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Police Department

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Scott D. Noel  
Chief of Police

## Meritorious Police Service Commendation for Community Service

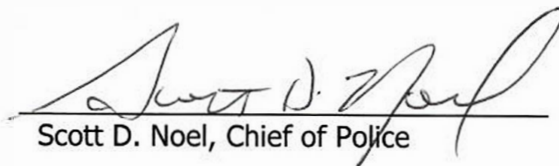
|                             |                                     |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Officers: Sgt. Steve Keller | Supervisor: Lt. R. Gerhardt         |
| CIU PO Brendan McKinney     |                                     |
| CIU Beth Roach              | Type of Incident: Massage Parlors   |
| CIU Erik Nelson             | Undercover Operation                |
| CIU Dustin Moore            |                                     |
| CIU Chady Chahine           | Location: Blue Ash                  |
| Det. Jeff Lewis             |                                     |
| Det. Mark Niehaus           | Incident Date: Sept. 2018-July 2019 |
| Det. Dane Baumgartner       |                                     |

### Summary:

In September 2018, Blue Ash Police Department received several complaints from residents and local business owners in reference to several unlicensed massage parlors (Relax, Define, and Mountainview) were engaged in prostitution and human trafficking. Officers began a joint undercover operation which lasted ten months.

Officers performed hundreds of hours of surveillance, conducted undercover special operations, developed informants, wrote several dozen search warrants, and analyzed large amounts of data to track money flow and obtain key pieces of information to secure indictments. Search warrants were served at five businesses and two residences. Currently 14 suspects have been charged or have charges pending in court. Officers seized and have applied for forfeiture of one building, two vehicles and approximately \$40,000 in monies obtained through criminal means. Officers found evidence in two of the businesses that the owners were involved in human trafficking. Officers offered assistance to the girls being trafficked.

These officers worked together as a team and acted in the capacity of many larger county wide tasks force while still performing the daily calls for service from the public. Their commitment and devotion to our community's request to stop this criminal activity and while assisting the victims of these crimes demonstrates an act of community service that is worthy of the Meritorious Commendation for Community Service.

  
Scott D. Noel, Chief of Police

12-4-19  
Date