

NYPD cop who retired on 'disability' busted for running prostitution ring

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[2016 Cop runs prostitution ring- Michael Rizzi](#)

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He may have been too “disabled” to be a cop anymore — but a former police officer with ties to the mob was healthy enough to run a high-end hooker ring, federal authorities said Tuesday.

Michael Rizzi, who served on the NYPD for nine years before retiring with a disability pension in 2000, is accused of running nearly 60 prostitution websites where men could book escorts for anywhere from \$400 to \$2,000 an hour, according to a criminal complaint filed in Brooklyn federal court.

Rizzi's wife is the daughter of Gambino crime family “soldier” Richard Juliano, whose older brother Joseph served as a Gambino capo.

Using the name “Bruce,” Rizzi, 44, of Bensonhurst, allegedly insisted on meeting new call girls face-to-face at hotels prior to hiring them.

In one email to an unwilling applicant, Rizzi boasted: “I’m sorry darling, google ‘escorts in nyc’ im number one for a reason,” court papers say.

“I get the most business, my girls make the most money, my clients are the wealthiest people in the world,” Rizzi continued, under the email modelsofNYC@yahoo.com.

He added: “I will never send a model I haven’t interviewed to them. My models are perfect because I only hire the best. My agency only does things the right way.”

Rizzi's arrest stems from a federal investigation into another man, Marc Schulman, who the feds say laundered proceeds of more than \$1 million from his prostitution business through various shell companies.

Feds say in 2012 Rizzi began running his own ring in the same Staten Island office Schulman had used and that the two men are linked through various payments the ex-cop turned over to Schulman for “SEO services.”

Schulman pleaded guilty following his arrest in 2014.

Rizzi will face the charges later Tuesday afternoon in Brooklyn federal court.

In 2011, he pleaded guilty to misdemeanor gambling charges for his role as a “super agent” in a sports betting ring.

Richard and Joseph, aka “Sonny,” Juliano each served time for their roles in illegal gambling rings, according to the state Attorney General’s Office.

Additional reporting by Kenneth Garger

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