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Ex-officer, Wife And 12 Others To Be Tried In Prostitution Case

March 12, 1993 | By Linda Loyd, INQUIRER STAFF WRITER



A fired Philadelphia police lieutenant and his wife, along with 10 alleged prostitutes and two managers of Center City escort services allegedly used as fronts for prostitution, were ordered to stand trial yesterday on prostitution, conspiracy and corrupt organization charges.

During a three-day preliminary hearing, a half-dozen prostitutes who said they worked for Jayne Kelly, wife of former Lt. Joseph Kelly, testified they were hired by the Kellys and paid to have sex with men who visited six escort services run by the Kellys out of 919 Pine St. and 431-433 Bainbridge St.

Jayne Kelly, 28, owned the businesses, witnesses said. But Joe Kelly, 37, a 17th District officer until he was dismissed in August, was always around, witnesses said. He sometimes tallied receipts and paid employees.

Two admitted prostitutes testified that when they expressed concern to Joe Kelly about being arrested, he told them not to worry because he would hear if they were going to be busted and he would warn them first so they could leave.

One witness, Deborah Drummond, described what she called "doubles" or BiBi Babes in a back room at J.P. Tiffany's escort service on Pine Street. She said doubles consisted of two women having sex while the client watched. Another witness, Deborah Coleman, known as Mistress Natasha, told of a "bondage and discipline" service that she provided at an establishment called Shackles at 431 Bainbridge St.

Coleman said she used "equipment" - handcuffs, whips, shackles, sex toys and hot wax - to "beat, whip, degrade or humiliate" clients. "It really depended on what the men wanted," she said.

Coleman testified that Joe Kelly took her to the Pleasure Chest on Chestnut Street to pick out the supplies. "I used Joe Kelly's credit card," she said.

A former Bell of Pennsylvania telephone installer testified that Joe and Jayne Kelly hired him to illegally wiretap the home of Kelly's ex-wife in South Philadelphia because Joe Kelly was concerned that she had learned the

Kellys were running an escort business.

Municipal Judge Michael J. Conroy ruled that Assistant District Attorney Janet Houser established sufficient evidence to hold the Kellys on prostitution, conspiracy, corrupt organization, wiretapping and burglary charges.

Ten alleged prostitutes and two men who manage the escort services were also ordered to stand trial on prostitution, conspiracy and corrupt organization charges.

The defense contended that men were paying only for time and companionship and that any sex that occurred was because the men and women were attracted to each other.

Jack McMahon, attorney for Joe Kelley, argued that his client was guilty "just by association. It's his wife's business, and he married into the business. He may have knowledge of certain things, but he was certainly no part of the organization."

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