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COURT ISSUES FINAL JUDGEMENT AND INJUNCTION IN SIESTA MOTEL PROSTITUTION ABATEMENT CASE

Merced County Superior Court Judge Brian McCabe issued a Permanent Injunction this week against the Siesta Motel, its owners and operators and ordered that they abate any illegal activities occurring on the premises, including any and all prostitution related activity.

The Motel has been on police radar over the last few years for being a place where prostitution, assaults, robberies, and drug-related activities take place, resulting in the Merced Police Department completing over 100 police reports from crimes that occurred on the Property from 2011-2014, said Deputy District Attorney Walter Wall.

“Crimes like prostitution, and drug dealing are quality of life offenses that can destroy neighborhoods and make it more difficult for neighboring businesses to succeed, said District Attorney Larry Morse II. We appreciate the focus Chief Andrade and his officers have brought to these urban flight offenses and we will continue to work with the City of Merced and the Merced Police Department to prosecute those who profit from prostitution and drug dealing, Morse added.”

The injunction will require numerous improvements to the property to address public safety and security, and to prevent prostitution and sex trafficking at this location Wall said. The motel owners will be required to maintain a high resolution camera security system with remote access by the Merced Police Department and allow them unrestricted access to the property for the purpose of ensuring compliance with this injunction he added.

According to Wall, the injunction requires the Defendants to maintain an on-site manager at all times, to allow no loitering, for each resident guest to be identified upon entry onto the property, for towing of all unauthorized vehicles, for arrests of trespassers, record retention and access, no rentals for periods of less than 12 hours, termination of unit rentals for illegal activity, an agreed “do not rent” list, ample and abundant high intensity lighting, and costs to the City Police of \$5,345 for investigation and remediation of the nuisance conditions on the property.

The judgements this week confirm several years of legal efforts in this case, and since the filing, the incidents of prostitution and related crimes have greatly diminished at the Motel, said Wall.