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NEWS RELEASE

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Four Members of Ma Family Criminal Enterprise Sentenced to Prison in Commercial Sex and Money Laundering Case

VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that four members of a family-run criminal enterprise have been sentenced to state prison for operating illicit massage businesses, running commercial sex operations and laundering the proceeds through financial institutions, real estate and other assets.

Xiangwei Ma (DOB 07/15/70), identified as the head of the organization, was sentenced to 14 years 8 months in state prison. Xiangdong Ma (DOB 09/10/72) was sentenced to 10 years in state prison. Li Ma (DOB 02/18/66) received a sentence of 5 years 4 months in state prison, and Ming Ma (DOB 10/18/85) was sentenced to 4 years 4 months in state prison.

The four defendants were previously convicted by a jury of multiple felony offenses related to their roles in the criminal enterprise. Xiangwei Ma was convicted of pimping, mortgage fraud and nine counts of money laundering. Xiangdong Ma was convicted of pimping and five counts of money laundering. Li Ma was convicted of pimping and one count of money laundering. Ming Ma was convicted of pimping and two counts of money laundering.

“Behind the doors of seemingly legitimate massage businesses in Ventura County was a criminal enterprise that exploited vulnerable women and generated enormous profits,” Senior Deputy District Attorney Rikole Kelly said. "These convictions send a powerful message: our communities will not be a marketplace for commercial sex, and those who profit from exploiting others will be held accountable.”

Xiangwei Ma and Ming Ma admitted that each offense involved planning, sophistication or professionalism. Xiangwei Ma also admitted serving a prior prison term and that the mortgage fraud involved a taking of great monetary value. The court found the planning, sophistication or

professionalism aggravating factor true as to Li Ma, and a jury found the same factor true as to Xiangdong Ma.

Xiangwei Ma, Li Ma and Ming Ma admitted to engaging in a pattern of related criminal profiteering acts committed for financial gain as part of organized criminal activity. A jury found the same allegation true beyond a reasonable doubt as to Xiangdong Ma. These admissions and the jury finding established the basis for forfeiture of the defendants' interests in more than $1.25 million in seized currency, bank funds and life insurance cash values.

A fifth defendant, Jaime Calderon (DOB 11/23/61), previously pled guilty on August 11, 2023, to money laundering. He was sentenced to Ventura County Jail.

"Their illicit massage businesses were structured to survive even after law enforcement made arrests for pimping and prostitution," District Attorney Erik Nasarenko said. "The sophisticated money laundering investigation conducted by District Attorney investigators allowed us to seize the assets of their commercial sex operations and shut down the businesses for good."

The investigation began in 2020 after multiple law enforcement agencies received anonymous letters reporting suspected prostitution and human trafficking at massage establishments in Ventura County, including Miracle Massage in Ventura and A+ Massage in Port Hueneme.

The subsequent investigation determined that Xiangwei Ma, her husband Ming Ma, her brother Xiangdong Ma, her sister Li Ma, and Li's husband, Jaime Calderon, worked together to operate a commercial sex operation through massage businesses that served as fronts for the criminal enterprise. The businesses operated for more than a decade and generated substantial proceeds from illicit sexual activity.

Investigators determined that the defendants worked together to recruit and exploit women from China for commercial sex while presenting the businesses as legitimate massage establishments.

The investigation also uncovered efforts to conceal and move the proceeds through numerous financial institutions, life insurance policies, casinos and real estate transactions.

Xiangwei Ma had previously pled guilty to attempted pandering in Los Angeles County and served an 18-month prison sentence. During her incarceration, other members of the organization continued operating the massage businesses. After her release, investigators determined she resumed directing the businesses while avoiding being listed as an owner or manager.

Xiangwei Ma also used other individuals as nominal or “straw” owners to conceal her involvement in businesses and real estate. One example involved a Simi Valley residence on Crowne Oak Lane. Evidence showed that Xiangwei Ma made conflicting representations about her employment and income in connection with the property and later sought a short sale. Calderon ultimately became the listed buyer in the transaction. Despite the terms of the sale requiring Xiangwei Ma to leave the property, she continued living there.

The investigation established that the defendants used proceeds from the commercial sex operation and a network of financial and real estate transactions to conceal the source and ownership of the criminal proceeds.

Case: 2020033841



Xiangwei Ma (DOB 07/15/70)
Simi Valley
Charges convicted of:
• PC 266h(a) – Pimping
• PC 532f(a)(1) – Mortgage fraud
• PC 186.10(a) - Money laundering (9 counts)
Special allegations found true:
• CRC 4.421(a)(8) – The manner in which the crime was carried out indicates planning, sophistication, and professionalism.
• CRC 4.421(a)(9) - The taking was of great monetary value
• CRC 4.421(b)(3) – The defendant has served a prior prison term
• PC 186.10(c)(1)(B) – Transaction exceeding $150,000



Xiangdong Ma (DOB 09/10/72)
Hacienda Heights
Charges convicted of:
• PC 266h(a) – Pimping
• PC 186.10(a) - Money laundering (5 counts)
Special allegations found true:
• CRC 4.421(a)(8) – The manner in which the crime was carried out indicates planning, sophistication, and professionalism.
• PC 186.10(c)(1)(B) – Transaction exceeding $150,000



Li Ma (DOB 02/18/66)
Oxnard
Charges convicted of:
• PC 266h(a) – Pimping
• PC 186.10(a) - Money laundering
Special allegations found true:
• CRC 4.421(a)(8) – The manner in which the crime was carried out indicates planning, sophistication, and professionalism.
• PC 186.10(c)(1)(B) – Transaction exceeding $150,000



Ming Ma (DOB 10/18/85)
Oxnard
• PC 266h(a) – Pimping
• PC 186.10(a) - Money laundering (2 counts)
Special allegations found true:
• CRC 4.421(a)(8) – The manner in which the crime was carried out indicates planning, sophistication, and professionalism.
• PC 186.10(c)(1)(B) – Transaction exceeding $150,000