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U.S. INDICTS CHICAGO DENTIST ALLEGEDLY LINKED TO PROVIDING LUXURY AUTOS AND MARINA TOWERS CONDOS TO NATIONWIDE PROSTITUTION RING

CHICAGO – A Chicago dentist was indicted today on federal money laundering charges linking him to a nationwide prostitution ring that used luxury automobiles he provided. The defendant, **Gary S. Kimmel**, also allegedly allowed a pimp and prostitutes to use condominiums he owned at Marina Towers in downtown Chicago, where Kimmel also lives. Kimmel allegedly accepted approximately \$405,000 from two pimps to purchase, finance, insure and maintain about a dozen vehicles used by the pimps and prostitutes, according to the charges announced by Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois.

The charges are part of “Innocence Lost,” an ongoing national investigation into criminal activity involving prostitution, and they relate to charges announced by the Justice Department last month against additional defendants in Michigan and Hawaii.

Kimmel, 56, of 300 N. State St., Unit 5618, Chicago, will be arraigned at a later date in U.S. District Court in Chicago. He was charged with one count of money laundering and one count of interstate transportation of unlawful proceeds in aid of racketeering in a two-count indictment returned today by a federal grand jury. At the same time, a federal magistrate judge ordered

unsealed a criminal complaint affidavit that was filed against Kimmel under seal in November 2005.

Mr. Fitzgerald announced the charges with Robert D. Grant, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Byram Tichenor, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division in Chicago, and Kenneth T. Laag, Inspector-in-Charge of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service in Chicago. The investigation is continuing, they said.

The Kimmel indictment names Robert Lewis Young, also known as “Lawrence Benjamin” and “Blue Diamond,” who was indicted on federal charges last month in both Michigan and Hawaii, as a pimp who recruited and directed females, including minors, to engage in prostitution in Chicago, Detroit, Honolulu and elsewhere. Young allegedly transported the females and facilitated their transportation across state lines by car and airplane.

Knowing that Young was a pimp engaged in illegal prostitution activities in multiple states, Kimmel agreed to and did purchase multiple luxury vehicles titled in Kimmel’s name for use by Young and the prostitutes, according to the indictment. Young paid Kimmel for the cars by cash, check and money order, sometimes delivering the payments in person or by having prostitutes deliver the payments, as well as by using the mail and interstate commercial carriers. From March 2002 through November 2005, Kimmel allegedly accepted approximately \$375,000 from Young and his prostitutes, knowing that the payments were proceeds of Young’s illegal prostitution activities.

In all, the indictment and complaint affidavit allege that at various times Kimmel provided at least 11 autos, including six that are subject to forfeiture in the indictment. Five of those six autos have been seized, including a 2004 Corvette, a 2005 Lexus and a 2005 Mercedes Benz.

The indictment also seeks forfeiture of seized personal computers and collectible gold, silver, copper and platinum coins, as well as nine condominium units Kimmel and his wife own in Marina Towers and approximately \$405,000, which represents property involved in the alleged money laundering. The Marina Towers units allegedly subject to forfeiture are Units 2734, 3905, 5208, 5616, 5617, 5618, 5619, 5817 and 5818. Kimmel previously owned additional units at Marina Towers, including 5620, which was allegedly used for prostitution activity but was sold in July 2005.

The money laundering count alleges that Kimmel attempted to conceal the fact that the vehicles were for Young and the prostitutes by making false statements to credit companies, insurance companies and law enforcement concerning his relationship with Young and his role with the autos.

In addition to working with Young, from May 2002 through November 2004, Kimmel allegedly accepted approximately \$30,000 in cash, checks and money orders from another pimp, Individual A, and prostitutes working for Individual A, also to purchase, finance, insure and maintain a vehicle used by Individual A and the prostitutes.

At the same time, the indictment alleges that Kimmel accepted cash from Young, Individual A and a third pimp, Individual B, as payment for dental work that Kimmel performed on Young, Individuals A and B, as well as for prostitutes who were working for Young and Individuals A and B. Kimmel allegedly did not report these payments as income to his dental practice, which is located at 233 East Erie St., Chicago.

An FBI affidavit attached to the unsealed complaint details information agents obtained from five confidential informants who worked as prostitutes. One of them told agents in July 2004 that she was 17 when she was sent from Honolulu to Chicago in March 2004. She was introduced to Kimmel, who cleaned her teeth, and then she was driven by another individual in Kimmel's Corvette

to Detroit, where she worked as prostitute. The affidavit also details numerous telephone conversations that were intercepted pursuant to court-authorized wiretaps on phones used by Kimmel and another individual.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Julie Ruder.

If convicted, money laundering carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a fine of \$500,000 or twice the amount of the alleged criminal proceeds. The interstate transportation of unlawful proceeds count carries a maximum of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The Court, however, would determine the appropriate sentence to be imposed.

The public is reminded that an indictment contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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