater, and it reopened with a wildly successful run of *The Lion King*. The 100-year-old New Victory Theater, which showed porn films in the eighties, reopened—beautifully restored to its original glory—as a venue for children's theater. And new restaurants like Caroline's Comedy Nation and the upscale Russian Firebird bustled from the moment they opened. By 1997, Broadway was having its best year in nearly two decades, as 10.6 million theater lovers flocked to 38 different shows.

Times Square was bursting with investment and renewal not because of the building project, since it had built nothing, nor even because the nation had entered into its present economic boom—42nd Street kept rotting away through the economic upswings of the 1960s and 1980s—but because government was at last starting to behave the way government should behave if it wants to nourish prosperity. Government began to do three things—two of them with the plan's help, though the city could have done them more effectively on its own—that ignited Times Square's revitalization: it started to fight crime, it kicked out the sex industry, and it lowered taxes selectively for big businesses willing to locate in the area. And as Times Square became safer and less sleazy, its natural advantages became strikingly apparent: at the center of the city's subway system, home to the Port Authority Bus Terminal, near Penn Station and Grand Central

Station, it boasts a transportation infrastructure unmatched in the United States, and it has always been one of New York's cultural landmarks.

Mayor Abe Beame took the first hesitant steps to tame Times Square's disorder in 1977, when he enacted nuisance abatement laws to shut down some of the neighborhood's ubiquitous massage parlors. But the first really effective measures came courtesy of a now-retired deputy inspector named Richard Mayronne, assigned to the Midtown South precinct that includes Times Square during the mid-eighties. As former NYPD deputy chief John Timoney (now Philadelphia's police commissioner) remembers him, Mayronne was "a big tough guy, a cop's cop, and easily the most imposing police commander I've ever met." He was also something more, Timoney stresses: an innovator in police tactics. Mayronne covered his office with neighborhood maps, and used pins to chart crime patterns in order to employ his forces efficiently creating a crude, pre-electronic version of Compstat, the computerized crime-tracking system that has since revolutionized New York City policing under Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

Even more important, Timoney recounts, Mayronne instructed his men to make arrests for low-level crimes such as prostitution and minor drug transactions that, when left unpunished, create a climate of lawlessness that encourages criminals to act on their darker impulses, leading to ever more serious crime. Such quality-of-life policing, as most observers now recognize, is a major reason for New York's sharply lower crime rates, and the absence of it had contributed to Times Square's decay. The new techniques paid off: as Mayronne's Midtown South successors continued to monitor crime patterns and keep up the pressure on quality-of-life infractions, crime dropped. By the end of 1991, Times Square's crime rate was 12 percent lower than in 1984—nothing like the 68 percent citywide reduction that Giuliani would achieve, but a healthy start nonetheless.

With Giuliani's election as mayor in 1993, the war on crime dramatically intensified. Together with his police commissioner William Bratton, the

mayor completely transformed New York City's approach to policing: Compstat soon allowed the NYPD to deploy personnel and resources efficiently, and quality-of-life policing became the norm throughout the city. Thanks to the new techniques—a quantum improvement over Mayronne's early innovations—Times Square's crime rate dropped to an infinitesimal level. Felonies committed on 42nd Street between Seventh and Eighth—the "worst block in the city"—fell from 2,300 in 1984 to a mere 60 in 1995, prompting a city official to enthuse that "crime has reached such a low level on that block that we don't keep statistics anymore." In the entire Midtown South precinct, felony complaints fell 50 percent, from 20,000 in 1992 to 10,000 in 1997. Giuliani and Bratton also sent a powerful message through their public rhetoric that the city would no longer tolerate crime and disorder, heightening New Yorkers' and tourists' expectations about safety and soothing the jangling nerves of the business community.

Encouraged by dwindling crime, tourists began crowding back into Times Square—always potentially one of New York's biggest draws—bringing much needed revenue into the city. Giuliani had grasped the connection between cutting crime and reviving Times Square's tourism even before his mayoralty began. The mayor recently told me about how, during the 1970s, he watched Martin Scorsese's film *Taxi Driver*, which depicted Times Square as a hellish nightmare, and wondered how adversely it might affect tourism. During his 1993 mayoral campaign, Giuliani got a firsthand insight into the answer. Driving down Broadway in his campaign car, he saw a tourist frantically chasing a thief who had snatched his wife's purse, bruising her hand in the process. Giuliani, jumping from the car, joined the chase, but only caught up with the tourist, not the purse snatcher. No cops were around, and none arrived until 30 minutes had passed, assuring the crook's clean getaway. Again, Giuliani thought: what would these tourists think about visiting Times Square in the future?

But that was six years ago. Today, reassured investors and tourists no longer have reason to shun the area.

The 42nd Street Redevelopment Plan had nothing to do with this revolution in crime fighting and the safer Times Square it created—the main reason investment again started to flow into the neighborhood, just as it's the main reason investment has started to flow into a markedly safer 125th Street, also the site of an ambitious, but largely irrelevant, government redevelopment plan. But through the state's Urban Development Corporation, the redevelopment plan did play a key role in the second thing government did that helped to revive Times Square: kicking out the sex businesses.

From 1984 on, drawing on the UDC's special powers to condemn for economic blight, the redevelopment project began to shut down Times Square's sex clubs. By 1990, after a hugely expensive six-year condemnation process, the UDC had taken title to two-thirds of the 13-acre project area, sending the sex businesses scuttling to other corners of the city. The ultimate cost reached nearly \$300 million, a sum initially advanced by the developers, whom the plan would later reimburse through tax abatements. It proved so expensive because condemnation requires court-determined compensation for the owners of condemned properties and hefty legal fees to fight the protracted lawsuits when the owners resisted being kicked out.

Instead of condemning, why didn't the city just zone out the sex businesses? After all, throughout the nineteenth century—and indeed, for most of the twentieth—cities freely applied tough zoning regulations to the sex industry, viewing it, apart from any moral objection, as poisonous to other economic activity. In New York during the 1930s, Mayor Fiorello La Guardia, whom no one would accuse of being an early member of the religious right, waged war on the city's burlesque houses—the sex clubs of that era—because he knew that they drew in crime and drove away legitimate commerce.

But that was well before the late 1950s, when activist judges, in effect defining away the concept of obscenity, extended First Amendment protection to strip clubs and pornography (see "Free to Strip?" Spring 1999). To apply zoning restrictions to sex businesses was henceforth different from applying them to, say, a slaughterhouse or a chemical plant, since now to do so supposedly violated the First Amendment. It also would invariably incur the wrath of the cultural left, loudly decrying censorship and the imposition of puritan values. The redevelopment plan allowed the city and the state to escape these invented First Amendment restrictions and deflect the criticisms of the cultural left, accomplishing indirectly what zoning would have done directly and far less expensively. Support for the project's condemnation efforts also allowed the *New York Times's* editorial page to have it both ways: it denounced on economic grounds the sex businesses defacing its own backyard that it regularly defended elsewhere as constitutionally protected forms of speech. The *Times's* stance seemed to be: "Yes to sex businesses, but not in our neighborhood."

Yet condemnation might not have been necessary after all. As early as 1976, the Supreme Court started to allow municipalities to subject "adult" businesses to zoning regulations for reasons of "secondary effects" on neighborhoods, with economic blight leading the list—the Fiorello La Guardia argument, we could call it. Looking back, zoning might have proceeded on the same rationale as condemnation and still have passed constitutional muster, though this certainly wasn't the high-priced legal opinion we were getting at the time (or the inclination of the governor, the mayor, or the *Times*, all averse to challenging New York's left-wing judicial culture). Later, in the mid-1990s, Mayor Giuliani did employ the "secondary effects" argument to pass sweeping regulations restricting sex-oriented video stores, X-rated theaters, and topless bars to a few isolated non-residential neighborhoods, where they'd cause the least economic damage. "They hurt the economy of the city; they cost us jobs; they cost us money," Giuliani bluntly explained.

But for Times Square, this was just sweeping up: thanks to the plan, most of the sex industry had already moved on by 1990, when the first signs of the area's economic rebirth became evident. The city had finally liberated Times Square from sleaze, though at a great, and probably unnecessary, expense. With the sex industry gone, Times Square could at last begin to develop its economic potential.

The redevelopment plan provided a second major spark to revitalizing Times Square: it reduced taxes for businesses willing to locate in the neighborhood. It did this, however, not by giving the city an overall tax cut, but instead by awarding special tax abatements, low-interest loans, and other subsidies to well-connected firms. From the original \$240 million tax abatement given to George Klein to the \$40 million abatement given to Morgan Stanley in 1992 to the \$25 million low-interest loan given to Disney in 1994 to the \$20 million incentive package offered to Ernst & Young just this year—everybody in the new Times Square has some kind of deal from the plan. The results show the power of supply-side tax cuts: more than \$2.5 billion in private-sector investment has poured into Times Square since 1995.

Any sensible economist would say: Why not cut taxes citywide? Giuliani, a defender of tax abatements, has a tough answer. There's no political constituency in New York for it, he claims, and polls show that he's right (though a mayor passionate about tax cuts could use his bully pulpit to begin to create a constituency for them). So if citywide tax cuts remain politically unfeasible, the mayor argues, the only thing the city can do to boost investment is to cut taxes selectively. The trouble with this approach is that the considerable political clout a firm needs to land a choice tax deal from the city means that it is invariably the older, already established, company, not the brash newcomer, that gets a break.

This favoring of the old and the well-connected over the new and the as yet unknown—it's really a form of state—directed capitalism, where

government substitutes its bureaucratic thinking for the market's invisible hand—means that New York squanders enormous economic possibilities. Imagine a 29-year-old college dropout named Bill Gates coming to us in 1984 and asking for a tax abatement to build a 42nd Street office for his new computer-software company. "What's an operating system, and what's a Gates?" I can hear Koch sneering. We would have laughed Gates out the door. But for the last quarter-century, it has been the bold outsiders like Gates, usually bringing some undreamed-of service or technology to the market, who have fueled real economic growth and created most of the country's 70 million new jobs.

As great as the new Times Square is, what might it look like today if New York City's taxes weren't so anti-competitive and instead encouraged up-and-coming firms to locate in Gotham? If then-fledgling enterprises like Microsoft, Cisco, or Oracle, drawn in by low taxes, dropping crime rates, and a newly non-sleazy atmosphere, had moved into Times Square during the eighties and nineties, these upstarts would have created even more jobs and produced even more tax revenue than did the well-connected businesses that now reside in the neighborhood, lured in by politically negotiated tax abatements and sweetheart deals.

Giuliani asserts that "it will be perhaps 20 years" before Gotham's tax structure is competitively on a par with more business-friendly cities. But perhaps the mayor is too pessimistic. Even some of his detractors admit that he helped transform New Yorkers' attitudes on crime and proved that the city wasn't ungovernable. Perhaps some future mayor might build a political constituency to enact major, across-the-board tax cuts. He could use this argument: the *New York Times*, the state, and the city favored tax cuts for Times Square. Those tax cuts worked. Why not, then, try them for the entire city?

So what did the 42nd Street Development Plan really achieve? The four towers will eventually go up, but they won't look anything like those we

proposed in the early eighties, and different developers will build them. No mart is on the horizon. The theaters have been given a new birth, but their parent is the market, not the government plan. The 42nd Street subway is still grungy.

The plan, in retrospect, seems like a giant Rube Goldberg device. It let public officials lower taxes without challenging the orthodoxies of New York's welfare state, and it let them drive out sex businesses without conflicting with court decisions on obscenity or unduly angering the cultural left. But Times Square's revitalization cost much more than it needed to—much more than if New York had simply abandoned the redevelopment project and pursued effective policing, smart zoning, and aggressive tax-cutting from the start.

From: Susan Nolan <Susan.N.Nolan@mwhglobal.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:37 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

From: herb sayas <hlabws@earthlink.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 2:15 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: Herb Sayas
Subject: Adult Live Entertainment Venues

Importance: High

Sabine Lebailleux City Planning Commission:

PETITION

City Planning Commission's Study of Adult Live Entertainment Venues

We thank the City Council and the City Planning Commission for their recent efforts to study "Adult Live Entertainment Venues in the City of New Orleans." We are pleased that "the study will consider: limitations on the number of such establishments, best practices of other cities, land use regulatory mechanisms, use standards, and input from industry representatives and impacted businesses."

It is known that:

In October 2015, law enforcement found drug dealing and prostitution taking place in 9 out of 14 strip clubs in a month long undercover investigation. Drug dealing and prostitution (male and female) is also known to take place in other kinds of clubs and venues.

New Orleans is considered a major hub for human sex trafficking by national law enforcement and human trafficking experts (including the Polaris Project).

According to a lawsuit, reported by the Times Picayune and Wall Street Journal, dancers in strip clubs are often hired as independent contractors, not as employees with regular benefits. Dancers are constantly sexually harassed, and are forced to work in an environment that is neither safe nor crime free.

A Loyola University study estimated 87 residents from Covenant House, a homeless youth shelter, were survivors of human trafficking each year and an estimated 150 residents per year if the sex industry and strip clubs were included.

We believe that:

The existing number of strip clubs leads to an increase in overall French Quarter crime including violence, prostitution, lewd/improper acts, petty crime and drug dealing – and therefore does not promote the public health, welfare and safety of the City.

We, the undersigned, recommend that:

- No one under the age of 21 should be allowed to work in any capacity within a strip club or adult entertainment venue.
- A special designation should be made that defines these establishments which would allow tighter restrictions and regulations, such as no one under 21 should be allowed to work within the premises.
- In accord with the Federal Labors Standards Act, dancers should be hired as regular employees with standard benefits, should be provided a safe, crime free environment, and should not be allowed to be sexually harassed.
- The number of strip clubs in our city needs to decrease by 65%, any new or re-opened clubs should not be allowed outside of the “adult live performance venue IZD” or within 1,000 feet of residences, schools, or houses of worship.
- A special tax/fee needs to be levied against the strip clubs to pay for increased law enforcement on Bourbon Street, and for weekly inspections of the clubs including VIP rooms.
- Enforcement of all regulations, existing and proposed, should be enforced by both NOPD and the State Police.

Please forward the attached petition by June 20th to:

ATTN: Sabine Lebailleur City Planning Commission selebailleur@nola.gov

From: Leslie Higgins <clercc@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 3:44 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: adult live entertainment

PETITION

City Planning Commission's Study of Adult Live Entertainment Venues

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Thank you,
Leslie C. Higgins
7703 Burthe St.
NOLA 70118

From: Dan F <danil.faust@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 4:59 PM
To: CPCinfo
Cc: Sabine E. Lebailleur
Subject: Adult Live Performance Venue Study
Attachments: Adult Venue Study Analysis.pptx

Police Superintendent [Ronald Serpas](#) said there were at least 236 violent crimes after 8 p.m. last year in the affected area, with 60 of those involving the arrest of a juvenile. He said the department would be able to enforce the earlier hour without harming its overall crime-fighting efforts. http://www.nola.com/education/index.ssf/2012/01/new_orleans_council_poised_to.html

To his opponents in the room, Johns said: "While I fully respect your ability to make a living ... unfortunately, it's for those out there that don't have a voice."
http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2016/04/bill_banning_teen_dancers_from.html#incart_river_home

"I do not think that our economic profitability in any of our businesses will take a hit from this thing passing. But I think it will create a lot of human misery among people who need work."
Waters

Even at the clubs where they're known for that, they don't push people. It's just a place for them to do it. If you don't want to do it, you don't have to. They're not going to be like, 'Well, you're fired.'

"And honestly, if that is what you want to do, you're probably safer doing it at the club instead of on the street somewhere." Mese –
http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2016/01/new_orleans_strip_club_workers.html

“Many of these women who are abducted end up in these establishments — that’s a fact,” said Sen. Ronnie Johns, a Lake Charles Republican sponsoring [Senate Bill 191](#). “We’d like to protect these young women.” <http://theadvocate.com/news/15398357-93/legislation-seeks-to-ban-strip-club-dancers-under-21-in-louisiana>

Wright, 19, had previously introduced him to others as her boyfriend from Texas. But several friends of Wright’s or co-workers at the Bourbon Street strip club where she danced for tips suspected he was — in their words — “a pimp” who would sometimes set her up on dates as an escort. <http://theadvocate.com/news/neworleans/neworleansnews/12625590-123/man-who-left-bourbon-street>

Those detail officers make up to \$46 an hour responding to anything from drunks in doorways to urgent “Priority 2” calls. <http://www.theneworleansadvocate.com/news/14549060-123/sidney-torres-says-the-mobile-french-quarter-police-detail-he-created-is-not-working>

Now the State Troopers are here indefinitely. A dozen of them were on hand the night of November 28, 2015, as were 50 on-duty NOPD officers, some on horseback, also mostly around Bourbon Street. The NOLA Patrol were on the prowl. Four members of the Bourbon Patrol were working, as well as three Polaris’ worth of the French Quarter Task Force. All or nearly all of these were within a quick dash of the 300 block of Bourbon when, tragically, a man was shot and killed. The killer escaped. <http://www.antigravitymagazine.com/2016/04/cochon-doberge-the-hyperpolicing-of-the-french-quarter/>

“This doesn’t surprise me when I look at the locations,” Edmonson said. “A lot of complaints have come from citizens about this type of behavior at those locations, and this certainly gives those (complaints) some credence as we go forward.”

All of the clubs had their liquor licenses suspended after authorities said they uncovered dozens of instances of drug activity, prostitution and “lewd and immoral acts” at the businesses in the past month alone. The state alleges the offenses occurred between Sept. 25 and Oct. 26 and included naked dancers and “inappropriate touching.”

<http://theadvocate.com/news/neworleans/neworleansnews/13833719-123/judge-blocks-order-to-suspend>

Accused of facilitating illegal drug activity were Babes Cabaret, Big Daddy’s, Bourbon Cowboy and the Swamp. Babes Cabaret and Big Daddy’s were also accused of multiple counts of “lewd/improper acts” and prostitution.

Hebert

<http://theadvocate.com/news/neworleans/neworleansnews/13898220-93/atc-suspends-alcohol-license-of>

The ATC has agreed to terms with Bourbon Cowboy, Lipstixx, Temptations, Centerfolds, the Mansion on Bourbon and the Swamp on Bourbon. Those businesses, which together were fined \$46,000, were placed on probation for a year and warned that second and third offenses would result in more fines and suspensions of their permits. Upon a fourth offense, their alcohol permits will be revoked.

None of the clubs cited in that investigation showed up Wednesday to protest the ordinance. Instead, officials from Larry Flynt's Hustler Club, Rick's Cabaret and the Penthouse Club were present. Attorney Ike Spears called them "good actors" who he said would be unfairly penalized if the new rules pass.

Interviewees also said the age requirements for local strip club dancers aren't enforced at many clubs.

Councilwoman Nadine Ramsey said that if 18-year-olds cannot work in these clubs, they may turn to the streets to escape poverty. Last month, Ramsey spoke in support of the proposed age limit, but later she said she wanted to defer action on it until the council heard from the club owners.

Councilwoman Susan Guidry said strip club bartenders and waitresses might make about the same money working in traditional restaurants or bars.

<http://theadvocate.com/news/neworleans/neworleansnews/14495442-123/new-orleans-city-council-passes-motion-to-ban-strip-club-dancers-under-age-21>

She said her younger sister, Rebecca Gisleson, began stripping at age 19 after a troubled childhood and years of mental health issues. Rebecca quickly spiraled

into drug and alcohol addiction after she began dancing and committed suicide in 1998, Palmer said.

Her twin sister, Rachel Giselson, soon followed, not wanting to be without her sister, Palmer said.

“There is no doubt in my mind that the stripping was a major contributing factor to (Rebecca’s) death,” Palmer said.

“Any industry which is found breaking the law in over two-thirds of its establishments would be so highly scrutinized that it would lead to mass closures,” she said, referring to the state raids. “Why should this industry be any different?”

<http://theadvocate.com/news/neworleans/neworleansnews/15122754-93/live-updates-planning-commission-holds-discussion-on-new-orleans-strip-club-regulations>

Lockhart was reported missing June 6, 2012, after she left her shift at Temptations, a strip club in the 300 block of Bourbon Street.

After reviewing surveillance footage from a neighboring Bourbon Street club, investigators identified Sanchez and Terry Speaks as the last people Lockhart was seen with before she disappeared.

Pieces of her dismembered body began to wash ashore along the Mississippi Gulf Coast a few days later.

Speaks and Sanchez were briefly held on unrelated charges in Tangipahoa Parish but were released because of a lack of evidence against them.

Speaks is now in a federal prison in Otisville, N.Y., on an unrelated charge of failure to register as a sex offender in North Carolina. Kenner police did not say Wednesday whether he will face charges related to Lockhart’s killing.

- <http://theadvocate.com/home/9107496-125/suspect-booked-in-bourbon-street>

Jasilas Wright

“He did not kidnap the young lady, he did not push the young lady and he did not hit her,” Campbell said, adding she is eager to get on with the case. “Now that he has been charged, we have an opportunity to review the evidence against him,” she said.

<http://theadvocate.com/news/neworleans/neworleansnews/14166989-184/littleton-charged-with-manslaughter-in>

Littleton — nicknamed “Sip” — will be booked on counts of second-degree kidnapping and second-degree murder, authorities said. Second-degree kidnapping convictions can carry between five and 40 years in prison. Second-degree murder convictions carry mandatory life imprisonment.

A man Wright described as her boyfriend from Texas was leaving with her, though her friends and co-workers said they suspected he was a pimp who would help arrange dates for her as an escort.

In August, however, Orleans Parish District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro **decided not to prosecute the kidnapping charge**, and Littleton was transferred to Jefferson Parish Correctional Center and held on \$500,000 bail on the second-degree murder count lodged against him there.

“The FBI now has evidence but is expanding (its) investigation further,” she said. “The investigation (is) going in this direction: Hebert makes trouble for a business. Then his number-one assistant Judy (Pontin), maiden name Young, sister to (attorney) Chris Young, sends word to (the) targeted business to hire Chris Young and pay big fees to get them off Hebert’s radar. Once Young is hired (and the) fee paid, problem disappears. Once (the) deal is done, Chris Young calls his sister Judy in Hebert’s office and the coverup begins.”

"We're sure that protecting children is the most important thing we can do," Serpas said Wednesday. "And when we see people under age around one of the biggest adult entertainment centers on the globe, we will take action."

Critics have said enforcing curfew does little, if anything, to reduce crime in a community. A 2000 study of New Orleans' curfew ordinance concluded the city's law was ineffective because it didn't cover older adolescents and young adults, who often commit crimes; and it excluded the hours right after the end of the school day, when minors are most likely to break the law.

http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2013/03/new_orleans_curfew_data_93_per.html

Year	Violent crime total	Murder and nonnegligent Manslaughter	Forcible rape	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Property crime total	Burglary	Larcenytheft
1985	8,222	152	451	4,142	3,477	40,510	10,383	23,433
1986	9,165	197	456	5,165	3,347	47,724	11,561	26,697
1987	7,678	205	359	3,786	3,328	43,323	11,999	22,365
1988	8,923	228	403	4,729	3,563	43,537	12,322	21,534
1989	10,203	251	388	5,449	4,115	49,331	12,925	24,935
1990	11,227	304	361	6,048	4,514	50,572	13,624	24,806
1991	10,969	345	302	5,969	4,353	43,269	12,400	20,977
1992	10,007	279	287	5,341	4,100	40,434	10,967	20,343
1993	10,024	395	298	5,179	4,152	42,749	11,184	22,019
1994	9,321	424	436	4,822	3,639	40,521	10,064	21,890
1995	10,876	363	487	5,349	4,677	42,523	10,236	22,454
1996	11,021	351	390	5,700	4,580	42,898	9,954	22,774
1997	8,404	267	385	3,972	3,780	37,300	8,107	19,813
1998	6,888	230	299	2,965	3,394	33,923	7,008	18,645
1999	5,931	158	280	2,733	2,760	29,830	5,626	17,086
2000	5,155	204	227	2,421	2,303	28,671	5,230	15,575
2001	5,877	213	209	2,778	2,677	30,180	5,262	16,187
2002	4,556	258	162	1,994	2,142	26,650	4,759	14,325
2003	4,596	274	213	2,071	2,038	24,477	4,879	12,726
2004	4,467	264	189	1,836	2,178	24,316	5,238	12,544
2005	2,086	134	89	756	1,107	10,612	2,277	5,823
2006	2,255	162	87	761	1,245	12,178	4,087	5,228
2007	3,451	209	115	1,154	1,973	15,583	5,039	7,354
2008	2,869	179	65	1,085	1,540	14,880	4,591	7,081
2009	2,614	174	98	932	1,410	12,940	3,821	6,507
2010	2,593	175	144	953	1,321	12,645	3,695	6,540
2011	2,748	200	163	1,059	1,326	14,013	3,857	7,616
2012	2,958	193	136	1,065	1,564	13,689	3,423	8,051
2013	2,965	156	176	1,138	1,495	14,525	3,203	9,179

Palmer's

A. Evidence

- a. Drug dealing and prostitution, Trik or Treat, 9/14 strip clubs.
- b. Major human sex trafficking (Polaris Project)
- c. 2013 Lawsuit, sexual harassment
- d. 87/trafficking, 150/yr if sex if strip industry and clubs included (What???)
- e.

B. Proposal

- a. Reduce Clubs by 65%
- b. No under 21
- c. Dancers as employees
- d. Special Tax/fee needs to be levied against Strip Clubs for increased law enforcement
- e. Enforcement of regulations by NOPD and State Police

Traffickers often known

- Family members
 - o Mother sold her for shelter.
 - o Later at 11 engaged in survival sex running from Group Homes
- One girl trafficked had it done at the Covenant House
 - o Recruited by young woman within the shelter and brought to pimp
 - o Second by a young man, he stayed in Covenant House
 - Took a girl
 - Second day of her stay

-
- Five directly recruited by Pimps
- Three were tricked by a recruiter.
- Two abductions
 - One by recruiter, participant left
 - One by being tricked into a ride home under 18
- One raped by police

Only 2 were forced into sexual trafficking as adults, 7 under 18

- Nopd officer laid to rest
- Boy arrested after robbing girls, 12 and 13, at gunpoint, 1700 N broad
- 66yo man shot Algiers
- 3 Cops fired after body cam catches 1 hitting handcuffed man
- \$31 Candy thief Jacobia Grimes gets 1-year sentence, possibly 20 years
- Man killed in Hammond drug deal gone bad
- Jefferson Murders up, rapes up, overall crime down???
- 19 year old gunned down in drive by in 7th ward
- 19 year old girl shot in gunfight by 18 year old boy outside party bus
- Kenner shooting victim died
- Gunman opened fire into a group of people in Algiers
- 3 people booked on child pornography and possession of marijuana.
- One wounded in Ger Town shooting, 15 to 20 gun shots

- 20 year old man shot in face
- 3 NOPD officers fired after beating caught on Body Cam
- Driver in Officer Hunter's death had twice the legal limit of alcohol
- 74 year old tied up and
- West Lake Forest Homocide, New Orleans east, pregnant woman sobbing
- 15 year old stabbed 49 times by 2 17 year old kids about a stolen gun.
- N.O. judge improperly halted cases against poor defendants.
- Gretna man, 31, sentenced to raping a 13 year old girl over a 3 year period
- Man shot 3 times on June 16th in 9th ward
- Teen boy stabbed by 2 teenage girls, on 3rd and South Prieur, during fight when winning.
- 4 armed robberies in 10 hours
- 2 shot in separate incidents in Algiers on Saturday.
- 3 men injured in knife attack in the 7th wards.
- Drunk driver kills 23 year old woman.
- 4 armed robberies Sunday including a mugging in the French Quarter, 800 block

Effects of the Under 21 Legislation

- There has been an increase in prostitution, especially of minors under 21.
 - o Transient females have been forced to resort to prostitution since no other form of "quick cash influx" is available
 - o This puts at risk exactly the demographic studied by the Covenant House

- This increases the “Isolation” effect desired by “pimps” where the female has no other social connections
- Since boyfriends/pimps were not allowed in clubs, this allowed the victim an opportunity to seek help.

-

- Covenant House Study

- Quoted by Kahn, William:
- Quoted by Gisleson-Palmer, Kristen
- 25% were involved in Sex Work
 - Averages to 87 per year trafficked, 150 in sex work
 - In fact only means 10% were dancers.
 - No Dancers were engaged in Prostitution
 - No Dancers interviewed were Trafficked other than one that had escaped before sex was forced
 - These facts are not presented and must be interpreted
- 2 Respondents were approached at the Covenant House, both times the “recruiter” stayed at the Covenant House
- 31% of homeless youth report being offered sex work within New Orleans.

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"It is certain that if people do not understand a true political economy, they will make a false one of their own" ~ W.S. Jevons - The Theory of Political Economy

Timeline of Adult Venue Related Events

June 2012: Jaren Lockhart disappears, found dismembered

- Terry Speaks and Margaret Sanchez, co-workers, are found to be responsible.
- Terry Speaks has been found guilty and Margaret Sanchez has pled guilty as of June 20th, 2016

June 2013, Ahmad Sheppard Jr. is discovered bound and shot in the head. Travis Cochran was questioned, released, DNA evidence appeared but he was on the run. After a manhunt and a first 48 episode, he is eventually caught and still awaiting trial.

June 2015, Jasilas Wright's mutilated corpse is discovered on I10.

- Is suspected she attempted to escape her boyfriend/"Pimp"
- He turns himself in 4 days later and is awaiting 2nd degree manslaughter charges

10/27/15: Operation Trick or Treat

- Creates under 21 Ban

11/28/2015: Brandon Robinson shot dead on Bourbon Street during Bayou Classic

- Suspect Caught and processed, no further details have emerged

Kristin Gisleson Palmer

- Evidence cited for immediate legislative action
 - Drug dealing and prostitution, Trik or Treat, 9/14 strip clubs.
 - Major human sex trafficking (Polaris Project)
 - 2013 Lawsuit, sexual harassment
 - 87/trafficking, 150/yr if sex if strip industry and clubs included
 -
- Proposal for appropriate legislation
 - Reduce Clubs by 65%
 - No under 21
 - Dancers as employees
 - Special Tax/fee needs to be levied against Strip Clubs for increased law enforcement
 - Enforcement of regulations by NOPD and State Police

William Kahn's talking points

1. Strip clubs tend to burden neighboring businesses with significant costs, customer displacement, and negative effects.
2. Strip clubs displace commerce from families, children, women, and the elderly; they also make it harder to recruit and retain employees who are repulsed by the culture and gauntlet created by strip clubs.
3. Signs, outdoor advertising, and on-street solicitation by strippers are visually offensive, repel non-adult business customers, and harm quality of life.
4. Because they are so concentrated and have to compete heavily with one another, strip clubs engage in aggressive solicitation practices that border on promoting prostitution and encouraging illegal activities.
5. As a business owner of a family-friendly establishment, I am concerned about the crowd that strip clubs and adult-oriented businesses attract: prostitutes, pimps, johns, addicts, unsavory people, the mentally disturbed, and muggers who prey on the public.
6. Strip clubs have a systematically and uniquely negative effect on quality of life and Bourbon Street's reputation. I am a member of the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau. When I try to encourage convention organizers and managers to bring their groups to my shops on Bourbon Street, many of them decline to come to the street during evening hours (because strip clubs escalate their offensive practices at night) or they decline to come to Bourbon Street at all.
7. The negative image and perceptions of harmful

Covenant House Study

- Quoted by Kahn, William:
- Quoted by Gisleson-Palmer, Kristen
- 25% were involved in Sex Work
 - Averages to 87 per year trafficked, 150 in sex work
 - In fact only means 10% were dancers.
 - No Dancers were engaged in Prostitution
 - No Dancers interviewed were Trafficked other than one that had escaped before sex was forced
 - These facts are not presented and must be mentioned
- **2 Respondents were approached at the Covenant House, both times the “recruiter” stayed at the Covenant House**
- 31% of homeless youth report being offered sex work within New Orleans.
- 86% of the respondents were African American, again, indicative that the sample is not representative of the entire population

Respondent Data and Composition

- 95 Respondents
 - Ages 18 to 23, all homeless
 - 31% of respondents state they have been approached for sex work
 - 15% had **traded sex** for food or housing rather than cash
 - 86 Black, 12 White, 2 Asians, 1 Mexican
 - 6 surveys not counted (2 underage, 3 repeated interviews, 1 no show)
 - 19 % claimed they were a victim of wage theft and unsafe work environments
 - 29% Victims of Domestic Violence
 - 41% Mental Illness
 - **2 participants were approached for sex work at the Covenant House**
 - One girl was approached by **another female** staying there
 - Another approached **by a male staying** at the Covenant House
 - 34% admitted to selling drugs
- Study Recommendations:
 - Increase beds
 - Increase availability of services.
 - Increase work opportunities and training
 - Aging out of Foster Care
 - Increase police force training, no victims had been identified by Law Enforcement

25 Respondents Involved in Sex Work

– 10 Exotic Dancers

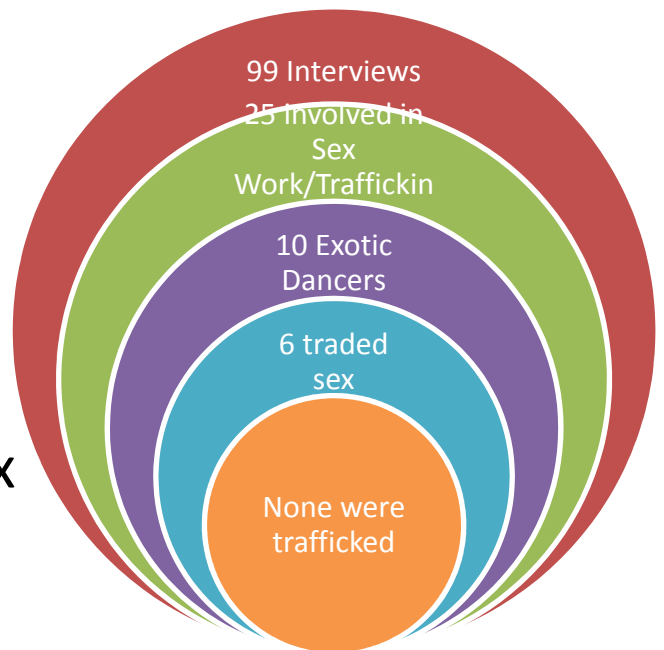
- 9 Female
- 1 Male
- 6 traded sex, no prostitution

– 13 Prostitutes

- 8 Female
- 4 Male
- 1 Transgender

– 2 Shot Girls

- Both Traded Sex



Unintended Consequences of Under 21 Legislation

1. There has been an increase in prostitution, especially of minors under 21.
2. Transient females have been forced to resort to prostitution since no other form of “quick cash influx” is available
3. This puts at risk exactly the demographic studied by the Covenant House
4. This increases the “isolation” effect desired by “pimps” where the female has no other social connections
5. Since boyfriends/pimps were not allowed in clubs, this allowed the victim an opportunity to seek help.

Suggestions

- Within the City Charter there is an older law that relate to employment in the French Quarter and Adult Entertainment.
 - A Cabaret or Nightclub Identification Card
 - Mandate Criminal Background Checks, Sex Offender Registry checks.
 - Increase training for individuals working within the VCC IZD
 - Current regulation calls for a Vendors Permit on a Statewide Basis
 - Create instruction programs from 8th district officers for Nightclub Employees in response to increased violence.
 - Call Jaren's Law
- The crime related to Strip Clubs is miniscule in comparison to the number of muggings and physical altercations in the French Quarter. A majority of these crimes are being committed by individuals under the age of 21, since there are little to no venues that are available to provide entertainment for this demographic. Further study into Ms. Gisleson-Palmer's curfew is warranted.
- An additional year of the temporary provisions are required for further debate into the use of regulation.
- All regulation handed down has been employer enforced, nobody has even been issued a ticket for smoking to my knowledge.
- Opening a police booth or "box" on Bourbon for a definitive location for help.

Sec. 10-5. - Police investigation of alcoholic beverage outlets and employees.

- a) *Duties of police department.*** The police department of the city shall be charged with the duty of making investigations of all persons holding city alcoholic beverage permits under this chapter
- b) *Fingerprinting of employees.*** Every employee of a cabaret or night club who comes in contact or is likely to come in contact with the patrons thereof shall, not later than June 1, 1964, or within three days of the date of original employment, whichever date is the latest, make application with and be fingerprinted by the police department of the city for a cabaret or night club employee's identification card. Upon making application, each applicant shall furnish and file therewith three photographs of himself of passport size, 2½ inches by 2½ inches. All individuals, members of a copartnership and all officers of a corporation holding a license to sell alcoholic beverages and beer under the provisions of the beer and alcoholic beverages regulations not participating in the physical operation of such licensed premises do not require an employee's identification card. No person shall be issued a cabaret or night club employee's identification card or temporary permit who has been convicted within a five-year period of a felony or any misdemeanor involving moral turpitude under the laws of the United States, the state, the ordinances of the city, or of any other state, sovereignty, parish, county or municipality, or within a five-year period after serving a term in a penal institution. The willful furnishing by an applicant for an identification card of false information shall constitute a misdemeanor.
- c) *Identification card.*** No person who comes in contact with the patrons of a cabaret or night club shall be employed on the premises after June 1, 1964, or more than three days after the date of original employment, whichever date is latest, and shall not be reemployed during such period, unless such person has obtained a current cabaret or night club employee's identification card, or temporary permit issued by the superintendent of police in such form and manner as he may prescribe. The willful employment of an employee in violation of the provisions of this section by the management of any cabaret or night club shall subject the licensee thereof to a revocation or suspension of the beer and alcoholic beverages license issued to the licensee, which revocation or suspension shall take place in accordance with subsection (e) of this section. The date of original employment, as well as the name, address and occupation, must be entered in the personnel roster book prior to the actual performance of any duties by the employee. It is the responsibility of the licensee that all employees have their identification cards in their physical possession or on file with the licensee on the premises. The identification card, if kept on file by the licensee, must be returned to the employee upon termination of employment. Any identification card which for any reason cannot be promptly returned to the employee must be forwarded to the superintendent of police without delay. All individuals, members of a copartnership and all officers of a corporation holding a cabaret or night club license not participating in the physical operation of such licensed premises do not require an employee's identification card. The holder of an identification card or temporary permit shall:

From: Jocelyn Barielle <jocelyn_barielle@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 8:30 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

From: Camie Kelly <camiekelly@audubon-mortgage.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 2:26 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Attachments: petition.pdf

Hi,

Please see attached petition regarding exploitation and absurd amount of sex clubs in the French quarter. It is a shame to waste our historical city with such trash. I just got back from traveling the east coast. It was so refreshing seeing beautiful historic cities that have not been destroyed by filthy sex clubs as is the situation in the French quarter. Please let me know your thoughts on this matter.

Best Regards,

Camie Kelly
504.301.2770/504.416.0097 cell/504.510.2336 fax

From: Rebecca Carr <carrrebeccab@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:16 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Rebecca Carr

*Jack E. Saux, Jr.
424 Rosa Avenue
Metairie, Louisiana 70005*

**City Planning Commission Office
1300 Perdido Street 7th Floor
New Orleans, LA 70112**

JUN14'16 03:09PM

6.6.16

Re: Adult Live Entertainment Study

Dear Commission Members,

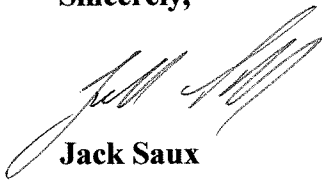
As a realtor whose business is helping people locating to New Orleans find homes, I have a first hand view of the manner in which the reputation of our city effects people making the decision to move here.

While violent crime statistics are the number one negative, the sleaze factor of the strip joints runs a close second. Even if these possible homebuyers decide to avoid the Bourbon Street area, they are assaulted by signs advertising "barely legal" dancers, etc.

If you are able to pass regulations which will restrict this business, who knows. They may move this blight somewhere else where the regulations are less stringent.

Thank you for your attention to this blemish on our city.

Sincerely,



**Jack Saux
Engel & Völkers Real Estate Advisor**

JUN20'16 02:47PM

June 14, 2016

TO: City Planning Commission Office

1300 Perdido Street, 7th Floor

New Orleans, LA 70112

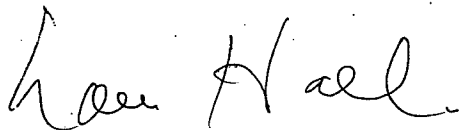
FROM: Louis Hall

1904 West Cedar

El Dorado, AR 71730

RE: Adult Live Entertainment Venues in the City of New Orleans

On a recent visit to New Orleans I was made aware of your efforts to study "Adult Live Entertainment Venues." I write in support of Archbishop Aymond's efforts to curtail these venues.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louis Hall".

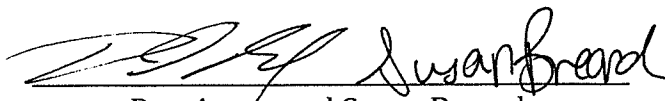
City Planning Commission Office
1300 Perdido Street, 7th Floor
New Orleans, LA 70112

JUN20'16 02:47PM

Dear City Planning Commission,

My wife and I are aware of your study on "Adult Life Entertainment Venues in the City of New Orleans." We are grateful that you have taken this initiative to undercover what is really happening at these strip clubs and "spas." However, one shouldn't have to look too hard before realizing that these establishments are nothing but a hub for illegal and immoral activities, including prostitution, human trafficking, drug dealing, and violence. We pray that our city will no longer turn a blind eye to this insult on human dignity. Thank you for your efforts in this cause.

Sincerely,



Drs. Aaron and Susan Breard

From: Gene Ferraro <Gene.F.Ferraro@mwhglobal.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:26 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Gene Ferraro
MWH-Stantec
504-234-2302

From: Barbara Griffin <bbgriffin1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:24 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Mary <calelv2000@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:26 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

From: Jacqueline Wasilewski <jwashi@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 12:50 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebaillieux
Subject: Petition % Sabine Lebaillieux

PETITION

City Planning Commission's Study of Adult Live Entertainment Venues

We thank the City Council and the City Planning Commission for their recent efforts to study "Adult Live Entertainment Venues in the City of New Orleans." We are pleased that "the study will consider: limitations on the number of such establishments, best practices of other cities, land use regulatory mechanisms, use standards, and input from industry representatives and impacted businesses."

It is known that:

In October 2015, law enforcement found drug dealing and prostitution taking place in 9 out of

14 strip clubs in a month long undercover investigation. Drug dealing and prostitution (male and female) is also known to take place in other kinds of clubs and venues.

New Orleans is considered a major hub for human sex trafficking by national law enforcement and human trafficking experts (including the Polaris Project).

According to a lawsuit, reported by the Times Picayune and Wall Street Journal, dancers in strip clubs are often hired as independent contractors, not as employees with regular benefits. Dancers are constantly sexually harassed, and are forced to work in an environment that is neither safe nor crime free.

A Loyola University study estimated 87 residents from Covenant House, a homeless youth shelter, were survivors of human trafficking each year and an estimated 150 residents per year if the sex industry and strip clubs were included.

We believe that:

The existing number of strip clubs leads to an increase in overall French Quarter crime including violence, prostitution, lewd/improper acts, petty crime and drug dealing – and therefore does not promote the public health, welfare and safety of the City.

We, the undersigned, recommend that:

- No one under the age of 21 should be allowed to work in any capacity within a strip club or adult entertainment venue.
- A special designation should be made that defines these establishments which would allow tighter restrictions and regulations, such as no one under 21 should be allowed to work within the premises.
- In accord with the Federal Labors Standards Act, dancers should be hired as regular employees with standard benefits, should be provided a safe, crime free environment, and should not be allowed to be sexually harassed.

- The number of strip clubs in our city needs to decrease by 65%, any new or re-opened clubs should not be allowed outside of the “adult live performance venue IZD” or within 1,000 feet of residences, schools, or houses of worship.
- A special tax/fee needs to be levied against the strip clubs to pay for increased law enforcement on Bourbon Street, and for weekly inspections of the clubs including VIP rooms.
- Enforcement of all regulations, existing and proposed, should be enforced by both NOPD and the State Police.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Wasilewski

From: Joyce Whitfield <joycemwhitfield@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 19, 2016 9:30 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: Petition
Attachments: Petition to City Planning Commission.pdf

Attached is my signature on a petition regarding Adult Live Entertainment Venues.

Joyce Whitfield

From: Montalbano, Bridgett <bmontalbano@kingkrebs.com>
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 10:10 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com; Krebs, Patricia
Subject: Re: Signed the petition - Sent on behalf of Patricia A. Krebs
Attachments: Covenant House - Petition Signed.pdf - Patricia A. Krebs
(N1183545xB08FB).pdf

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

From: Aimee Rhodes <rhodesaimee@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:13 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

From: Cassandra Sharpe <sharperealestate@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:18 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Bourbon Street has become a festering sore in our Downtown. It produces violence because people are over served liquor. It attracts a criminal element and it has become a dangerous place. Jefferson Parish got rid of their Fat City and we need to do the same with Bourbon Street.

I lived in the Quarter for twenty years 1974 until 1994 until I could not deal with what was happening there.

I am now on Julia Street and our neighborhood organization is having to put up a barrier to keep bars and seedy hotels out of our area. If we let it, Bourbon Street will come across Canal Street and we do not want that.

Cassandra Sharpe

Cassandra Sharpe
sharperealestate@me.com

CASSANDRA SHARPE REAL ESTATE, INC.
BROKER/REALTOR/NOTARY
610 JULIA STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130

504-568-1252 OFFICE
504-460-7829 CELL

From: Kathryn Rapier <kayrapier@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 3:37 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition Kathryn E. Rapier

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

From: William Kearney III <wkearney3@att.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:36 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

W. J. Kearney III

From: Force, Robert <rforce@tulane.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:37 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I sign the Petition



Robert Force
Niels F. Johnsen Professor of Maritime Law
Director Emeritus, Tulane Maritime Law Center
Tulane University Law School
6329 Freret Street • New Orleans, LA 70118 • USA
Ph: +1.504.865.5947 • Fax: +1.504.862.8855

From: Carroll S. Grevemberg <grevy@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:40 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

New Orleans city administrators turn a blind eye to many of the issues that continue to corrupt and degrade the quality of life for our citizens. It does not take a brain scientist to figure out the harm to our society by the sex clubs that proliferate our French Quarter. Therefore, this festering nest of impropriety should not be allowed to operate without strict guidelines that protect the citizens and the young workers. I strongly agree with the PETITION below!

PETITION

City Planning Commission's Study of Adult Live Entertainment Venues

We thank the City Council and the City Planning Commission for their recent efforts to study "Adult Live Entertainment Venues in the City of New Orleans." We are pleased that "the study will consider: limitations on the number of such establishments, best practices of other cities, land use regulatory mechanisms, use standards, and input from industry representatives and impacted businesses."

It is known that:

In October 2015, law enforcement found drug dealing and prostitution taking place in 9 out of 14 strip clubs in a month long undercover investigation. Drug dealing and prostitution (male and female) is also known to take place in other kinds of clubs and venues.

New Orleans is considered a major hub for human sex trafficking by national law enforcement and human trafficking experts (including the Polaris Project).

According to a lawsuit, reported by the Times Picayune and Wall Street Journal, dancers in strip clubs are often hired as independent contractors, not as employees with regular benefits. Dancers are constantly sexually harassed, and are forced to work in an environment that is neither safe nor crime free.

A Loyola University study estimated 87 residents from Covenant House, a homeless youth shelter, were survivors of human trafficking each year and an estimated 150 residents per year if the sex industry and strip clubs were included.

We believe that:

The existing number of strip clubs leads to an increase in overall French Quarter crime including violence, prostitution, lewd/improper acts, petty crime and drug dealing – and therefore does not promote the public health, welfare and safety of the City.

We, the undersigned, recommend that:

- No one under the age of 21 should be allowed to work in any capacity within a strip club or adult entertainment venue.
- A special designation should be made that defines these establishments which would allow tighter restrictions and regulations, such as no one under 21 should be allowed to work within the premises.
- In accord with the Federal Labors Standards Act, dancers should be hired as regular employees with standard benefits, should be provided a safe, crime free environment, and should not be allowed to be sexually harassed.
- The number of strip clubs in our city needs to decrease by 65%, any new or re-opened clubs should not be allowed outside of the “adult live performance venue IZD” or within 1,000 feet of residences, schools, or houses of worship.
- A special tax/fee needs to be levied against the strip clubs to pay for increased law enforcement on Bourbon Street, and for weekly inspections of the clubs including VIP rooms.
- Enforcement of all regulations, existing and proposed, should be enforced by both NOPD and the State Police.

Please forward the attached petition by June 20th to:

ATTN: Sabine Lebailleur City Planning Commission selebailleur@nola.gov

From: Allison Bach <allisonbach@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:43 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Allison Bach
703 Henry Clay Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

Sent from my iPhone

From: Diane Genre <dianegenre@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:51 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Hughes Drumm <hughesdrumm@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:51 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Bobby Segal <bobbysegal@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:51 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Sent from my iPhone

From: ginger graf <ggraf7@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:50 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

Virginia Ringer

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

From: Ruth Mahoney <RMahoney@LASC.ORG>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:54 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: 'kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com'
Subject: Signed the petition

I signed this petition. Please do everything you can to correct this problem.

Thank you,

Ruth Mahoney
Library Associate
Law Library of Louisiana
400 Royal St.
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130
(504) 310-2400
(504) 310-2419 Fax

From: Lowry Jackson <lowryjackson@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:55 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Mike Seymour <masmes@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:56 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Sent from my iPad

From: Diana Lewis <dlewis1120@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:56 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

Please add my name to the following petition. Diana Lewis

We believe that:

The existing number of strip clubs leads to an increase in overall French Quarter crime including violence, prostitution, lewd/improper acts, petty crime and drug dealing – and therefore does not promote the public health, welfare and safety of the City.

We, the undersigned, recommend that:

- ☐ No one under the age of 21 should be allowed to work in any capacity within a strip club or adult entertainment venue.
- ☐ A special designation should be made that defines these establishments which would allow tighter restrictions and regulations, such as no one under 21 should be allowed to work within the premises.

☒ In accord with the Federal Labors Standards Act, dancers should be hired as regular employees with standard benefits, should be provided a safe, crime free environment, and should not be allowed to be sexually harassed.

☒ The number of strip clubs in our city needs to decrease by 65%, any new or re-opened clubs should not be allowed outside of the “adult live performance venue IZD” or within 1,000 feet of residences, schools, or houses of worship.

☒ A special tax/fee needs to be levied against the strip clubs to pay for increased law enforcement on Bourbon Street, and for weekly inspections of the clubs including VIP rooms.

☒ Enforcement of all regulations, existing and proposed, should be enforced by both NOPD and the State Police.

From: Karin Giger <nolaviking@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:58 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

please support the covenant house petition to help protect our young and vulnerable girls and women.
thank you for your consideration.

karin giger eustis

From: Maaja Stewart <maajastewart@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:59 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Sent from my iPad

From: Dina Hunt <dina.hunt@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:11 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

How realistic is it to achieve these items:

- The number of strip clubs in our city needs to decrease by 65%, any new or re-opened clubs should not be allowed outside of the “adult live performance venue IZD” or within 1,000 feet of residences, schools, or houses of worship.

- A special tax/fee needs to be levied against the strip clubs to pay for increased law enforcement on Bourbon Street, and for weekly inspections of the clubs including VIP rooms.

My personal opinion is that the focus should be on protecting the young adults and not trying to force the clubs out of business.

From: edmbetsy@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:12 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Meg Bradley <megjbradley300@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:14 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Meg Bradley

Sent from my iPad

Meg Bradley
300 Fairway Dr.
New Orleans, LA

From: Sylvia Frey <sylviafrey@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:18 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

From: john herbert <jherbertrealestate@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:19 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

From: Teddy <teddy1233@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:25 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Dorothea B. Martin

From: Greenwoodvilla@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:26 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

From: James M. Klebba <klebba@loyno.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:35 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

James M. Klebba

From: Kell Riess <Fkriess@riessfirms.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:40 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

F. Kelleher Riess

From: Gorman, Roger <Roger.Gorman@lcmchealth.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:42 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

ROGER GORMAN
Director of Development

Children's Hospital | Founding Member of LCMC Health
200 Henry Clay Avenue | New Orleans, LA 70118
OFFICE (504)896-9375 | CELL (504)473-1194
Roger.Gorman@LCMHealth.org | www.CHNOLA.org



**CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL**

Caring for every child as our own.
www.CHNOLA.org

FOUNDING MEMBER OF **LCMC** | **HEALTH**

From: Shannon S Holtzman <ssholtzman@Liskow.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:04 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: 'kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com'
Subject: Signed the petition

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Shannon S. Holtzman

(504) 556-4148 Direct
(504) 556-4108 Fax
(504) 473-3797 Cell

LISKOW & LEWIS
New Orleans | Lafayette | Houston

One Shell Square
701 Poydras Street, Suite 5000
New Orleans, LA 70139
www.liskow.com

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From: bernardbaudinjr@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:05 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition
Attachments: petition.pdf; ATT00001.txt

Please use this to get women the respect they deserve. Thanks Bernard Baudin

From: Mary Blackburn <bmary564@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:09 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

Mary Blackburn, I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Kate Barron <barrokd@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 12:16 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

Dear Ms. Bailleux,

I support the Covenant House petition which I read but couldn't figure out how to sign. Its most important feature, for me, is that the adult entertainers, who now must be at least 21 years of age, be paid a salary and treated as legitimate employees, not contract workers. Everyone will probably protest this requirement but it is crucial to bringing some decency to the occupation and preventing invidious competition and manipulation.

Thank you for considering my support of the Covenant House petition on adult live entertainment in New Orleans.

Karen D. Barron
1229 Lowerline St.
New Orleans, LA 70118
504-866-1676
barrokd@yahoo.com

From: Jennifer Golden <goldenlanguage@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 12:30 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

From: Lisa Brooking <lbrooking@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 1:16 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

From: Elizabeth Seton Jenkins <setonsj@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 1:24 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

Seton Smith Jenkins, MHCA
Greater New Orleans Drug Demand Reduction
504-236-6027
[Setonsj@aol.com](mailto:setonsj@aol.com)
www.gnoddrc.org

From: John Rice <brtmarine@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 1:30 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

From: Richard Whann <rawhann@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 2:01 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition
Attachments: petition.pdf; ATT00001.txt

Richard A. Whann

From: Brenda Ball Brown <BMBrown1@uno.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 2:58 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

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From: Henry Herazo <Enrique.R.Herazo@mwhglobal.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 3:06 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

From: Richard Henault <rhenault@mhsfi.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 3:31 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com; info@citizensfor1.com;
rhenault@mhsfi.org
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Richard A. Henault, FACHE
Executive Vice President
Methodist Health System Foundation, Inc.
360 Oak Harbor Boulevard
Slidell, LA 70458
w: 985-726-9333 X: 109
fx:985-726-9996
c: 504-228-4459
rhenault@mhsfi.org
www.mhsfi.org

" It's not what happens to us that counts, it's our response to it."
-Author

Unknown

From: carltoncorp3 <carltoncorp3@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 4:01 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

From: Marguerite L. Adams <mladams@liskow.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 4:56 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: 'kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com'
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the
Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Marguerite L. Adams
537 Joseph St.
New Orleans LA 70115

From: PMBT (Pam Butler) <pmbt@novonordisk.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 5:22 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

Pam Butler
Novo Nordisk Inc.
800 Scudders Mill Road
Plainsboro, NJ 08536
USA
504-258-3680 (direct)
PMBT@novonordisk.com

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From: Barbara Sallettes <klkota@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 5:57 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Barbara
Sent from my iPhone

From: Gwen Burk <gigi.burk@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 6:40 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

GiGi Gaubert Burk
gigi@burkbrokerage.com
(504) 416-2263

Sent from my iPhone

From: allan laskey <yo4567@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 8:46 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

From: Stephanie Newell <snewell82@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:25 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Sent from my iPad

From: Flossie Bourg <fbourg@ashrosary.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:29 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition
Attachments: Petition on adult entertainment in NOLA.pdf

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment. I do not live within the city of New Orleans, but I work in New Orleans, and I am concerned about the well-being of the city and its residents.

Thanks for your efforts to reduce New Orleans' negative reputation as a center for unhealthy, exploitive practices.

Florence C. Bourg, Ph.D.
41 Sedgefield Drive
Harahan, LA 70123

From: Bonnie Conway <boncon@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 6:26 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Carol G. McCall <carolmccall@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 8:06 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Carol G. McCall
carolmccall@bellsouth.net
504-452-9271

From: Margo Phelps <msp1161@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 8:35 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Margo Phelps

Sent from my iPhone

From: James Wee <wee@loyno.edu>
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 9:24 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

The request in this petition, is a "no brainer" if there ever was one. Please take action to implement this request!

Jim Wee

James L. Wee Ph.D.
Provost Distinguished Professor

Department of Biological Sciences
Loyola University
6363 St. Charles Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70118-6143

office: 504-865-2548
dept.: 504-865-2288
FAX: 504-865-2920
wee@loyno.edu

From: Melanie Miranda <melmiranda111@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 9:55 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Myralynn Gibbs <mrsbocage@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 12:10 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Myralynn Gibbs
Covington, LA

From: Liz Reed <uptownlizr@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 12:23 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

From: Simone Norah <Simone.Norah@mwhglobal.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 12:30 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

From: Serpas Raymond J. <rjserpas@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 3:14 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Raymond Serpas

From: jane johnson <janeljohnson49@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 4:17 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Jane Johnson

From: Karen Snyder <klsnyder299@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 5:47 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment. I am a former Covenant House employee, and I know how important this is! Thank you.
Karen Snyder

From: Phelps, Esmond <ephelps@fishmanhaygood.com>
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2016 8:47 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

From: Will Newell <will_newell@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2016 12:06 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

From: x50type@cox.net
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2016 4:13 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult+Entertainment.

Colin †
x50type@cox.net

From: Krebs, Patricia <pkrebs@kingkrebs.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 18, 2016 8:35 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment. I wholeheartedly agree with the petition and support the efforts being made to protect our young people from exploitation. Thank you for your efforts on their behalf. Patricia Krebs

From: Edward Brandao <rnebrandao@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 9:39 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

From: judithsoniat@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:26 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

Judith Soniat
6031 Highway 311
Houma LA 70360

From: Pamela White <pwhitemd@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 9:19 AM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Cc: kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com
Subject: Signed the petition

I have read and signed the petition for the Bourbon Street Adult Entertainment.

225 Bourbon Street, L.L.C.
3525 N. Causeway Blvd. # 802
Metairie, LA 70002
June 17, 2016

City of New Orleans Planning Commission
1300 Perdido, 7th floor
New Orleans, LA 70112

ATTN: Sabine Lebailleur

By email to: selebailleur@nola.gov

Re: Moratorium on new adult businesses in the
Vieux Carre Entertainment Zone

Dear Ms. Lebailleur:

On behalf of the owners of the property located at 221-225 Bourbon Street, which lies in the Vieux Carre Entertainment Zone (the VCE), I would like to make the following comments in opposition to the recent moratorium on new adult entertainment businesses in the VCE and any additional proposed restrictions, including one which calls for a 65% reduction in the number of these establishments.

Like most of the properties located in the VCE, our property dates back to the mid 1800's. Throughout the years this area of the Vieux Carre has become a world famous destination for adult entertainment.

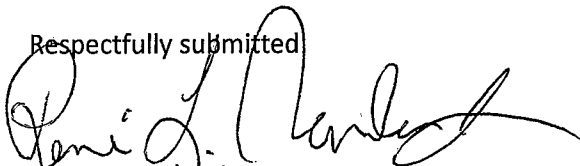
The operators of these adult entertainment establishments generally lease the premises from the property owners and assume the responsibility for maintaining the properties in accordance with Vieux Carre' Commission regulations. This is not an inexpensive endeavor.

If one were to compare the appearances and overall condition of properties occupied by adult entertainment establishments with other properties in the same area, they would immediately notice that the adult entertainment establishments tend to be among the most well maintained properties in the VCE.

Many of the adult entertainment establishments in the VCE contribute substantial amounts of sales tax revenue to the city of New Orleans. What other types of VCE businesses generate as much revenue for the City?

Restricting the use of our property in the future by eliminating adult use as a permitted use would likely decrease the value of our property.

Respectfully submitted



Rene L. Randoh Jr.
Manager

MOLLERE, FLANAGAN & LANDRY, L.L.C.

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

MOLLERE BUILDING

2341 METAIRIE ROAD

METAIRIE, LOUISIANA 70001

Raymond B. Landry
Lisa M. Orlando

Telephone: (504) 837-4950
Telecopier: (504) 837-3221
rbl@mollereflanagan.com

Jules G. Mollere (1921-1985)
James T. Flanagan (1928-2006)

17 June 2016

Via Email selebailleaux@nola.gov

Ms. Sabine Lebailleux

City Planner

City of New Orleans Planning Commission

1300 Perdido Street, 7th Floor

New Orleans, LA 70112

Re: Three Fifteen Bourbon Street LLC General File
MF&L File No: S-2669
City Council Motion M-16-22
Regarding: Adult Live Performance Venues in the City of New Orleans

Dear Sabine

I represent Mr. Edson Tung and his family company known as Three Fifteen Bourbon Street, LLC, which owns the property at 315 Bourbon Street. This property has been in Mr. Tung's family for nearly a century. Many New Orleanians will remember this property as the location of a Houlihan's Restaurant and Bar. Most recently, the property has been leased to and used by Rick's Cabaret. Throughout Mr. Tung's adolescence, the property was still being used as his family's Oriental Laundry. We understand, however, that the City Council is considering amendments to the VCE Vieux Carre Entertainment District in the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, which could have a direct effect on how Mr. Tung chooses to use his family's property in the future.

We understand that zoning changes have recently been implemented through a moratorium or that such zoning changes are now being proposed, whereby adult businesses are zoned for conditional use, rather than permitted use. We further have heard that proposals are being advanced that could reduce the number of adult businesses by 65%. We write because we are against any further zoning restrictions on Bourbon Street, including those that specifically target adult businesses.

We have read in the newspapers about certain unscrupulous adult business operators who have condoned, if not encouraged and participated in, criminal activities. We want that criminal activity stopped and punished. But we suggest that the recent problems were isolated to one or two bad actors, not the vast majority of people who are involved in this industry. We believe these criminal activities are

best addressed by enforcement of the laws and ordinances already in place, and that further regulations that limit the use of property in the VCE are not necessary. We agree with the French Quarter Business Association's study and conclusion that the adult industry is already sufficiently regulated. What is lacking, however, is consistent enforcement.

Mr. Tung's family property at 315 Bourbon Street has been used in various fashions over the past many decades, and it surely will be used in various other ways in the coming decades. We submit that altering zoning rules in this particular area of our City is not the right approach to address criminal activity. Instead, we should enforce the laws and ordinances already in place. If an operator in the adult industry does not comply with applicable laws and ordinances, please revoke his or her license. None of us benefit from criminal activities or bad actors in the Vieux Carre. But we submit that, to the extent possible and in this particular area of our City, property owners should be allowed to use their property consistent with its highest and best use. Today, Mr. Tung believes that renting his property to an adult business happens to be his property's highest and best use. He simply asks that the proposed zoning regulations not be implemented, as he believes the proposed amendments will prevent his descendants from using the property to benefit from whatever the property's then highest and best use may be in the future.

Best regards.

Yours very truly,

MOLLERE, FLANAGAN & LANDRY, L.L.C.

By: 
RAYMOND B. LANDRY

RBL:sd

cc: Ed Tung

From: Alex Fein <jafein27@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 4:35 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: Adult Uses on Bourbon St

Hello

My name is Alex Fein and I am the president of the French Quarter Business League. Our group represents 12 different business owners/groups who own or operate a large percentage of the businesses on Bourbon St. We met recently and voted unanimously to oppose any restrictions on adult uses on Bourbon St. We also feel that there are already enough rules and regulations surrounding adult uses on Bourbon St. We strongly feel that increased enforcement of existing regulations is what is called for here, not additional regulations

I hope you take our views into consideration.

Sincerely

Alex Fein
President
French Quarter Business League

ALEXANDRA LUTNICK

Summary of Professional Experience

Alexandra Lutnick is a senior research scientist for the Behavioral and Urban Health Program in RTI International's Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Research Division. Dr. Lutnick has extensive experience developing and conducting mixed-methods research with marginalized populations such as drug users, the homeless, sex workers, and trafficked persons, in addition to program evaluations. Her research interests include community-based participatory methods, the sex industry, trafficking, substance use, and criminalization.

Dr. Lutnick has authored and coauthored many publications, including the *Journal of Urban Health*, *Children and Youth Services Review*, *Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions*, *American Journal of Epidemiology*, *Reproductive Health Matters*, and *Sexually Transmitted Infections*. She has been an invited speaker for many conferences, including the Freedom Network Annual Conference, the National Harm Reduction Conference, and the International AIDS Conference. Her book, *Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: Beyond Victims and Villains*, was published in early 2016 by Columbia University Press.

Education

PhD, Social Welfare, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, 2013.

MA, Human Sexuality Studies, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA, 2004.

BA, Sociology; Certificate in Women's Studies, University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, 2000.
Graduated summa cum laude.

Selected Project Experience

Researcher-Survivor Formative Evaluation of San Francisco's Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force (2016 to date)—*Principal Investigator*. Funded by the National Institute of Justice, this study aims to document essential task force elements and identify indicators and criteria for successful task force implementation and outcomes. The formative work will result in a protocol that can be used in wide-scale process or outcome task force evaluations. It will also provide guidance to the field on how to forge researcher-survivor partnerships.

HIV Testing among Key Populations in Eastern and Southern Africa: A Review of Research, Policy and Programming (2016 to date) – *Policy Review Lead*. Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, this project will conduct a review of HIV testing and linkage to post-test services in six Eastern and Southern African countries (Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) focusing on female sex workers, men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs (PWID) and adolescent women. The review will also contain an analysis of the country's laws and policies that may promote or inhibit HIV testing and linkage to care among the key populations.

The POWER Study: Prevention Options for Women Evaluation Research (2015 to date)—*Co-Investigator*. Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, this study aims to examine the individual, social, structural, and physical environment factors, including health care access and utilization, that influence young women in South Africa and Kenya to take up and adhere to HIV prevention strategies, primarily oral pre-exposure prophylaxis. As co-investigator, co-trains qualitative interviewers, leads the formative work with key informants, and directs the qualitative work during the cohort study. Will lead analysis of qualitative work and author manuscripts. Also oversees the incorporation of participatory approaches into this study.

The TRIO Study: Acceptability of Multipurpose Technologies Placebo Delivery Forms (2015 to date)—*Formative Lead*. Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, this study aims to evaluate the acceptability of three novel multipurpose prevention technology delivery forms for prevention of HIV and unintended pregnancy among young women in Kenya and South Africa: a vaginal ring, an injectable, and co-packaged daily pills (all placebos). Co-develops formative interview guides to be used with medical providers and young women. Also provides guidance to the team on how best to incorporate participatory approaches into a clinical trial. Will lead analysis of formative qualitative work and author manuscripts based on those findings.

Microbicides Trial Network-020 (2015 to date)—*Qualitative Analyst*. Assists with the analysis of qualitative interviews with women enrolled in a multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled Phase 3 Safety and Effectiveness Trial of a vaginal matrix ring containing dapivirine for the prevention of HIV-1 infection in women.

Addressing Under-Reporting of Minor Victim Sex Trafficking in Illinois (2013 to 2014)—*Qualitative Lead*. Funded by the National Institute of Justice, this study aims to assess the number and characteristics of trafficked minors who are referred to or served by the child welfare system under provisions of the Illinois Safe Children Act. Directed the qualitative portion of the study.

Exploring Experiences of Disclosing HIV-Positive Status While in Prison (2013 to 2014)—*Research Public Health Analyst II*. Funded by National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), this study aims to qualitatively identify and explore factors that affect HIV-positive people's decisions to disclose or not disclose their HIV status to medical providers in prison. Assisted with the inductive and deductive qualitative analysis.

Evaluation of Services for Domestic Minor Victims of Human Trafficking (2009 to 2013)—*Research Public Health Analyst II*. This U.S. Department of Justice-funded evaluation will document components of program implementation in three programs serving domestic minor victims of human trafficking. It will identify promising practices for service delivery programs for domestic minor victims of human trafficking and inform delivery of current and future efforts by youth-serving agencies, law enforcement, and others. As director of the San Francisco site, worked collaboratively with the other project staff and the project director to create a unified evaluation plan for all three sites, implement that plan, and analyze and disseminate the findings.

Methods for Improving Reproductive Health in Africa Study (Phase III Diaphragm and Gel Effectiveness Trial)—IPM 011 Vaginal Ring Study (2010)—*Public Health Analyst III*. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funded this high-profile, 5-year study on the effectiveness of the diaphragm to prevent HIV acquisition in Southern African women. Served as the qualitative data analysis director for this study. Working with the principal investigator, study director, and other qualitative staff, developed the qualitative code book, coded and analyzed the interviews in NVivo, and contributed qualitative findings to the project report and manuscripts.

International Feasibility Study of Pharmacy-Based HIV Prevention: San Francisco (2009 to 2012)—*Research Public Health Analyst I*. This NIDA-funded study will assess the feasibility of using pharmacies as public health venues to provide HIV-related services to injection drug users (IDUs) in the United States and international settings, in preparation for a large-scale, multisite, randomized community-controlled intervention trial. As project director for the San Francisco site, assessed current pharmacy services and how these services can be expanded to include HIV-related services for IDUs' syringes in pharmacies; assessed barriers to participation in HIV prevention interventions targeted to IDU syringe customers, including pharmacists' attitudes, IDUs' concerns, and possible interference from law enforcement and policy makers; and identified potential local sites (i.e., sub-areas) for a randomized community-controlled trial.

Phase 0 Demonstration Project of a Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) e-Health System for STI Diagnosis and Treatment (2009)—*Public Health Analyst III*. This STI Clinical Trials Group-funded study will determine the acceptability and feasibility of an integrated Internet-based STI home specimen collection and treatment system (e-STI). This study is the first demonstration project of an integrated Internet-based home specimen collection, testing, treatment, and referral system for use in STI clinical trials. Contributed to the protocol development for this study.

Correlates of Sexual Risk for HIV/STI Among Women Who Use Methamphetamine (WAM!) (2008 to 2009)—*Public Health Analyst III*. This NIDA-funded cross-sectional study used quantitative and qualitative methods to establish a comprehensive understanding of female methamphetamine (MA) users and the factors associated with sexual risk among them. This study looked at the individual-level factors (e.g., patterns of MA use, polydrug use, psychological morbidities, other factors), interpersonal-level factors (e.g., partner type, intimate relationship characteristics, dependent children), structural-level factors (e.g., homelessness, incarceration, venues of sex and drug use), and cultural-level factors (e.g., race/ethnicity, gender norms, religion) that are associated with sexual risk among female MA users. Oversaw all aspects related to the quantitative component: computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI); screening for gonorrhea, trichomoniasis, chlamydia, herpes, syphilis, and HIV; and test results disclosure counseling sessions. Also conducted many of the qualitative life history interviews and played a key role in qualitative data coding and analysis. Worked with study team to synthesize the quantitative and qualitative findings to yield recommendations for gender-specific and culturally appropriate interventions at individual, interpersonal, and structural levels.

Integration of Behavioral, Biological and Economic Informatics for HIV Research (CARE-India) (2008 to 2009)—*Public Health Analyst III*. This U.S. Department of Health and Human Services study brings together a multidisciplinary team to create a new audio computer-assisted self-interview interactive counseling and self-testing computer tool (CARE-India) to support HIV prevention research. The new technology will allow minimally educated research staff to provide acceptable methods for HIV counseling and testing, while ensuring that high-quality data are collected, counseling and referrals are provided, rapid HIV test results are recorded, and study data for multilevel analysis are reported in a timely manner. The CARE-India tool will be culturally adapted for Southern India, with the addition of fingerprint recognition and confidential linkage of longitudinal risk data, and automated computer interpretation of rapid HIV test results. Developed the study protocol and oversaw all Institutional Review Board (IRB) human subjects applications.

Ethnography of an HIV Risk Population (Sex Worker Environmental Assessment Team [SWEAT] Study) (2003 to 2008)—*Staff Research Associate III*. This NIDA study explored whether diminished social capital leads to an increased prevalence of HIV, STIs, and viral hepatitis among female sex workers in San Francisco, California. In the first phase of the study, used ethnographic methods to understand the cultural landscape of the sex worker communities in San Francisco. Conducted 60 one-on-one semistructured qualitative interviews with sex workers of all genders, six focus groups, and a community

agency analysis to understand the social context in which sex work occurs. The second phase relied on respondent-driven sampling to interview and test 250 female sex workers over the course of 1 year. Led a team of 11 peer interviewers to collect the data. Conducted a multilevel analysis that consisted of an individual-level analysis and a network-level analysis, and evaluated the network-level association between degree of social capital and aggregated prevalence of HIV, STIs, and hepatitis.

St. UFO Study (2003 to 2004)—*Research Assistant*. This study was a branch of the UFO-3 study, a NIDA-funded longitudinal study. The UFO project, which began in September 1997 in San Francisco, is the name for multiple studies that measure the seroprevalence of hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV in IDUs younger than age 30. This particular branch of the UFO study focused on male IDUs younger than age 30 who engaged in sex work. The primary aims of this 2-year study were to examine incident hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection, confirm the utility of nucleic acid testing for identifying acute and serosilent HCV infection, and examine immunological correlates of viral clearance in newly infected young injectors by enrolling them into a substudy of acute HCV infection.

Professional Experience

- 2008 to date RTI International, San Francisco, CA.
- Research Public Health Analyst III. Leads and collaborates on national and international research projects related to the sexual, physical, and mental health needs of urban poor populations, as well as program evaluations. Primary responsibilities include project management, data collection, data analysis, IRB protocol preparation, grant writing, data management, manuscript preparation, and literature review.
- 2007 to 2008 Public Health Foundation Enterprises, San Francisco, CA.
- Principal Investigator (2008). As principal investigator for the RTI subcontract Syringe Disposal Study, contributed to grant proposal development and the writing process. Coordinated and facilitated focus groups. Assisted with qualitative analysis, data presentations, and manuscript writing.
- Interviewer/Back-Up Coordinator (2008). For the RTI subcontract low frequency of heroin injection (LOW-FHI) study, collected data from IDUs. Provided back-up for the project coordinator.
- Study Coordinator (2007 to 2008). For the WAM! RTI subcontract study, oversaw recruitment, quantitative and qualitative data collection, HIV/STI testing and counseling, and petty cash management. Supervised and trained research staff. Facilitated data management. Informed the revision and addition of new research questions. Assisted with qualitative and quantitative data analysis, data presentations, and manuscript writing. Ensured compliance with IRB-approved protocols and mandated reporting of positive STI results. Set up and oversaw monthly clinical support meetings for research staff.
- 2003 to 2008 University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, CA.
- Staff Research Associate III. Research coordinator for the SWEAT study. Created and developed the CAPI instrument. Cleaned data and tracked demographics for homogeneity. Developed the protocol for the respondent-

driven sampling methodology. Conducted qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis. Led focus groups and community agency analysis. Conducted HIV/STI/viral hepatitis testing and counseling. Performed phlebotomy. Coordinated and maintained grants, participant charts, Committee on Human Research applications/renewals, and petty cash. Supervised and trained research staff. Assisted with manuscript preparation and data presentations.

Focus Group Facilitator. Facilitated focus groups for the Sexual Health and Empowerment program, an intervention program for HIV-positive women.

2001 to 2008

St. James Infirmary, San Francisco, CA.

Research Coordinator (2003 to 2008). Oversaw and supervised the various research projects connected with the infirmary. Served as the contact for all incoming inquiries that pertained to research projects. Maintained contact and correspondence with other sex worker agencies, researchers, and activists. Attended relevant conferences and seminars as a St. James Infirmary representative. Disseminated research results and findings to appropriate audiences.

Harm Reduction Counselor (2001 to 2006). Conducted outreach to the local massage parlors and strip clubs. Co-coordinated venue-based HIV/STI testing at local strip clubs, and co-coordinated the implementation of rapid testing. Conducted individual peer counseling, risk assessment, disclosure, post-disclosure, and harm-reduction counseling to sex workers.

St. UFO Research Assistant (2003 to 2004). Conducted in-depth interviews with research participants and provided risk assessment, disclosure, post-disclosure, and harm-reduction counseling. Facilitated an HIV component of the research project.

HIV Executive Assistant (2001 to 2004). Facilitated State Office of AIDS grant. Helped with coordination of an HIV/STI program. Provided risk assessment, disclosure, post-disclosure, peer counseling, and harm-reduction counseling. Organized and maintained medical charts and test results. Created and maintained databases. Represented St. James Infirmary at meetings with other agencies.

2000 to 2001

Hamilton Family Center, San Francisco, CA.

Assistant Program Director, Case Manager. Facilitated opening of a new homeless family shelter. Provided confidential administrative support to the executive director, program director, and coordinators. Ensured the efficient day-to-day running of all operations. Provided individualized case management to seven homeless families.

Teaching Experience

- 2016 University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.
Program Faculty, Human Trafficking: From Object to Subject
- 2016 University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.
Adjunct Faculty, Sexuality and Social Work.
- 2015 University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.
Adjunct Faculty, Sexuality and Social Work.
- 2014 University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.
Adjunct Faculty, Introduction to Social Welfare Research.
- 2012 University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.
Graduate Student Instructor. Co-facilitated an undergraduate course, Practice in Social Work. Created and led weekly discussion sections, co-created and graded assignments, and provided in- and out-of-class support for instructor, co-graduate student instructor, and students.
- 2003 San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA.
Human Sexuality Studies Teaching Assistant. Co-facilitated a mixed-level undergraduate and graduate course, Sex, Power and Politics. Created the class syllabus, led discussions, and provided assignments. Provided in- and out-of-class support for co-teacher and students.

Professional Service

Consulting

Alameda County Public Defender's office, 2016
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2016 to date
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, March to June 2014
RTI International, 2007
Pleasure Project Case Study Project, 2004 to 2005

Peer Reviewer

PLOS ONE, 2016 to date
Oxford University Press, 2015 to date
Journal of Women and Social Work, 2015 to date
Journal of Tourism & Hospitality, 2015 to date
BMJ Open, April 2014 to date
Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes, February 2013 to date
Globalization and Health, January 2013 to date
Drug and Alcohol Dependence, December 2012 to date

Evaluation and Program Planning, December 2012 to date
Sexualities, May 2012 to date
Journal of Women, Politics, & Policy, 2012 to date
The Lancet Infectious Diseases, 2012 to date
American Journal of Public Health, 2011 to date

Committee Work

San Francisco Mayor's Task Force on Anti-Human Trafficking, 2013 to date
 Founding Member, Sex Work and Trafficking Policy Impact Subcommittee, 2014 to date
San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking, 2012 to 2014
 Conference Planning Committee Member, 2012 to 2013
Center for AIDS Prevention Studies Community Advisory Board Member, 2006 to date
 Emeritus, 2010 to date
 Co-Chair, 2006 to 2009
Sex:Tech Conference, August 2009 to February 2010
North Bay Area Human Trafficking Task Force, 2010
HIV Prevention Planning Council, San Francisco, CA, 2006

Grant Reviewer

San Francisco Department on the Status of Women, 2013 to date
Alameda AIDS Research Coalition, 2011

Training

Marin County District Attorney's Office, June 2014

Mentoring

University of San Francisco Sociology Career Panel, 2013
Institute for Civic Leadership, Mills College, Mentor, fall 2010
Human Sexuality Studies Master Program's Job Panel, 2008
Human Sexuality Studies Master Program Job Panel, 2007
Human Sexuality Studies Master Program Job Panel, 2006

Country Experience

South Africa, 2015
Kenya, 2000

Books, Book Chapters, and Monographs

- Lutnick, A. (2016). *Domestic minor sex trafficking: Beyond victims and villains*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Lutnick, A. (2014). Beyond prescientific reasoning: The sex worker environmental assessment team study. In *Negotiating sex work: Unintended consequences of policy and activism* (pp. 31–52). Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press.
- Lutnick, A. (2006). COYOTE. In *Encyclopedia of the history of prostitution*. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood Publishing Group.
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- Lutnick, A. (2006). Margo St. James. In *Encyclopedia of the history of prostitution*. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood Publishing Group.
- Lutnick, A. (2006). Occupational health and safety. In *Encyclopedia of the history of prostitution*. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood Publishing Group.
- Lutnick, A. (2006). St. James Infirmary. In *Encyclopedia of the history of prostitution*. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood Publishing Group.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Johnson, K. L., Desmarais, S. L., Van Dorn, R. A., Lutnick, A., Kral, A. H., & Lorvick, J. (2016). Correlates of risky heterosexual behaviors among women who use methamphetamine. *Journal of Drug Issues*. Advance online publication. doi:10.1177/0022042616629512.
- Davidson, P. J., Martinez, A., Lutnick, A., Kral, A. H., & Bluthenthal, R. N. (2015). Drug-related deaths and the sales of needles through pharmacies. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 147, 229–234.
- Gibbs, D., Hardison Walters, J. L., Lutnick, A., Miller, S., & Kluckman, M. (2015). Services to domestic minor victims of sex trafficking: Opportunities for engagement and support. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 54, 1–7.
- Rade, C. B., Desmarais, S. L., Van Dorn, R. A., Lutnick, A., Kral, A., & Lorvick, J. (2015). Mental health correlates of drug treatment among women who use methamphetamine. *American Journal on Addictions*, 24(7), 646–653.
- Hammett, T. M., Phan, S., Gaggin, J., Case, P., Zaller, N., Lutnick, A., et al. (2014). Pharmacies as providers of expanded health services for people who inject drugs: A review of laws, policies, and barriers in six countries. *BMC Health Services Research*, 14, 261–271.
- Lorvick, J., Lutnick, A., Wenger, L. D., Bourgois, P., Cheng, H., & Kral, A. H. (2014). Non-partner violence against women who use illicit drugs in San Francisco. *Violence Against Women*, 20(11), 1285–1298.
- Lutnick, A., Harris, J. L., Lorvick, J., Cheng, H. Y., Wenger, L. D., Bourgois, P., & Kral, A. (2014). Examining the associations between sex trade involvement, rape and symptomatology of sexual abuse trauma. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 30(11), 1847–1863. doi:10.1177/0886260514549051
- Powelson, E., Lorvick, J., Lutnick, A., Wenger, L. D., Klausner, J., & Kral, A. (2014). Unmet healthcare needs among women who use methamphetamine in San Francisco. *Substance Use and Misuse*, 49(3), 243–252.
- Rose, V., Lutnick, A., & Kral, A. (2014). Feasibility of providing interventions for injection drug users in pharmacy settings: A case study among San Francisco pharmacists. *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*, 46(3), 226–232.
- Lutnick, A., Cooper, E., Dodson, C., Bluthenthal, R., & Kral, A. (2013). Pharmacy syringe purchase test of non-prescription syringe sales in San Francisco and Los Angeles, 2010. *Journal of Urban Health: Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine*, 90(2), 276–283.
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- Shapiro, B., Lynch, K. L., Toochinda, T., Lutnick, A., Cheng, H. Y., & Kral, A. (2013). Promethazine misuse among methadone patients and community-based injection drug users. *Journal of Addiction Medicine, 7*(2), 96–101.
- Lesserman Robbins, J., Lorvick, J., Lutnick, A., Wenger, L., & Kral, A. H. (2012). Self-reported oral health needs and dental-care seeking behavior among women who use methamphetamine. *Substance Use and Misuse, 47*(11), 1208–1213.
- Lorvick, J., Bourgois, P., Wenger, L. D., Arreola, S. L., Lutnick, A., Wechsberg, W. M., & Kral, A. (2012). Sexual pleasure and sexual risk among women who use methamphetamine: A mixed methods study. *International Journal of Drug Policy, 23*(5), 385–392.
- Lutnick, A. L., Case, P., & Kral, A. (2012). Injection drug users' perspectives on placing HIV prevention and other clinical services in pharmacy settings. *Journal of Urban Health, 89*, 354–364.
- Lutnick, A., Lorvick, J., Cheng, H. Y., Wenger, L. D., & Kral, A. (2012). What's faith got to do with it? Religiosity among women who use methamphetamine. *Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions, 12*(2), 189–204.
- Stopka, T. J., Lutnick, A., Wenger, L. D., DiRiemer, K., Geraghty, E. M., & Kral, A. (2012). Demographic, risk, and spatial factors associated with over-the-counter syringe purchase among injection drug users. *American Journal of Epidemiology, 176*(1), 14–23.
- van der Straten, A., Montgomery, E. T., Napierala Mavedzenge, S. M., Musara, P., Cheng, H. Y., Lutnick, A., & Woodsong, C. (2012). Preference between precoital and daily use of Duet® and BufferGel in Zimbabwe. *AIDS and Behavior, 16*(7), 1799–1807.
- Lutnick, A. L., & Cohan, D. (2009). Criminalization, legalization or decriminalization of sex work: What female sex workers in San Francisco, USA say. *Reproductive Health Matters, 17*(34), 38–46, 43.
- Cohan, D., Lutnick, A., Davidson, P., Cloniger, C., Herlyn, A., Breyer, J., et al. (2006). Sex worker health: San Francisco style. *Sexually Transmitted Infections, 82*, 418–422.
- Lutnick, A. (2006). The St. James Infirmary: A history. *Sexuality and Culture, 10*(2), 56–75.

Other Publications

- Lutnick, A. L. (2012). Sex and salvation: Imagining the future in Madagascar [book review]. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, 18*(1), 215–216.
- Lutnick, A. (2009). Sex at the margins: Migration, labour markets and the rescue industry [book review]. *Culture, Health & Sexuality, 11*, 571–572.
- Lutnick, A. (2007, Spring). Survey says: Job satisfaction. *Spread Magazine*, 44–48.
- Lutnick, A. (2003, July). A researcher's re-education [book review of *Brothel: The Mustang Ranch and its women*]. *American Sexuality Magazine, 4*.
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Other Papers

Lutnick, A. (2013). *Beyond narratives of victim and villain: Characteristics and service needs of domestic minor victims of sex trafficking, and the challenges of service delivery*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of California, Berkeley.

Presentations and Proceedings

Lutnick, A., Holliday, D., Haviland, J., & Joseph, A. (2016, May). *Sex, drugs, rock & roll*. Presented at Leadership SF 2016, Session 9. San Francisco, CA.

Lutnick, A. & Kandel, M. (2016, May). *Engaging unheard communities: Finding common ground to address violence against sex workers*. Presented at the 2016 Statewide Domestic Violence Conference, Shifting the Lens: Transforming our approach to domestic violence, Berkeley, CA.

Lutnick, A. (2016, January). *Domestic minor sex trafficking: The disconnect between research findings and legislation*. Presented at Society for Social Work and Research annual conference, Washington, DC.

Lutnick, A. (2015, October). *Informational hearing: Human trafficking: Identifying the scope of the problem and potential solutions*. Testimony provided to the California State Assembly Public Safety Committee, Sacramento, CA.

Lutnick, A. (2015, June). *Human trafficking: Strengthening communities by accelerating women's advancement*. Presented at the U.S. Conference of Mayors Roundtable, San Francisco, CA.

Gibbs, D., Hardison Walters, J., Miller, S., & Lutnick, A. (2014, November). *What works in human trafficking policy, victim identification, and service provision*. Presented at the 70th Annual American Society of Criminology Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Gibbs, D. A., Hardison Walters, J. L., Lutnick, A., & Miller, S. (Invited Speaker). (2014, April). *Characteristics of and service to domestic minor trafficking victims*. Presented at Freedom Network Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Lutnick, A. (2014, April). *Collateral damage: Sex workers and anti-trafficking campaigns*. Invited presentation at Freedom Network Anti-Trafficking Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Lutnick, A. (2013, December). *Why the harm reduction movement needs to care about anti-trafficking policies*. Presented at The Southern Harm Reduction and Drug Policy Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Gibbs, D., Hardison Walters, J., Lutnick, A., & Miller, S. (2013, November). *Characteristics and service needs of domestic minor trafficking victims*. Presented at The American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

Lutnick, A. (2013, January). *The meso- and macro-level challenges of providing case management to domestic minor victims of sex trafficking*. Presented at The Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, San Diego, CA.

Kral, A., Shapiro, B., Lynch, K. L., Toochinda, T., Cheng, H. Y., Sheppard, R., & Lutnick, A. (2012, November). *Using Phenergan to get high from methadone*. Presented at the National Harm Reduction Conference, Portland, OR.

- Lutnick, A. (2012, November). *The impact of anti-trafficking policies: California Proposition 35*. Presented at National Harm Reduction Conference, Portland, OR.
- Lutnick, A. (Chair). (2012, November). *The impact of trafficking policies on sex workers*. National Harm Reduction Conference, Portland, OR.
- Lutnick, A., Rose, V., & Kral, A. (2012, November). *Building the bridge: Pharmacists as critical harm reduction partners*. Presented at National Harm Reduction Conference, Portland, OR.
- Merrill, G., Lutnick, A., & Ayasse, R. (2012, November). *Our changed context: New directions for field education*. Presented at Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Washington, DC.
- Shapiro, V. B., DuBrow, A., & Lutnick, A. (2012, November). *Integrating community practice into social work education for the 21st century: Teaching community practice in the foundation curriculum*. Presented at Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Washington, DC.
- Lutnick, A., Harris, J. L., Lorvick, J. J., Cheng, H. Y., Wenger, L. D., Bourgois, P., & Kral, A. (2012, October). *Are women involved in sex trades actually more likely to have symptoms of sexual abuse trauma?* Poster presented at American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- Wenger, L. D., Lorvick, J. J., Lutnick, A., Bourgois, P., & Kral, A. (2012, October). *Resiliency factors among women who use methamphetamine: Implications for the design of strength-based interventions*. Presented at American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- Lazzarrini, Z., Case, P., Lutnick, A., Gaggin, J., & Zaller, N. (2012, July). *When worlds collide: Differential concerns of institutional review boards (IRBs) reviewing a "buy study" protocol*. Poster presented at International AIDS Conference, Washington, DC.
- Lorvick, J., Lutnick, A., Wenger, L. D., Cheng, H. Y., Klausner, J., & Kral, A. (2012, July). *HIV and sexually transmitted infections among women who use methamphetamine in San Francisco, USA*. Poster presented at International AIDS Conference, Washington, DC.
- Lutnick, A. (Chair). (2012, July). *Empowerment of young people in the sex trade: Best practices for HIV prevention and treatment*. International AIDS Conference, Washington, DC.
- Lutnick, A. (Discussant). (2012, July). *Empowerment of young people in the sex trade: Best practices for HIV prevention and treatment*. International AIDS Conference, Washington, DC.
- Lutnick, A., & Cohan, D. (2012, July). *Beyond prescientific reasoning: Community-based participatory research with sex workers*. Poster presented at International AIDS Conference, Washington, DC.
- Lorvick, J., Wechsberg, W. M., Lutnick, A., Wenger, L. D., Bourgois, P., & Kral, A. (2012, June). *Correlates of non-partner violence against women who use methamphetamine*. Poster presented at the 2012 74th annual meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, Palm Springs, CA.
- Lorvick, J., Wenger, L., Lutnick, A., Bourgois, P., & Kral, A. (2010, November). *Subsistence difficulty and health vulnerabilities among drug-using women*. Paper presented at the annual meeting and exposition of the American Public Health Association, Denver, Co.
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- Lutnick, A., Merrill, G., Wenger, L., Thorsen, M., Lorvick, J., & Kral, A. (2010, November). *Working towards a practice of care for community-based research staff: Professional development as a burnout prevention strategy*. Paper presented at the National Harm Reduction Conference, Austin, TX.
- Lorvick, J., Lutnick, A., Wenger, L., Wechsberg, W., & Kral, H. (2010, June). *Differences in drug use behaviors among White and African-American women who use methamphetamine*. Poster presented at the annual College on Problems of Drug Dependent Conference, Scottsdale, AZ.
- Lutnick, A. L., & Cohan, D. (2010, March). *Criminalization, legalization or decriminalization: What do female sex workers from San Francisco, California have to say?* Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA.
- Lorvick, J., Wenger, L. D., Lutnick, A. L., Harris, J. L., Klausner, J. D., Bourgois, P., & Kral, A. (2008, October). *Sexual risk for HIV and STIs among methamphetamine-using women in San Francisco*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association, San Diego, CA.
- Lorvick, J., Wenger, L. D., Klausner, J. D., Lutnick, A. L., Harris, J. L., Thorsen, M., & Kral, A. (2008, August). *HIV and STI infection among women who use methamphetamine in San Francisco, USA*. Poster presented at the International AIDS Conference, Mexico City, Mexico.
- Lutnick, A., & Cohan, D. (2008, August). *Can the decriminalization of sex work assist HIV prevention? Female sex workers in San Francisco, California give their opinions*. Poster presented at the International AIDS Conference, Mexico City, Mexico.
- Lutnick, A., & Cohan, D. (2008, August). *Working conditions, HIV, STIs and hepatitis C among female sex workers in San Francisco, CA*. Poster presented at the International AIDS Conference, Mexico City, Mexico.
- Lutnick, A. (2006, August). *Where is the pleasure in safer sex?* Paper presented at the International AIDS Conference satellite panel, Toronto, Canada.
- Lutnick, A. (2006, July). *Female sex workers' perspectives on systems of criminalization, decriminalization, and legalization*. Paper presented at the Re-visioning Prostitution Conference, Las Vegas, NV.
- Lutnick, A. (2006, March). *The SWEAT Project: Our process of learning where the hurdles are and how to jump them*. Paper presented at the Sex Work Matters: Beyond Divides Conference, New York, NY.
- Lutnick, A. (2006, February). *Sex worker health, St. James Infirmary, and human rights*. Stanford Physicians for Human Rights Lunchtime Lecture Series, Palo Alto, CA.
- Lutnick, A. (2005). *Human Rights, Prostitution, and the Role of the Government Forum*. Sex Workers Outreach Project USA
- Lutnick, A. (2005). *Harm Reduction Forum*. The Sex Worker Film and Arts Festival, San Francisco, CA.
- Lutnick, A. (2005). Moderator: *Forum XXX*, Montreal, Canada.
- Lutnick, A. (2005). Invited speaker, *Human Rights Commission hearing on the status of sex work and sex workers in San Francisco*, San Francisco, CA.
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- Lutnick, A. (2005, April). *Structural violence, social capital and sex workers: A United States perspective*. Workshop creator and facilitator at Lessons Learned from a Rights-Based Approach to Health Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Lutnick, A. (2004, September). *The St. James Infirmary: A sex worker led social movement*. Paper presented at the First National Conference on Prostitution, Sex Work, and the Commercial Sex Industry: The State of Women's Health, Toledo, OH.
- Lutnick, A. (2004, July). Social context and the health of sex workers in San Francisco. Poster presented at the International AIDS Conference, Bangkok, Thailand.

Media Consultation

- Lutnick, A. (2016, June). Quoted in the *East Bay Express* article, "Badge of Dishonor: Top Oakland Police Department officials – including the chief of police himself – looked away as cops sexually exploited and trafficked a teenager. Retrieved from <http://www.eastbayexpress.com/oakland/badge-of-dishonor-top-oakland-police-department-officials-looked-away-as-east-bay-cops-sexually-exploited-and-trafficked-a-teenagerdepartment/Content?oid=4832543>
- Lutnick, A. (2016, May). Quoted in *The Society Pages* article, "Uproar over Kenny Harvard's stripper joke misses larger issue: Condescending & harmful anti-trafficking laws." Retrieved from <https://thesocietypages.org/sexuality/2016/05/21/uproar-over-kenny-harvards-stripper-joke-misses-larger-issue-condescending-harmful-anti-trafficking-laws/>
- Lutnick, A. (2016, April). Interviewed by David Henry Sterry for the Huffington Post piece, "Everything you think you know about child sex trafficking is wrong... Alexandra Lutnick tells you why." Retrieved from http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-henry-sterry/everything-you-think-you-_1_b_9772910.html
- Lutnick, A. (2016, January). Interview with KCBS radio. Episode title, The Super Bowl Sex Trafficking Myth.
- Lutnick, A. (2015, December). Quoted in the *Deseret News* article, "Saving 'throwaway kids.' In Los Angeles, sex trafficking doesn't look like it does in the movies." Retrieved from <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865644629/In-Los-Angeles-sex-trafficking-doesnt-look-like-it-does-in-the-movies.html?pg=all>
- Lutnick, A. (2015, November). Quoted in the *East Bay Express* article, "Oakland City Council takes stand against sex workers." Retrieved from <http://www.eastbayexpress.com/oakland/oakland-city-council-takes-stand-against-sex-workers/Content?oid=4563294>
- Lutnick, A. (2015, July). Interview with KALW's *Crosscurrents*. Episode title "Sex in the City." Retrieved from <http://kalw.org/post/crosscurrents-july-1-2015#stream/0>
- Lutnick, A. (2015, March). Quoted in *The Week* article, "I'm a feminist, and I'm glad the Senate sex trafficking bill stalled." Retrieved from <http://theweek.com/articles/545834/im-feminist-im-glad-senate-sex-trafficking-bill-stalled>
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- Lutnick, A. (2015, March). Quoted in *RH Reality Check* article, “Why it might not be a bad thing if the Senate’s human trafficking bill dies.” Retrieved from <http://rhrealitycheck.org/article/2015/03/17/might-bad-thing-senates-human-trafficking-bill-dies/>
- Lutnick, A. (2012, November). Interviewed by Carol Leigh for Indybay article, “Prop 35, youth, sex trade and sex trafficking.” Retrieved from <http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2012/11/02/18724988.php>
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Guest Lectures

- Planning for social change: Research and advocacy related to the sex industry.* (2015, December). Presentation to Sara Accomazzo’s class Introduction to Multi-level Practice for Social Workers, University of California, Berkeley.
- Community-based participatory research with sex workers.* (2015, November). Presentation to all sections of the Seminar in Social Welfare Research, University of California, Berkeley.
- Domestic minor sex trafficking: The disconnect between research findings and legislation.* (2015, April). Presentation to Jeffrey Snipes’ class Criminal Justice Administration, San Francisco State University.
- Beyond victims and villains: Macro-level perspectives on domestic minor sex trafficking.* (2015, January). Presentation to Sonja Mackenzie’s class Public Health Capstone: Gender, Sexuality and Public Health, Santa Clara University.
- Beyond victims and villains: The complex issue of domestic minor sex trafficking.* (2013, April). Presentation to Sonja Mackenzie’s class Sex, Power and Politics, San Francisco State University.
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- Domestic minor sex trafficking: Expanding the discourse.* (2013, April). Presentation to Michelle Kaufman's class Sex Trafficking of Women and Girls, North Carolina State University.
- Targeting political change for individuals who trade sex.* (2012, December). Presentation to Valerie Shapiro's class Foundation of Social Work Practice, University of California, Berkeley.
- The intersection of social work and community-based participatory research principals: The Sex Worker Environmental Assessment Team Study.* (2012, August). Presentation to Sarah Taylor's and Phu Phan's classes—Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods. California State University, East Bay.
- Indirect social work practice: Advocacy, evaluation and community-based participatory research.* (2012, April). Presentation to Ken Epstein's class Practice in Social Work: Introduction to Social Work Methods. University of California Berkeley.
- Community-based participatory work with sex workers.* (2011, October). Presentation to Valerie Shapiro's class Foundation of Social Work Practice, University of California Berkeley.
- Human trafficking from an international and domestic perspective.* (2010, April). Presentation to William Edwards's class Introduction to Globalization, University of San Francisco.
- Conducting community based research with sex workers and drugs users: The ethics of recruitment, interview administration and research staff self-care.* (2010, March). Presentation to Patricia Buffler's PH258B Epidemiologic Research Ethics class, UC Berkeley.
- Community-based research: Difficult conditions and self-care.* (2010, February). Presentation to the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies' Qualitative Working Group, UC California.
- The physical, mental and sexual health needs of women who use meth.* (2009, March). Presentation at staff meeting, San Francisco City Clinic.
- Meth and women: Lessons learned from community-based research in San Francisco.* (2008, August). Presentation to the monthly meeting of meth treatment provider, San Francisco Methamphetamine Treatment Providers Network.
- The role of the legal system in health outcomes of female sex workers.* (2008, May). Presentation to Peter Davidson's Urban Health Policy class, San Francisco State University.
- San Francisco's sex worker activism and peer-run research through the years.* (2007, May). Presentation to Gregg Mattson's class Sociology 190.007, UC Berkeley.
- Internet and sex work.* (2006, October). Presentation to Deb Levine's Sexuality and the Internet class, San Francisco State University.
- St. James Infirmary and the sex worker environmental assessment team study: Findings, lessons and limitations.* (2006, April). Presentation to Gregg Mattson's class Sociology 190.007 Governing Loose Women: Sociology of Prostitution, UC Berkeley.
- Sex worker health, St. James Infirmary and human rights.* (2006, February). Presentation to the Stanford Physicians for Human Rights lunchtime lecture series, Stanford.
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Appendix A: E-mail Correspondence from James Kelly

From: James Kelly <jkelly@covenanthouse.org>
Date: June 6, 2016 at 4:49:57 PM CDT
To: James Kelly <JKelly@covenanthouse.org>
Cc: Kristin Gisleson Palmer <kristingislesonpalmer@gmail.com>
Subject: City Planning Commission study of adult live entertainment venues

Dear friends and colleagues,

As you may know, we have been working with the City Council and State Legislature to protect and assist young, at-risk and vulnerable women (and men) who work and dance in our areas strip clubs. Sadly, they are often preyed upon by pimps, drug dealers and human traffickers.

This past January, the City Council passed an ordinance raising the minimum age of dancers from 18 to 21. The City Council, for the first time in forty years, also requested that the City Planning Commission undertake a comprehensive study of the French Quarter's "adult live entertainment venues."

We have summarized in the attached (and below) our concerns, beliefs and recommendations. We would greatly appreciate you supporting our efforts by sending a formal letter and/or forwarding this e-mail to the City Planning Commission, care of: Sabine Lebailleaux selebailleaux@nola.gov or City Planning Commission, 1300 Perdido, 7th floor, NOLA, 70112. Public comments are due by June 20th in preparation for a public hearing on June 28th at 1:30 pm in city council chambers.

We would also be very grateful if you would forward this e-mail to your friends and colleagues asking them to voice their support to the City Planning Commission and the City Council.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or suggestions.

Thanks and God bless,

Jim

We are concerned:

- In October 2015, law enforcement found drug dealing and prostitution taking place in 9 out of 14 New Orleans' strip clubs in an undercover investigation. Drug dealing and prostitution (male and female) are also known to take place in other kinds of clubs and venues.
- New Orleans is considered a major hub for human sex trafficking by national law enforcement and human trafficking experts (including the Polaris Project).
- A Loyola study estimates 87 Covenant House residents per year are survivors of human trafficking, increasing to 150 residents per year if the sex industry and strip clubs are included.
- According to recent lawsuits, and as reported by the Wall Street Journal and the Time Picayune, dancers in strip clubs are often hired as independent contractors and forced

to share tips. They are constantly sexually harassed, and work in environments that are neither safe nor crime free.

- A Johns Hopkins study, in Baltimore, found 43% of dancers sold sex at strip clubs. The majority of dancers reported selling sex and drugs for the first time after beginning to dance at the clubs.
- A University of Louisville study found violent crime rates, in Louisville, to be 12.3 times higher within 500 feet of a sexually oriented business (strip club, massage parlor,...), and 8.3 times higher within 1000 feet.

We believe:

- The French Quarter's strip clubs have led to an increase in overall crime including violence, prostitution, lewd acts, and drug dealing – and therefore do not promote the public health, welfare, and safety of our City.
- As we approach our 300th anniversary, the strip clubs' affiliated crimes and negative reputations are completely out of sync with marketing New Orleans as a world-class destination.
- The number of strip clubs in our City should over time be reduced by at least 65 %.

We recommend:

- The existing laws and ordinances associated with strip clubs' liquor licenses/permits should be strictly and regularly enforced in each establishment including the V.I.P. rooms.
- A special tax/fee should be levied on the strip clubs to pay for increased and dedicated law enforcement (NOPD, ATC and State Police) on Bourbon Street, and for weekly inspections of the clubs.
- Strip clubs as business enterprises should have a particular set of rules, regulations, performance and safety standards (as adult live entertainment venues) which are regulated by the City.
- In accord with the Federal Labors Standards Act, dancers should be hired as regular employees with standard benefits, and should be provided a safe, crime free environment to work.
- Any new strip club or any strip club seeking to re-open should not be permitted outside of the "adult live performance venue IZD" or within 1000 feet of current residences, schools or parks.

James R. Kelly

Executive Director

Covenant House

611 N. Rampart Street

Office: [\(504\) 584 1102](tel:5045841102) Cell: [\(504\) 975 0650](tel:5049750650)

APPENDIX-HTIAM-14¹²

Human Trafficking Interview and Assessment Measure

INTERVIEWER CODING INSTRUCTIONS

Read through measure thoroughly before administering. Only administer Section B to individuals who do not hold U.S. Citizenship. Carefully read introductory comments as well as “Definition of Work” and “Definition of Sexual Activity” statements written in bold typeface to individual. Ask questions in bold typeface and follow item-response instructions listed beneath each question. Carefully read italicized “Notes to Interviewer” comments that follow each item, and use to guide further probing as necessary. Many questions include a “Please explain” prompt that may be substituted with similar phrases (e.g. “Could you tell me more about that?”). As many questions address sensitive subjects, use clinical judgment in deciding when to preface a question or prompt with appropriate phrasing (e.g. “If you feel comfortable, could you please provide an example?”). Use line space provided to record individual’s response to open-ended questions, including as much detail as possible. At the end of each item, code for the likelihood that item response indicates evidence of that item variable. Responses that indicate trafficking activity should receive a minimum score of 2.

e.g. Evidence of unsafe/coercive work environment: 0 1 2 3

0 = No evidence
1 = Slight evidence
2 = Moderate evidence
3 = Strong evidence

Introductory Comments:

This is an interview about your experiences that have led you to Covenant House. I ask that you be as honest as you can in answering questions. I understand that some questions may be very sensitive and difficult to answer, and you are under no obligation to answer anything you do not want to. If you feel uncomfortable at any time, you can take a break from the interview or withdraw from the study. Everything you say during the interview will be kept completely confidential, and nothing you say here will be disclosed without your permission, unless you describe a scenario where you or someone else is in immediate danger, including a scenario where a child is at risk for abuse or neglect. Whether you have experienced any of the things we will ask you about or not, by answering the questions honestly, you are helping us help others who have experienced exploitation and trafficking. Before we begin, you should know that we are grateful that you are sitting down and taking the time to answer our questions. Remember that everything you say is voluntary, anonymous, and confidential. Do you have any questions?

¹² The HTIAM-14 was the measure designed and used for the presented research study. For use in applied settings to identify victims, the coding scheme and introductory comments may be modified and the scoring boxes on the last page may be deleted. Any client who receives a score of 2 or more on any question and any client for whom the interviewer believes there is a potential of trafficking victimization, should be seen by someone with expertise in working with trafficking survivors. As stated in the report, negative responses do not necessarily mean that the individual is not a victim of trafficking, but rather that the questions may need to be asked again at a later time once relationships have had a chance to develop further.

Section A – Personal Information

- A1. [PI_AGE] Age _____
A2. [PI_GEN] Gender _____
A3. [PI_ETH] Race/ethnicity _____
A4. [PI_EDU] Highest level of education _____
A5. [PI_USCIT] U.S. Citizen _____
A6. [PI_CHLD] Children _____

Section B – Immigration Status [Mig]

Only administer Section B if individual is not a U.S. Citizen.

B1. [Mig_FORCMIG]

Did you arrange your own travel to the United States?

If YES → Score 0.

If NO → **Did anyone force you to migrate or travel to the United States? Or was there a time during your journey where you didn't want to continue and wanted to return home but weren't allowed to?**

If NO → Score 0.

If YES → **Who brought you? Can you describe your journey?**

Notes to Interviewer: Look for signs of fear or involuntary participation in migration process. If migrated as infant/ young child, not a sign of forced migration. If sought migration or migrated willingly; not a sign of forced migration.

Notes: _____

Evidence of forced migration: 0 1 2 3

B2. [Mig_MISLED]

Sometimes young people travel to the United States because they are promised work or an education, only to find out when they get here that they won't be doing what they expected. Did you come to the United States because you or your parents were promised work or an education?

If NO → Score 0.

If YES → **Was the work and payment that you received the same as you were originally promised?**

If YES → Score 0.

If NO → Please explain what was different than expected?

→ **Did you feel forced or threatened to do the work anyway?**

If NO → Score 0.

If YES → **Please explain.**

Notes to Interviewer: Look for evidence that work or payment was different than expected, probe for how it was different. Look for fraud, deception, compulsion or fear in doing work. Note that needing to do work simply for money is not necessarily an indication of trafficking.

Notes: _____

Evidence of misleading work expectations: 0 1 2 3

B3. [Mig_DEBT]

Sometimes when young people travel to the United States, they make an agreement with the person or people who organized their travel. Did you or your family owe something to the person or people who helped you come to the United States?

If NO → Score 0.

If YES → **Were the services or the amount of time it took to repay the debt different than what you expected?**

→ **Were you or your family threatened or told that if you did not repay the debt you or your family would be harmed?**

If NO to both → Score 0.

If YES to either → **Please explain.**

Notes to Interviewer: Look for signs of forced work as a means of repaying migration debt, and for signs that exploiter added to/extended original terms debt (e.g. debt bondage).

Notes: _____

Evidence of debt bondage: 0 1 2 3

B4. [Mig_DOC]

Has anyone ever held your ID or other legal documents without your consent?

If NO → Score 0.

If YES → **Please explain.**

Notes to Interviewer: Look for signs indicating that ID/documents are being kept from them against their will. Does not include parents holding documents for their children.

Notes: _____

Evidence of withholding documentation against will: 0 1 2 3

Total Score Section B: _____/12

“Definition of Work” Statement:

Many of the questions I will ask you involve work situations. When I say “work”, this means anything you have done where you or someone else received something of value, such as money, food, clothing, a place to stay, protection, drugs or gifts in exchange for your work or efforts. Using this definition, “work” could mean a more typical job such as working in a store or restaurant, but it could also mean stripping, prostitution, shoplifting, running drugs, or anything where your efforts were exchanged for something of value. Aside from a typical employer, someone you worked for could include a family member, a friend, boyfriend or girlfriend, or anyone you lived with or were in a relationship with.

Section C – Psychological/Financial Coercion [Coer]

C1. [Coer_WRKENV]

It is not uncommon for young people to stay in work situations that are risky or even dangerous, simply because they have no other options. Have you ever worked in a place that made you feel scared or unsafe?

If NO → Score 0.

If YES → **Were you, your family, or coworker(s) ever threatened by the person or people you worked for?**

→ **Did you ever witness another employee being hurt or threatened?**

→ **Did the person or people you work for ever threaten to report you to the police or authorities?** [If immigrant; to immigration].

If YES to any of the above → **Please explain.**

Notes to Interviewer: Look for a response of “yes” to any of these questions, and an indication of a threat to their personal safety or well-being, or the personal safety or well-being of others.

Notes: _____

Evidence of unsafe/coercive work environment: 0 1 2 3

C2. [Coer_FORCE]

In thinking back over your past experiences, have you ever been tricked or forced into doing any kind of work that you did not want to do?

If NO → Score 0.

If YES → **Please explain.**

Notes to Interviewer: Look for signs of external pressure or coercion, where individual felt obligated to comply. Fear of getting fired and/or needing money do not qualify as “force.” Gently probe with “who” questions.

Notes: _____

Evidence of forced work/labor: 0 1 2 3

C3. [Coer_EXPEC]

Sometimes people agree to work/payment arrangements only to find out that what they are being asked to do, or what they are being paid, is very different than what they expected. Have you ever been promised work where the work or payment ended up being different than what you expected?

If NO → Score 0.

If YES → **Aside from needing the money, did you feel forced or pressured to continue with this job?**

If NO → Score 0.

If YES → **Please explain.**

Notes to Interviewer: Look for a response of “yes” to last question, and an indication of external coercion, lack of agency or involuntariness in continuing with work. Misleading expectations alone and/or needing the money are not enough to indicate trafficking.

Notes: _____

Evidence of continued work despite misleading work/payment expectations: 0 1 2 3

C4. [Coer_QUIT]

Sometimes people are prevented from leaving an unfair or unsafe work situation by their employers. Have you ever been afraid to leave or quit a work situation due to fears of violence or other threats of harm to yourself or your family?

If NO → Score 0.

If YES → **What did you think would happen if you tried to leave?**

→ **Did you ever see anyone who tried to leave or quit harmed or threatened?**

If YES to either → **Please explain.**

Notes to Interviewer: Look for a response of “yes” to either question, and an indication of a coercive or unjustified threat to the personal safety and well-being of themselves or their friends and family upon leaving. Probe with “who” questions to learn who was pressuring or preventing the individual from leaving. If needed, remind individual that a work situation can involve a boyfriend or significant other who is earning money off their work.

Notes: _____

Evidence of fear of quitting/leaving: 0 1 2 3

Total Score Section C: _____/1

Section D – Control [Ctrl]

D1. [Ctrl_FIN]

Some employers think that in exchange for the work their employees do, they can pay them in other ways even though they’ve never gotten their permission. Has someone you worked for ever controlled the money you earned, or kept money you earned in exchange for transportation, food or rent without your consent?

If NO → Score 0.

If YES → **Please explain.**

Notes to Interviewer: Look for evidence that the individual was not provided proper payment and that the provision of housing, meals, etc. at unjust rates was offered as an excuse for keeping their earned money.

Notes: _____

Evidence of improper payment: 0 1 2 3

D2. [Ctrl_ISOL]

Have you ever worked for someone who did not let you contact your friends or family, or the outside world, even when you weren’t working?

If NO → Score 0.

If YES → **Please explain.**

Notes to Interviewer: Look for signs that employer/trafficker kept individual isolated, deprived of social support or external resources, and/or fostered dependency on employer/trafficker.

Notes: _____

Evidence of isolation: 0 1 2 3

D3. [Ctrl_LIE]

Sometimes employers don't want people to know about the kind of work they have young employees doing. To protect themselves, they ask their employees to lie about the kind of work they are involved in. Have you ever worked for someone who asked you to lie when speaking to others about the work you do?

If NO → Score 0.

If YES → **Why did they ask you to lie? Please explain.**

Notes to Interviewer: Look for signs that indicate that lies are used to cover illegal work, to protect employer/trafficker, to or prevent individual from getting caught/leaving.

Notes: _____

Evidence of concealed work: 0 1 2 3

Total Score Section D: _____/9

"Definition of Sexual Activity" Statement:

These last few questions I will ask you about have to do with earning something of value in exchange for sexual activity. "Sexual activity" could mean dancing, stripping, posing for photos, or having any kind of sex, including oral sex, with someone in exchange for something of value such as money, food, clothing, a place to stay, protection, drugs, gifts or favors. Remember, an employer could be anyone who you worked for, including a family member, a friend, boyfriend or girlfriend, or anyone you lived with or were in a relationship with.

Section E – Sexual Exploitation [SxExp]

E1. [SxExp_COMMSEX]

Sometimes young people who are homeless or who are having difficulties with their families have very few options to survive or fulfill their basic needs, such as food and shelter. Sometimes they are exploited or feel the need to use their sexuality to help them survive. Have you or anyone else ever received anything of value, such as money, a place to stay, food, drugs, gifts or favors, in exchange for your performing a sexual activity?

YES (3 points)

NO (0 points)

If NO → Stop; score 0 on both E2 and E3.

If YES → **If you feel comfortable, could you provide an example of this?**

→ Ask E2 & E3

Notes: _____

E2. [SxExp_LEGALDEF]

Did you feel that someone was encouraging, pressuring, or forcing you to do this?

Notes to Interviewer: Look for evidence of involuntary / nonconsensual sexual activity in exchange for something of value. Probe for presence of coercive boyfriend/trafficker in example provided. Note degree of force (e.g. "encouraging" yields a score of 1, threats to physical safety yields a score of 3).

Notes: _____

Degree of force, fraud or coercion in commercial sexual activity: 0 1 2 3

E3. [SxExp]_AGE]

How old were you at your first encounter? _____

- V (Under18) Legal Adult (18 or older)

Total Score Section E: _____ /6

If "YES" with score of "0" on E2 and at least 18 years of age, check here: **SURVIVAL SEX**

INTERVIEWER NOTES: NONVERBAL INDICATORS

SCORING BOX

**If Section B Administered
(Non U.S. -Citizens):**

Total Score Section B: _____ /12

Total Score Section C: _____ /12

Total Score Section D: _____ /9

Total Score Section E: _____ /6

Total Score: _____ /39

**If Section B NOT Administered
(U.S. Citizens):**

Total Score Section C: _____ /12

Total Score Section D: _____ /9

Total Score Section E _____ /6

Total Score: _____ /27 V

Do you believe this person is a victim of human trafficking? 0 1 2 3

Type of trafficking: (Check all that apply)

- Non-Victim
- Victim: Labor
- Victim: Sex (all ages; force, fraud, coercion)
- Victim: Sex (under 18; no force, fraud, coercion)
- Survival Sex (over 18; no force, fraud, coercion)
- Other _____

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to share with the City Planning Commissioners a more nuanced perspective and methodologically rigorous overview of exotic dance clubs, the experiences of exotic dancers, and secondary effects of the clubs.

Overview of Exotic Dance Clubs and Dancers' Experiences

The idea that women in exotic dance clubs are exploited, oppressed and degraded is often promoted by people who have never worked at the clubs as employees or independent contractors. When we listen to the voices of dancers we hear a different narrative.

Just like most people, exotic dancers work out of economic necessity. In numerous studies dancers indicate that they like the flexible schedule, financial independence, friendships with other dancers and club staff, and ability to learn negotiation skills that can be used in other employment. For most, dancing is a temporary position that allows them to achieve other career or personal goals.

Safety in the Clubs

Ethnographic work has not confirmed the safety issues claimed by outsiders. Owners and managers take significant steps to ensure the safety of dancers, patrons, and other club staff including following laws, enforcing club rules, using surveillance cameras, maintaining a high staff to patron ratio, and having floor managers constantly monitor the space. Research has shown that dancers often feel safer inside than outside of the clubs, and that club managers, club security and other dancers have their best interest in mind.

Club owners also try to manage outside of their businesses by working with their neighbors and local law enforcement. One club owner in San Francisco established a Community Benefit District to respond to crime in the neighborhood and saw a 70% reduction in crime over a two year period. In New Orleans, club owners are part of groups, such as the French Quarter Business Association and the French Quarter Management District who work to make the French Quarter safer. It is important to remember that illicit acts of one operator should not discount the positive actions and impacts of operators such as those highlighted above.

Illicit Drug use in the Clubs

Although drug use and dealing may take place in some exotic dance clubs, research has shown that both activities are not disproportionate to the clubs. Among the 7 strip clubs cited for drug dealing in New Orleans (2 music clubs were also cited), 5 were located on Bourbon Street and 4 of those belong to one owner.

Prostitution in the Clubs

No evidence shows that prostitution takes place in a disproportionate amount within exotic dance clubs. Research has shown that exotic dancing is distinct from prostitution and most male patrons are not looking to have sex with exotic dancers.

Human Trafficking

Using the definition of human trafficking provided by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), the idea that exotic dance clubs are associated with human trafficking is unproven. Club owners, management, and dancers throughout the United States, including New Orleans, have received training through Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Homeland Security on how to screen for and identify human trafficking in the clubs.

Methodological Issues with Frequently Cited Studies

Covenant House Study

One of the most cited studies related to the City Planning Commission's examination of the exotic dance clubs is the Covenant House study conducted by Laura Murphy and colleagues. Unfortunately, the methodological flaws of this study render its findings unusable. These flaws include:

1. An insufficient sample size to generalize the findings to the larger Covenant House population. 237 as opposed to 99 interviews would need to be conducted to assure a 95% confidence interval rate;
2. Double-barreled questions used in the interview guide. When asking about experiences trading and selling sex the phrasing "have you or anyone else" is used. This results in lack of clarity about whether people are answering based on their personal experience or are reporting on the hearsay experiences of someone else;
3. Lack of transparency on how exotic dancing is defined. The report does not indicate if this means people were dancing in the clubs. Other research has indicated that when minors talk about stripping it refers to them giving a private performance in someone's home or hotel room; and
4. Misrepresentation of trafficking experiences. Even if the two underage respondents were dancing in the clubs, this does not in and of itself constitute trafficking. For it to fit the TVPA definition, they would need to have been forced to work in the club, or have traded some type of sex act in the club. The report does not indicate that either of those elements were present.

Even with all the methodological flaws of the study, the authors' conclusions and recommendations do not match what New Orleans is currently considering. The report makes no mention of changing zoning requirements or reducing the number of clubs.

Secondary Effects Studies

An evaluation of over 110 studies that examined effects of clubs found that the majority did not follow professional standards of research or calculate an error rate indicating the reliability of the findings. The most frequently cited studies fail to meet the following research best practices:

1. Include a control site to be able to determine if the findings are unique to the exotic dance clubs;

2. Conduct longitudinal studies if trying to determine causality;
3. Include pre- and post-introduction of exotic dance club measures to assess for causality; and
4. Focus on only one type of business (in this case exotic dance clubs) instead of including multiple types (for example clubs, adult bookstores, and adult toy stores) to determine the effect of the clubs.

Secondary Effects

When studies follow research best practices, we do not find that exotic dance clubs are associated with negative secondary effects. Researchers have instead found that neighboring merchants do not report any negative secondary effects, neighborhoods see an increase in economic development, no difference in calls for police service exist, and fewer reported crime incidents occur in areas surrounding the clubs.

Recommendations

The input and perspectives of current exotic dancers are noticeably absent from the conversations in New Orleans about requiring conditional use permits for adult clubs. The proposed zoning regulations are not geared towards improving working conditions for the dancers. Any exploration of how best to regulate the clubs must be conducted in conjunction with dancers and other club staff.

The proposal to regulate exotic dance clubs in New Orleans through conditional use permits, and the request by James Kelly to reduce the number of strip clubs by 65%, threatens to drive adult entertainment away from spaces where it can be monitored. This increases the likelihood that exotic dancers will be vulnerable to exploitation.

From: CPCinfo
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 4:51 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: FW: Comments on Adult Live Performance Venue Study

From: Heather McGinnis [<mailto:hfm13@case.edu>]
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 4:47 PM
To: CPCinfo; Robert D. Rivers
Cc: Stacy S. Head; Jason R. Williams; Susan G. Guidry; LaToya Cantrell; DistrictC; CouncilDistrictD; James A. Gray
Subject: Comments on Adult Live Performance Venue Study

Dear City Planning Commission,

I am a dancer on Bourbon Street. I am also a resident of the French Quarter who lives a half of a block from Bourbon St. I am reading through public comments criticizing dancers and blaming the strip clubs for many unrelated New Orleans problems, and this both frustrates me and saddens me.

I have been a dancer for 8 years. I started dancing in college, yes I did graduate with a Bachelors in Mathematics. If you gave me a drug test today, I would pass, yes, even for pot, and I have never had anything that could be remotely described as an addiction, aside from my morning cup of coffee. I rarely drink, largely because drinking heavily causes wear and tear on my health and body, and having a clear head and a good physique is necessary for my job and best for my mental health. I have never been a prostitute, and in 8 years I have never had a club pressure me into prostitution. I have never had anyone who resembles a pimp; all of my income is for me, aside from the ~20% I pay to the government in the form of taxes. I am somebody who has options, but I chose to be a dancer on Bourbon Street because I decided I wanted to travel the world and exotic dancing has given me the financial resources, time and freedom to visit about 30 countries in the past 6 years. Also, I really love my job.

Also, I am not special in terms of being a dancer. I am not "too smart to work in a strip club," a backhanded compliment that I receive from customers on a regular basis. Most of my friends who are dancers are intelligent, independent women. They are dancers for a variety of reasons, ranging from paying for college, supporting a child, wanting to put money away for a business, wanting to travel, to simply enjoying the freedom and independence that comes with legally being your own boss. Being a dancer has so many advantages that few people outside the industry are aware of. We make our own schedules, work when we want, work where we want, make a good income, and are able to operate as we see fit within the legal parameters.

I know that society as a whole, and particularly those who wish to limit strip clubs, has a warped perception of strippers and people who work in strip clubs. I know that people think that most of us are victims who are making poor life choices and who suffer drug addictions and often succumb to prostitution because we are pressured into it. However, in my eight years of experience, clubs never pressure women into doing what they are not comfortable

with. Also, performing illegal sex acts in the club is the fastest way to lose your job. Since we are independent contractors, we are legally our own bosses. If a customer disrespects me, I can tell them off and not lose my job, if I was an employee and a customer disrespected me or harassed me and I told them what I really thought, I could lose my job. I also have the right to not dance for anyone I don't want to, to not talk to anyone I don't want to, and to end a lap dance if a customer is trying to push my boundaries. I have already gotten paid, there are no refunds, and the customer learn a lesson about what no touching means. All 3 clubs I work at are willing to kick out customers who need to be kicked out because they are unable to respect the people who work there. Probably because of dancing, I am probably one of the least fun people to try to pick up at a bar or to cat-call on the street.

Sex trafficking is a legitimate problem, that needs to be taken seriously, but assuming that strip clubs are responsible is inaccurate. I work at 3 clubs on bourbon, and I do not know of any girls with pimps. The club is certainly not pimping them out. Actually, in pretty much any club I have ever worked at, it is standard policy if someone does come in (usually a man, although one time I did encounter a woman) and tries to pimp out the dancers, management will very quickly remove them from the premise and tell them that they are not welcome there. Most of the rampant and obvious prostitution that I have witnessed in the French Quarter has been on the street, not in the strip clubs. I have seen women parading up and down the street to find a john and even women driving around in cars to solicit men. Saying that girl who works in a strip club, a perfectly legal job, is going to turn to prostitution and illicit activity is analogous to saying that drinking beer, a perfectly legal intoxicant, is going to lead an imbibor down a path to rampant heroin addiction. Putting women who depend on stripping for income out of work is only going to drive dancers who are more prone to risky behavior to resort to more desperate measures to compensate for lost income. It is best that these women have safe environments where they can make a stable income selling lap dances and entertainment.

Strip clubs are also being blamed for the violent crime in the French Quarter. Violent crime does not typically happen in the strip clubs, any more so than in a regular bar in the Quarter. The three clubs I work at all have ample security paying attention to the patrons and dancer. If a problem looks like it will happen, it is quickly diffused and the parties at fault are removed from the premise. The violent crime of New Orleans is a serious problem, but most of the people who are responsible for the assaults, muggings, murders, and sexual violence have no ties to any club on Bourbon Street. Limiting strip clubs is not going to prevent shootings on Bourbon Street. How to reduce crime is a very different political discussion; it has nothing to do with my job.

Bourbon Street is also a unique environment to dance in. The majority of people who come to Bourbon Street are in New Orleans on vacation and come to have fun more fun than they would at home. Strip clubs are an attraction for a lot of these tourists, if they were not, the strip clubs on Bourbon Street would not be thriving. There are also a lot of tourists who have no interest in strip clubs; there are a lot of other bars and clubs on the street to keep tourists entertained all night without ever setting foot in a strip club. Also New Orleans is one of the top destinations for bachelor parties. Especially in the summer, when tourism dwindles, bachelor parties bring a lot of business to this city, who spend money at restaurants, bars,

hotels, and strip clubs, which is classically part of a good ol' American bachelor party. And yes, the bachelorette parties also love to come in and watch the ladies do pole tricks. As far as keeping the French Quarter family friendly, there is no reason for people under 18 to be on Bourbon Street after dark. Strip clubs aside, most of the attractions are 21+ to enter to buy drinks, dance, and listen to live music. There are a lot of places for people to bring their children in New Orleans, especially during the daytime and evening. However, even if every strip club on Bourbon St closed, there are no appropriate venues to bring your child into at midnight.

Covenant house cites that 25% of its homeless youth were victims of sex trafficking and/or sexual labor. People who go to covenant house for help are a small and specific sample of society. It is not a cross-section of the dancer population that is indicative of a cause-effect relationship between strip clubs and drug addiction or homelessness. Also, teenagers cannot work in strip clubs in New Orleans; with the new law passed nobody can work in strip clubs until they are 21. Women working in strip clubs are adult women. Adult women choosing to work in strip clubs is not synonymous with sex trafficked teenage victims. I will concede that a minority of dancers do have problems, either that they had before they started dancing or that they developed while dancing, but there are also a lot of bartenders, waitresses, shot girls, fast food workers, and even more "respectable jobs" such as accountants and lawyers that has people with mental health issues and addictions and who face trouble in life. Most dancers that I know, and in 8 years I know a lot of them, are just trying to go to work, make an income, and go home and go about their lives in the best way possible. Our jobs should not be jeopardized because of a few outliers.

On her Facebook page, ex-council woman Kristin Palmer states that "We have a problem in this country that permeates our society and our city. It is the objectification of women that leads to their exploitation. It is most egregious amongst those who are marginalized, who have no voice and no resources Young women who lack the capacity and the resources are systematically abused." I am using my voice now to say that I wish to continue to do my job without the city of New Orleans making it difficult. I am not being exploited or abused. I do not "lack the capacity" to make my own choices, and to tell me that I do is more dehumanizing than taking my clothes off for money. So please, do not make laws for the strip clubs on Bourbon Street that operate on the outdated assumption that strip clubs only bring negativity to women and their surroundings. Being an intelligent, positive, independent person and working in a strip club are not mutually exclusive.

Sincerely,

A Bourbon Street Dancer and French Quarter Resident

From: CPCinfo
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 4:50 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleur
Subject: FW: Regarding proposed strip club ordinances

From: Rachel Ladner [<mailto:racheldianneladner@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 4:40 PM
To: CPCinfo
Subject: Regarding proposed strip club ordinances

As a dancer who works on Bourbon Street, I was saddened to learn that Covenant House is stigmatizing the women who work in these establishments. While I appreciate the charitable work that they've provided for the disadvantaged, I believe that their view of the adult industry is tainted due to confirmation bias-- they're working with women who have hit very hard times, and extrapolate that to mean that the strip clubs these women worked for are the sole cause of their misfortune. Yes, drugs and prostitution do exist in these clubs, but they're the exception rather than the rule. Furthermore, strip clubs are certainly not the only venues for either of these, and closing down clubs will not get rid of them. And it definitely won't help women, disadvantaged or not, who rely on dancing (or waitressing, bartending, hostessing, etc.) as their source of income. Those who were already struggling will, if anything, be more likely to resort to dangerous and illegal choices when their legal income source is snatched out from under them. But, once again, they do not represent the majority of entertainers.

I, for one, am grateful to have the opportunity to work as an independent contractor and make enough money to take care of myself and get an education while working part time and making my own hours. I have a number of chronic illnesses which have prevented me from being able to work consistently, but as an independent contractor, I can show up when I'm physically able to without the fear of losing my job. I can work around my school schedule and take time off to study for midterms and finals if needed. I'm set to volunteer with a nonprofit organization which will hopefully lead to a dream job for me, and this would not be possible without my current job and the freedom it provides me. I, for one, greatly prefer being able to stay self-reliant despite my illness rather than becoming destitute and unable to reach the goals I've set for myself. I'm also not alone in this regard; many of my friends who dance are students who want to devote themselves to their studies, or parents who want to be able to spend as much time with their children as possible while providing for them financially. Some of them just love being their own bosses and being able to travel. Shutting down clubs won't get rid of the problems associated with poverty and addiction or end prostitution, but it will hurt those of us who have found the industry as a way to balance work, home, and school life. We're adults who have chosen this line of work, and certainly not the helpless victims we've been made out to be.

Addiction and poverty are serious problems that need to be addressed, but that can only be done by making treatment and assistance for the disadvantaged more readily available. And while Covenant House alleges that pimps are rampant in clubs, this is rarely, if ever, true. The couple of times over the years that I've heard anything about a pimp entering a club, it's been to hear that he'd been kicked out. Not to mention that no sane business owner would want to see a dancer (and therefore money) taken out of their establishment by one of these men. I propose that we start making better social programs readily available to those in need while going after predatory

pimps, rather than scapegoating the adult industry and needlessly putting a large group of law-abiding citizens out of work.

Serious allegations about the dangers of the adult entertainment industry have been made by both Covenant House and former council member Kristin Gisleson Palmer, and I empathize with their desire to prevent further tragedies from happening. While I'm certain that the people involved have noble intentions, they have made the mistake of confusing correlation with causation. It is tragic when a young person succumbs to addiction or other harmful lifestyles, and I fully support reaching out to those in need of help. Strip clubs don't cause these problems, however. Cases that end in tragedy grab the media's attention, but the rest of us who have benefited from the industry and have stable lives with healthy interpersonal relationships simply don't make the news.

On the flip side, there are young women who have been empowered to leave abusive or otherwise unhealthy situations with the help of a dancing job. In fact, I am one of them. I grew up with an extremely abusive and now estranged father. Even when I moved out and wanted to get as far away from him as possible, it was initially difficult because even working full-time, I could not be fully financially independent from him for some time. When I began dancing, I was able to make enough money to be fully independent and cut my hours spent working down enough to notice an improvement in my grades. Many years ago and while on a break from college to reevaluate my chosen major, I came to visit New Orleans frequently. Not long after, I realized that I had fallen in love with the city and was able to pick up and move here, further distancing myself from my abuser in the process. Other women in the industry have had similar stories to tell. In fact, I recently befriended a very kind young woman in her early 20's who began dancing with me with another stripping success story. She was living with the deadbeat father of her child, and was worried about how she would be able to make the money necessary to move out of an undesirable home situation and care for herself and her child. With the encouragement and advice of some of her coworkers, she gained the confidence and income that she needed to make this life change. She's now in the process of getting a new place and no longer feels trapped. I'm happy for both of us. Strip clubs are painted as toxic places where women are victimized, but in my experience the majority of us are part of a community that looks out for its own and wants to see our colleagues succeed.

Also bear in mind that those of us who are in stable living situations don't rely on Covenant House's services, and therefore were unaware of the claims they've made about our industry. When you read through our letters in defense of our livelihoods and our freedom to choose how we make a living, please realize that these letters represent only a small fraction of many more like-minded adult entertainers in New Orleans. I can confidently say that the vast majority of the dancers who haven't been made aware of this issue in time to add their input would agree with my letter, as well as those letters that are being submitted by other gentleman's club workers.

From: Lutnick, Alexandra <alutnick@rti.org>
Sent: Sunday, June 19, 2016 6:29 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: Materials for the upcoming public hearing re: Adult Live Performance Venue
Attachments: Materials for the Planning Commission.zip

Dear City Planner Lebailleux,

I am a researcher whose work has focused on the sex industry, inclusive of trafficking, for over 15 years (See Appendix A in attached materials for my CV). My book *Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: Beyond Victims and Villains* was published earlier this year by Columbia University Press.

I have been following the process in New Orleans around changing the zoning for the exotic dance clubs. During this time I have been contacted by women I know who dance in the clubs and also advocates for people involved in the adult entertainment industry. All have shared their concerns with me about the proposed changes. Included in the attached materials is an executive summary and report I wrote in hopes that it will expose the Commissioners to a more nuanced perspective about these issues. I am sending it to you so that they will be included as a public comment in advance of the public hearing.

If you, or any of the Commissioners, have any questions or would like to discuss any of the issues raised in the report in more detail, please let me know. Unfortunately, because I am based in San Francisco, I will not be able to attend the public hearing. Some upcoming conferences will have me in New Orleans though the middle of July, middle of August, and sometime in November. If you or any of the Commissioners would like to meet in person we could schedule something during one of those trips.

All the best,
alix

Alexandra Lutnick, PhD
Senior Research Scientist
RTI International
351 California Street., Suite 500; San Francisco, CA 94104
Office Phone: 415-848-1342

Book:
Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: Beyond Victims and Villains
<http://cup.columbia.edu/book/domestic-minor-sex-trafficking/9780231169219>

From: RENE L. RANDON JR. <rrandonjr@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 1:31 PM
To: Sabine E. Lebailleux
Subject: Moratorium on new adult businesses in the Vieux Carre Entertainment Zone
Attachments: 225Bourbon letter re Adult entertainment moratorium.pdf

Ms. Lebailleux:

On behalf of the ownership of the building located at 221-225 Bourbon Street, please find the attached letter of comments in opposition to restrictions on Adult Entertainment Businesses in the Vieux Carre' Entertainment Zone.

Sincerely,
Rene L. Randon

Sent from [Outlook](#)

Towards a more nuanced understanding of exotic dance clubs,
the experiences of exotic dancers, and secondary effects

By: Alexandra Lutnick, Ph.D.

Presented to: The New Orleans City Planning Commission

June 19, 2016

The United States has a long history of debating the dangers of all forms of dance.¹ Up until the mid-1950s ballet was stigmatized and associated with people considered to be on the fringes of acceptable society.² The dual response of titillation by and hostility to dance continues in the present day, especially in response to exotic dance adult entertainment.³ Despite some people's discomfort or opposition to this form of dance, some politicians view the clubs as an integral component of a vibrant nighttime economy⁴ and adult establishments play a role and have a place in the modern community.⁵ Furthermore, successful convention economies do not exist without a successful adult entertainment industry.⁶

As someone who has been researching and studying the sex industry, inclusive of trafficking, for over 15 years (See Appendix A for my CV), the purpose of this report is to share with the City Planning Commissioners a more nuanced perspective and methodologically rigorous overview of exotic dance clubs, the experiences of exotic dancers, secondary effects and zoning approaches. Although people of all genders are exotic dancers, this report will focus on cisgender women (that is people whose gender identity matches their biological sex). The reason for this is that the current exploration of whether to implement conditional use permits for adult clubs is focused on clubs in the VCE district. The clubs in the VCE overwhelmingly have women entertainers. It is worth noting, however, that when other genders, especially cisgender men, are included in these types of conversations, we never hear concerns about, or claims of, exploitation. As explained in my book *Domestic minor sex trafficking: Beyond victims and villains*⁷, "This gendered notion of victimhood relies on the conception of female weakness and brings with it judgments about female sexuality and sexual agency" (p. 80-81).

Overview of Exotic Dance Clubs and Dancers' Experiences

The idea that women in exotic dance clubs are exploited, oppressed and degraded is often promoted by people who have never worked at the clubs as employees or independent contractors. When we listen to the voices of dancers we hear a different narrative. Just like most people work out of economic necessity, the same is true for exotic dancers. Within the economic opportunities accessible to them, most choose to dance^{3,8-10} and view that choice as one comparable to that of a "model's, actor's, or athlete's"³ (p.123) where they earn a living using their bodies.^{3,11,12} In a small pilot health assessment conducted with 13 current exotic dancers in San Francisco, CA, eight of the women reported that they like being independent contractors.¹³ As independent contractors they have the ability to choose their work schedule and control their work persona, outfits, choreography, and interactions with club patrons.³

Ethnographic work conducted in exotic dance clubs throughout the country provides important insight into the experiences of women who are exotic dancers. Judith Hanna's work in over 100 clubs throughout the United States found that women dancing in the clubs largely describe their experiences as empowering.^{3,14} Through dancing they enhanced their self-confidence and self-esteem, and appreciated the financial independence it offers them. A small pilot study in

San Francisco found similar themes. Women reported liking the money they make, the financial freedom that comes with dancing, the exercise and fun they have while performing, the friendships they build with other dancers and club staff, learning negotiation skills that can be used in other employment, and for some, the ability to explore their sexual expression.¹³

For most women, dancing in the clubs is a temporary position that allows them to achieve other career or personal goals.^{15,16} In fact, research done over the past 15 years has found that exotic dancers are more educated today than they were in the past.¹⁷⁻¹⁹ which may reinforce the finding that for many women dancing is seen as a “temporary endeavor that fits with their current situation or future ambitions”¹⁶ (p.26). For example, current and former dancers have written doctoral dissertations, books, and peer-reviewed journal articles about the clubs in the fields of anthropology, drama, social work and women’s studies.^{3,8,9,14,20,21}

Safety Precautions

Most adult clubs are well managed.^{10,12} Katherine Frank’s work as an ethnographer and dancer for over a decade in strip clubs did not confirm fears of rape, assault and public health issues.¹⁰ As in any industry, instances exist where patrons, managers, other dancers or staff misbehave, are rude, and, in certain situations, commit crimes.^{22,23} Similar to other businesses though, owners and managers of exotic dance clubs take significant steps to ensure the safety of the dancers, other staff, and patrons. These steps include following laws, enforcing club rules, installing surveillance cameras, maintaining a high staff to patron ratio, and having floor managers constantly monitor the space to ensure their establishments are operating lawfully and creating a positive experience for everyone.^{3,12,24} A number of clubs throughout the United States, including some in New Orleans, post in the entertainers’ dressing room the phone number of an independent third party they can call if they have any complaints (J. Carouba, personal communication, June 11, 2016). That third party then serves as a mediator for the complaints.

Numerous studies have examined exotic dancers’ perceptions of safety in the clubs. In 2008 and 2009, researchers from Johns Hopkins focused on the experiences of dancers at clubs in a block and a half segment of downtown Baltimore called The Block.²⁵⁻²⁷ Approximately 20 strip clubs, bars, fast food restaurants and other adult entertainment businesses are located on The Block. This area is known for drug-related activity and sex work in the form of prostitution,²⁸ and the strip clubs are less upscale than those elsewhere in Baltimore.²⁷ Sherman and her colleagues conducted cross-sectional surveys with 98 exotic dancers, 40 in-depth interviews with dancers, 15 in-depth interviews with staff, and observations of the clubs. Although 43% of the women they interviewed for the cross-sectional surveys reported selling sex in the club (as highlighted in James Kelley’s e-mail about the City Planning Commission study of adult live venues. See Appendix B), overwhelmingly the women dancing in these establishments did not feel unsafe, and in fact felt safer in the clubs than they did outside of the club. As a 21 year old dancer shared, her feeling unsafe had, “[n]othing, you know, to do with, like the clubs or anything. It’s just a bad street. It’s a bad neighborhood. It’s a bad part of town” (p. 567).²⁵

Sherman et al.'s findings indicate that dancers' perceptions of safety are enhanced by the physical and social environment of the clubs.²⁵⁻²⁷ At the physical level, the clubs are designed in such a way that dancers' interactions with customers can be closely monitored by other dancers and staff. Socially, the women spoke about how not only is it the responsibility of all employees to protect them if they have any issues with a patron, but that dancers also watch out for each other. Reinforcing the safety that exotic dancers feel in the clubs, findings from Akers' assessment found that dancers overwhelmingly feel that club managers, club security, and other dancers are the ones with their best interest in mind. On the other hand, the majority of dancers felt that police and political groups do not act with their best interests in mind.¹³

Many club owners also try to manage outside of their businesses by working with their neighbors to address problems that arise.³ For example, a club owner in San Francisco noticed that the neighborhood where some of his clubs are located was experiencing a lot of crime. Working with other businesses, he formed a community benefit district (CBD). Through the CBD's efforts, inclusive of their own safety patrol, pro-actively working with local police, and regularly scheduled cleaning of the sidewalks and graffiti removal, they have achieved a 70% reduction in crime in the district over a two year period.²⁹ The CBD's work has gone so well on Broadway Street that David Lazar, the police captain for that area told the CBD members that, "We should change the name to Mayberry Street."³⁰

Similar pro-active approaches are found in New Orleans. Robert Watters, the owner of Rick's Cabaret and Rick's Saloon in New Orleans, revived the Bourbon Street Merchants Association (presently known as the French Quarter Business League) and served as President of the organization for three years. He currently serves as that group's appointed representative of the French Quarter Management District (a state entity formed to better the French Quarter) and is also the current president of the French Quarter Business Association. In these roles he has sought to improve security and funding for the French Quarter. Tim Spratt, Vice President for Kirkendoll Management (the operator of the Penthouse Club), is currently Vice President of the French Quarter Business Association and the Chair of their Quality of Life Committee. Ann Kessler, an executive with the Hustler Club, serves as a Committee Member of the Security Task Force of the French Quarter Management District. Their efforts in the French Quarter demonstrate their concern for the safety and security of patrons, employees, and independent contractors. The illicit acts of one operator, who has since been sanctioned under available law, should not discount the positive actions and impacts of operators such as those highlighted above.

Illicit Drug Use

Although drug use and dealing may take place in some exotic dance clubs, research has shown that both activities are not disproportionate to the clubs.³ Drug use and dealing are present in numerous spaces including, but not limited to, bars, schools, universities, jails and prisons. Protocols at some exotic dance clubs include having security members monitor the club for

illegal drug use, checking entertainers' lockers, and a few clubs even use drug-sniffing dogs to assure that no drugs are on the premises.³ Jim Kelly's email (Appendix B) states that drug dealing was found in "9 out of 14 New Orleans strip clubs." In fact five of the twelve adult nightclubs on Bourbon Street were cited and four of these clubs belong to one owner. Two of the clubs on Bourbon Street cited were music clubs.

Prostitution

Myths also exist that exotic dancing is a precursor, advertisement for, or occurs at the same time as prostitution. No evidence shows that prostitution takes place in a disproportionate amount within exotic dance clubs.^{9,10,14} In Frank's participant observation ethnographic work, she concluded that exotic dance is distinct from prostitution and most male patrons are not looking to have sex with exotic dancers but instead are looking for a voyeuristic experience with no expectation of sex.¹⁰ Among a sample of 783 people who accessed services at the St. James Infirmary, a peer run occupational health and safety clinic for sex workers,³¹ exotic dancers were less likely to report having sex as part of their work.³² Well run clubs throughout the United States proactively work to maintain compliance with the law. Managers, floor staff, and other dancers all monitor the space, and when entertainers are found to have engaged in prostitution either in the club or outside of the club with a club patron, their contracts are terminated.³

Recognizing the steps that most clubs take to prevent prostitution, it is not surprising that research does not show some of the same negative health outcomes among exotic dancers as are seen in people engaging in commercial sex. In fact, exotic dancers are significantly less likely to test positive for sexually transmitted infections when compared to people engaging in other types of sex work.³² It appears that the criticisms made that exotic dance clubs are a form of commercial sexual exploitation are provoked by what people imagine happens in the clubs and reflects their "ideological belief that striptease demeans and exploits women" (p. 737).¹²

Human Trafficking

In 2000, the United States Congress authorized the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, more commonly referred to as the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). Section 103.8 defines any U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident younger than eighteen who is involved in commercial sex acts as a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons. Labor trafficking is defined as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery. What this means in relation to exotic dance clubs is that for trafficking to take place within the club a dancer under the age of 18 would either have to have been forced to work at the club or while working at the club would have to perform some type of sex act (oral, vaginal, or anal). For adults dancing at the club, force, fraud or coercion would need to be established.

Based on the above federal definition, the idea that exotic dance clubs are associated with human trafficking is unproven.^{12,33} Most club owners are not interested in hiring people who are being forced to work in their clubs. In fact, a coalition of club owners (Club Operators Against Sex Trafficking, COAST) have partnered with Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Homeland Security Investigations to host trainings throughout the United States for club owners, managers, staff and entertainers. These trainings raise awareness about human trafficking, provide information on how to screen for it in the clubs, and guidance on how to work with local and federal law enforcement when trafficking is suspected.³⁴ New Orleans has hosted and sponsored COAST trainings to ensure their staff, inclusive of independent contractors) understand indicators of human trafficking. Most of the adult businesses in New Orleans require two forms of identity before permitting entertainers to work in their establishments, and through COAST trainings management understand how to look for signs that entertainers are working under compulsion (for example if the entertainer does not have possession of her own identity documentation or works excessively long shifts on an on-going basis).

It is important to spend some time examining the findings from the recently published study conducted in New Orleans with Covenant House clients.³⁵ A closer examination of their data reveals some troubling methodological flaws that lead to false conclusions. The sample is comprised of 99 clients ages 18-23. Although the demographics of this convenience sample are proportional to the typical demographics of their client base, the sample is not large enough to assure a 95% Confidence Interval which indicates the reliability of the findings. Based on their client base of 615 young people a year, interviews with 237 clients would be needed to be able to extrapolate the findings from the study onto the entire population. Therefore, the authors make the false conclusion that 87 of their clients each year are *likely to be* survivors of human trafficking (“likely to be” is italicized because that important descriptor was excluded in James Kelly’s email communication. See Appendix B).

Issues also exist with the Human Trafficking Interview and Assessment Measure (HTIAM-14) used to collect the data (See Appendix C). To assess for experiences with trading sex, the following question is asked:

Sometimes young people who are homeless or who are having difficulties with their families have very few options to survive or fulfill their basic needs, such as food and shelter. Sometimes they are exploited or feel the need to use their sexuality to help them survive. Have you or anyone else ever received anything of value, such as money, a place to stay, food, drugs, gifts or favors, in exchange for your performing a sexual activity?

This is a double-barreled question because it touches on more than one issue. It asks about both personal experience and also the experience of others and only allows for a yes or no response. Therefore answers to this question may not indicate the experience of the person answering them. Unfortunately this invalidates the answers to this question.

Even if the question only focused on the experiences of the interviewee, other methodological issues exist. The study reports that 10% of the 99 people interviewed reported that they had worked as exotic dancers, and two were underage. Because the report does not include the exact wording of questions about exotic dancing, we do not know if these people were dancing in the clubs. Other research has indicated that among people under the age of 18, when they talk about stripping it refers to them giving a private performance in someone's home or hotel room.^{7,36} Even if the two underage respondents were dancing in the clubs, this does not in and of itself constitute sex trafficking. For it to meet the criteria for the federal definition they would need to have been forced to work in the club, or they would need to have traded some type of sex act in the club. The report does not indicate that either of those elements were present.

Secondary Effects

Studies examining the secondary effects of adult businesses have been plagued by methodological issues. The findings from these flawed studies have been used to try to drive exotic dance clubs out of business.¹⁴ What follows is brief description of the methodological problems inherent to many of these studies.

In an evaluation of over 110 studies that purported to examine primary and secondary effects of clubs, the majority neither followed professional standards of research nor calculated an error rate which is the test of the reliability of the findings.³⁷ Professional standards of this type of research require control groups, longitudinal data collection, quantitative evidence, and peer review. In the evaluation mentioned above, Paul, Linz, and Shafer found that none of the most frequently cited studies showing secondary effects used by communities across the United States had been subjected to scientific peer review.³⁷

To ensure accurate and fair comparison, a control area that is equivalent to the area with the adult businesses must be chosen. In the absence of control sites it is not possible to interpret findings of negative secondary effects as unique to exotic dance clubs. Instead, to meet social science criteria for evidentiary value, a comparison of adult clubs that serve alcohol would need to be compared to non-adult clubs that serve alcohol in a similar neighborhood environment. Without comparative data, the findings are best viewed as spurious correlations.¹²

It is also not possible to determine causality because these studies do not collect data over a period of several years. Longitudinal data collection allows the study to ensure that an erratic pattern of social activity is not influencing the findings. Without longitudinal studies, we do not know if the crimes occurring near exotic dance clubs are caused by those businesses. Determining causality is also compromised by the absence of measures before and after the club opened.

The data types used to make claims about secondary effects need to also be examined. For example, crime rates can be influenced by police surveillance. Calls made by an exotic dance club may not always indicate a problematic club. They may also indicate a club that is

proactively trying to maintain a safe and lawful establishment. Relying on surveillance data may also be problematic if an increase in surveillance activities is taking place simply because an adult business is located in the area. In these situations it is not clear whether crime has increased because of the adult business or because of increased police surveillance.

Another consideration is how researchers operationalize the term “sexually oriented businesses.” Many studies combine a variety of business types under that umbrella. Case in point is the study conducted by researchers from the University of Louisville³⁸ referenced in James Kelly’s e-mail communication (see Appendix B). The focus of this study was not just exotic dance clubs, but also adult book and toy stores (no massage parlors were included as indicated in Kelly’s e-mail communication). Although the authors found that sexually oriented businesses are associated with higher rates of all types of offenses, because they included multiple types of businesses it is not clear whether the findings can be attributed to exotic dance clubs.

Any claims about secondary effects must be accompanied with quantitative evidence.³⁹ Testimony of public citizens can only provide impressionistic assertions, which need to be viewed skeptically because they largely consist of empirical claims unsupported by rigorous evaluation. Additionally, these types of testimony are **“often made by parties with a vested interest in removing sexually oriented establishments from the area due to moralistic or personal biases [emphasis added]”** (p.38)⁴⁰. Testimony by law enforcement also needs to be assessed critically as it often relies on intuition and anecdotes as opposed to methodical research.

When studies follow research best practices, we do not find that exotic dance clubs are associated with negative secondary effects. In some cases, the clubs are associated with positive effects such as economic development in the neighborhood. A three-part study in Charlotte, North Carolina was conducted with over 100 business operators and residents located within one thousand feet of three different exotic dance clubs chosen to reflect different types of economically developed neighborhoods.⁴¹⁻⁴³ The results showed that no one reported any negative secondary effects. Instead they shared positive benefits operating in proximity to adult clubs such as club patrons becoming their clients and being able to use the club as a landmark to help their clients find their business.

Studies that have used control sites also do not find secondary effects. Two different police studies conducted at two different points in time found that when compared to other establishments that serve alcohol, exotic dance clubs that serve alcohol had no negative impacts on crime.^{44,45} Linz and Paul (2002) conducted a study of police calls for service over a 4-year period in areas within a 1,000-foot radius of eight strip clubs serving alcohol.⁴⁶ They demographically matched control areas in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The results of their study show few differences in calls for service between strip clubs and control areas.

To assess whether a relationship exists between exotic dance clubs and negative secondary effects in the form of increased numbers of crimes reported in the areas surrounding the businesses, Linz, Land, Williams, Paul, and Ezell (2004) matched each of the 20 exotic dance clubs with a control site based on demographic characteristics related to crime risk.⁴⁷ They then compared crime events reported to police over a three year period. They found that the presence of exotic dance clubs did not increase the number of crime incidents reported in localized areas surrounding the club (defined by circular areas of 500- and 1,000-foot radii) as compared to the number of crime incidents reported in comparable localized areas that did not contain an adult business. Instead, they found that areas surrounding exotic dance clubs had smaller numbers of reported crime incidents than do corresponding areas surrounding the three control sites studied. Lastly, a study of three cities (two in Connecticut and one in Virginia) conducted over a number of years compared exotic dance clubs with other liquor serving establishments and found that the level of crime was more intense around other liquor serving establishments than around the clubs.²⁴

Zoning

Under the secondary effects doctrine, cities tend to adopt two opposed zoning approaches for regulation of adult businesses: either requiring that they maintain a certain distance apart from each other and other specified structures (referred to as cracking) or zoning them into one designated area (referred to as packing). Cramer's exploration of the benefits and limitations of the two diametrically opposed responses and concluded that the packing approach offers more benefits to a city.⁴⁰ When exotic dance clubs are permitted use in a specific zone, it isolates adult uses into one area which makes it easier for those people who are sensitive to or offended by those types of businesses to simply avoid going to the areas where the clubs are located. Another benefit of the packing approach is it makes it much easier to monitor exotic dance clubs because they are in one zone. From a financial standpoint, packing lowers administrative costs. It eliminates the need for costly case-by-case reviews to ensure that new or existing businesses are adhering to zoning requirements. With a finite amount of space that permits exotic dance clubs, packing creates an upper bound for the number of clubs that can exist in the area.

Historical records about zoning regulations in New Orleans reveal that what was once the Vieux Carré Zoning District H-2 for commercial has become the VCE. This packing approach to zoning established "the maximum footprint into which the nighttime revelry trade would eventually grow" (p.111)⁴⁸. The legally binding zoning created in the 1920s explicitly permitted live entertainment in cocktail lounges and nightclubs on Bourbon Street. That same zoning either prohibited or was silent about live entertainment elsewhere. Bourbon Street has remained, by virtue of the rules of the VCE, an important asset to the City of New Orleans. Dating back to the construction of the French Opera House in 1859, as an entertainment venue the street has survived the creation of Storyville, Prohibition, Jim Garrison, and Hurricane Katrina. As Campanella offers in his book *Bourbon Street: A history*, "Bourbon Street today is just as

authentically part of real New Orleans culture as Storyville was a hundred years ago, and as Social Aid and Pleasure clubs, the housing projects, Creoles, and Tremé are today— no more, no less” (p.300)⁴⁸.

Conclusion

The input and perspectives of current exotic dancers are noticeably absent from the conversations in New Orleans about changing zoning procedures to require conditional use permits for adult clubs. Similar to the process of zoning regulations for adult clubs in other locations throughout the United States, “few (if any) of the zoning regulations...are pitched towards improving working conditions for the dancers or allowing women more control over how their bodies are commodified in the sex industry” (p.503).¹⁰ In light of the findings from Baltimore²⁵⁻²⁷ and San Francisco,¹³ where dancers report feeling safe in the clubs and that staff and other dancers have their best interest in mind, any exploration of how best to regulate the clubs must be conducted in conjunction with dancers and other club staff. When their mutual interests do not align with those promoted by other agencies and organizations, it should not be used to dismiss their perspective but rather should be viewed as an opportunity for alliance building with current dancers and club owners who are proactive in discussions of improving conditions for dancers and the neighborhood.

A considerable body of research conducted according to professional standards has not found that exotic dance clubs are associated with negative secondary effects. That does not mean that some clubs are problematic. If a particular club is permitting criminalized behaviors on its premises, it does not mean that all clubs are guilty. Instead, the issue should be addressed as a criminal one. The proposal to regulate exotic dance clubs in New Orleans through conditional use permits, and the request by James Kelly to reduce the number of strip clubs by 65% (see Appendix B), threatens to drive adult entertainment away from spaces where it can be monitored increases the likelihood that exotic dancers will be vulnerable to exploitation.⁴⁹ What does it mean if New Orleans proceeds with the plan to regulate the clubs with conditional use permits? If the city presses ahead with the plan, it may be an example of what Justice Souter in the *City of Los Angeles v. Alameda Books, Inc.*, case referred to as a weak demonstration of facts that indicates viewpoint discrimination.⁵⁰ Lacking empirical proof of negative secondary effects in New Orleans, the city may be engaging in disapproval of protected adult speech rather than trying to regulate the clubs out of concern for adverse secondary effects.

Even with all the earlier mentioned methodological flaws of the Covenant House study,³⁵ the authors’ conclusions and recommendations do not match what New Orleans is currently considering. The report makes no mention of raising the minimum age to work in the clubs or changing zoning requirements. Instead it makes recommendations on how to better address people’s economic insecurity through measures such as increasing work opportunities and job skills trainings for young adults. Their recommendations reflect those presented in other research.^{7,36} Namely, “if young people’s basic human rights are met, if they have stable and

safe housing, employment or another source of income, health care, access to education and welfare benefits, and supportive networks (familial or social)”⁷ (p.121) those who really do not want to be in any type of adult business will have other options.

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To: City Planning Commission for the City of New Orleans
From: Suzanne P. Leckert, AICP
Date: June 20, 2016
RE: City Council Motion M-16-22, Adult Entertainment Venues Study

This memorandum is offered as a response to the request for public comment regarding City Council Motion M-16-22, a request “for the City Planning Commission to conduct a public hearing and study on the regulation of Adult Live Performance Venues in the City of New Orleans.” As stated in the Staff Report of February 10, 2016, the study currently underway and not yet public “should consider limitations on the number of such establishments, best practices of other cities, land use regulatory mechanisms, use standards, and input from industry representatives and impacted businesses.”ⁱⁱ

As an AICP-certified professional planner with over 17 years of experience, within both the public and private sector, I urge caution when seeking to further regulate adult entertainment venues via additional land use and zoning actions in our city. The current zoning regulations in place permit Adult Live Performance Venues only in a small area through an overlay zone, allow them as conditional uses only in industrial zones, and not within 1,000 feet of in-compatible uses such as schools and churches. Such limitations represent the best practices in zoning and land use mechanismsⁱⁱⁱ in our country.

The current Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance does as it should with regard to adult entertainment venues. It narrowly defines the use, mitigates for potential secondary effects though the concentration of the use in one region, and it prohibits the use being in close proximity to non-compatible uses. The law also allows business owners reasonable opportunity for operation, without restrictions that might be subject to legal challenges^{iv}.

The addition of new, and ostensibly more onerous zoning regulations on adult entertainment venues is likely to negatively impact existing businesses. The Adult Entertainment Venues study (not yet available) could potentially recommend: 1) changing of the use from permitted to a conditional use in the VCE; 2) limiting the number of permitted adult entertainment venues in the VCE; 3) prohibiting adult entertainment venues from locating in Light Industrial and Heavy Industrial zones (currently a conditional use); or 4) changing the use from permitted to not-permitted in the VCE. In all of these cases, currently compliant and legally operating businesses and their employees would be expected to suffer the loss of revenue and employment, respectively. As examples:

1. Change from permitted to conditional use in the VCE
 - Existing venues would become legal non-conforming uses.
 - Conditional use process would only apply if the business planned a major change to the existing building, or if a business closed and was vacant for more than 6 months.
 - The conditional use process is a long, arduous, and expensive one for applicants. The process also consumes CPC staff time that could be spent on other land use efforts.
 - This change in status could negatively impact the finances of existing businesses, as banks and financing bodies are likely to raise rates or cancel loans due to the uncertainty associated with conditional use status.
 - The City would gain no additional oversight of existing businesses unless they closed for more than 6 months (losing their legal non-conforming status).
 - Only new adult entertainment venues would undergo the conditional use process, which would allow the City to apply more stringent regulations only to those businesses.

2. Limit the number of permitted adult entertainment venues in the VCE
 - Existing venues (unless limit were less than existing number of venues) would be unaffected. Any affected businesses would become legal non-confirming uses.
 - The City would gain no additional oversight of existing businesses unless they closed for more than 6 months (losing their legal non-conforming status).
 - Existing venues could be amortized^v, effectively closing select businesses after a period of time.
 - This is a dramatic action, and could be challenged on First Amendment grounds.
3. Prohibit adult entertainment venues from locating in LI and HI zones
 - New venues would be prohibited.
 - Existing venues would become legal non-confirming uses.
 - The City would gain no additional oversight of existing businesses unless they closed for more than 6 months (losing their legal non-conforming status).
 - Existing venues could be amortized, effectively closing businesses after a period of time.
 - This is a dramatic action, and could be challenged on First Amendment grounds.
4. Change the use from permitted to not-permitted in the VCE
 - New venues would be prohibited.
 - Existing venues would become legal non-confirming uses.
 - The City would gain no additional oversight of existing businesses unless they closed for more than 6 months (losing their legal non-conforming status).
 - Existing venues could be amortized, effectively closing businesses after a period of time.
 - This is a dramatic action, and could be challenged on First Amendment grounds.

If existing venues were forced to close, negative impacts for the citizens of the City of New Orleans would be expected. Existing employees, including not just the performers but also support staff, would lose employment opportunities. Companies providing goods and services to these businesses would be negatively impacted through revenue and potentially job losses. Nearby businesses could be negatively impacted through declines in visitors to the area, resulting in less spending, revenue losses, and potentially job losses. Just as economic activity multiplies spending within an economy, a decrease in economic activity can multiply a decrease in spending.

Zoning, while a good and useful tool for cities to regulate land uses, may not always the best tool to address problems with nuisance businesses. It is possible that more robust monitoring and regulation of existing and future adult entertainment venues could be achieved more directly with revised licensing requirements and fees.

ⁱ Preliminary Adult Live Performance Venues Study. City Planning Commission Staff Report. February 10, 2016.

ⁱⁱ Preliminary Adult Live Performance Venues Study. City Planning Commission Staff Report. February 10, 2016.

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^{iv} Municipal Regulation of Adult Uses. New York State Department of State, Office of General Counsel. Legal Memorandum LU03.

^v Jefferson Parish Ordinance No. 23881.

SUZANNE PERILLOUX LECKERT, AICP
Director of Gaming, Feasibility & Land Use Analysis

Master of Urban and Regional Planning,
University of New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana, 2004

Certificate in Historic Preservation,
University of New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana, 2004

Bachelor of Arts in History,
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 1999

Ms. Leckert leads TMG Consulting’s feasibility and land use divisions. An award-winning planner and analyst, she has evaluated the practicality and feasibility of large and small-scale developments across the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Central America, Europe, and Africa. Her analyses routinely give clients in both the private and public sectors the information they need to make critical decisions.

Ms. Leckert has extensive experience in providing consulting services to government agencies, private developers, and large-scale business operators. In her career as an analyst and a planner, Ms. Leckert has provided land use analyses, revenue and financial projections, forecasts of economic impacts, and projections of development impacts on municipal budgets. These services have helped clients to win coveted business licenses in highly competitive markets such as Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, to obtain financing, and to secure necessary permits so that their visions become reality. Using her tuned analytical skills and ability to utilize complex models, she has assessed commercial, residential, recreation, and casino gaming developments - from a small restaurant to a \$3 billion multi-component and multi-phased resort. Her experience working for government and legal entities has also given her an edge in understanding the needs and goals of municipalities and governments.

Ms. Leckert previously worked for The Innovation Group as the Director of Development Analysis, and was a City Planner and Special Assistant to the Planning Director for the City of New Orleans. Her seventeen years of experience also includes a staff position with U.S. Senator John Breaux and one with the Tax and Estates practice of the law firm Jones Walker.

In her graduate studies, Ms. Leckert specialized in Historic Preservation, conducting studies and making recommendations for redevelopment of historic neighborhoods and commercial corridors.

AFFILIATIONS

- American Planning Association
- American Planning Association, Louisiana Chapter
- American Planning Association, Metro New Orleans Chapter
- Ports Association of Louisiana
- Krewe of Muses
- Louisiana Children’s Museum

AWARDS

- Louisiana Chapter of the American Planning Association’s “Excellence Award for a Process” for the Shreveport Common Market Assessment (2015)

-
- Global Gaming Business Emerging Leader (2013/2014)

SPEECHES & PUBLICATIONS

- “Shreveport Common: Using Hard Numbers to Validate and Implement the Vision,” American Planning Association, Louisiana Chapter 2015 State Conference, Moderator/Panelist.
- “First and Fast . . . or Later and Last, Project Planning to Getting the License,” Global Gaming Business, May 2012.
- “Tools for Assessment of Markets,” University of New Orleans, Department of Planning & Urban Studies, Analytical Methods (graduate course), Fall 2009.
- “A Change in the Caribbean Rhythm,” Casino Enterprise Management, 2008.

From: Cameron D. Bonnett
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2016 12:54 PM
To: f.perez@sbcglobal.net
Subject: ALEV report

Hello,

Thanks for contacting CPC in reference to the date the VCE District was established. Please see the report for the information you seek. Link to report: <http://www.nola.gov/city-planning/major-studies-and-projects/adult-live-performance-venue-study/final-report/>

Kind Regards,

Cameron Bonnett

Senior City Planner

New Orleans City Planning Commission

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Use <http://www.nola.gov/city-planning/> to access the city's Property Viewer (zoning district information), Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO) regulations, CPC Calendar, Various Application, etc.

CPCinfo

From: Brittany Mulla McGovern <brittany@fqba.org>
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2016 4:03 PM
To: CPCinfo
Cc: Robert D. Rivers
Subject: FQBA Position on City Council Motion M-16-22; Adult Live Performance Venues
Attachments: 071516- letter to CPC on Motion M-16-22.pdf

Good Afternoon Commissioners,

Please find the attached letter from French Quarter Business Association President, Robert Watters, on City Council Motion M-16-22.

Best Regards,

Brittany Mulla McGovern

Executive Director

French Quarter Business Association

O: 504.309.1423

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July 15, 2016

City of New Orleans Planning Commission
1300 Perdido Street, 7th Floor
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Re: FQBA Position on City Council Motion M-16-22; Adult Live Performance Venues

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

The French Quarter Business Association opposes any new ordinances or use regulations affecting the adult use businesses located in the VCE. Adult entertainment is very much a part of the fabric of the New Orleans and the French Quarter's nightlife. Of the approximate 9,000,000 visitors to our City, many enjoy all aspects of what the City has to offer.

Conventioneers, tourist and locals alike find adult businesses an essential part of providing a world class entertainment and tourist destination. One bad operator should not cast a shadow over the entire industry. The FQBA believes that there's great opportunity to improve the VCE and the French Quarter; however, taking legitimate businesses out of commerce should not be considered. There are many existing rules and regulations that allow the City to weed out bad actors. Those enforcement mechanisms should be exhausted before considering more extreme solutions such as changing property rights and zoning designations.

Sincerely,

Robert Watters
President

The Voice of Business in the French Quarter

600 Decatur Street, Suite 310 New Orleans, LA 70130
Phone: 504.309.1423 www.fqba.org

cc. Robert Rivers
Executive Director, City Planning Commission

CPCinfo

From: Joseph Henson <josephh@bentmedia.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2016 6:00 PM
To: CPCinfo; DistrictC; Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu
Subject: Gay adult entertainment venues and the CPC's lack of acknowledgement of their history, present and future

It was completely offensive to use HIV to justify the closure/limitation of adult entertainment venues in the VCE rather than promote additional HIV funding and education. As a gay New Orleanian, it hurt. The CPC staff didn't mention gay venues once in their extensive study even though two gay adult entertainment venues closed in the VCE within the last 3 years (Rainbow Room and Lucky Pierre's) and the overall limitation of said venues disproportionately handicaps the ability for future gay adult entertainment venues to establish themselves in New Orleans because property owners in the VCE will not have any incentive to allow a gay adult entertainment venue over a straight one due to the amount of revenue a straight establishment can generate.

Furthermore, it is ridiculous that nearly every single gay establishment in the french quarter is zoned as a non-conforming use espeically our two largest venues (Oz and the Bourbon Pub). This issue needs further study immediately given the rapid disappearance and displacement of GLBT establishments across the United States. It is beyond belief that establishments that help generate expansive amounts of revenue via Souther Decadence and other popular gay holidays, aren't even considered essential to the character of the French Quarter. That is a shame and it makes me feel ashamed to be a New Orleanian. I wish and hope that the planning commission and local government can be more inclusive and take our community seriously.

Good day,

Joseph Henson