

# Court Told of Help Madam Gave Police

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“Beverly Hills madam” Elizabeth Adams was lauded for her undercover police work Friday by a member of the same agency that arrested her on suspicion of pandering in 1988.

“She was the best informant I ever met,” veteran Los Angeles Police Detective Daniel Lott testified at a hearing on a defense motion to dismiss charges against her.

Lott, who acknowledged an ongoing professional relationship with Adams during most of his 27 years on the force as a vice and narcotics detective, said that Adams had “enough class” not to flaunt her brothel activities, and that the department looked the other way because of the help she provided on numerous criminal cases.

“You can’t get that type of information from a church person,” he testified under questioning by Adams’ attorney, Tony Brooklier.

“We considered Betty as an undercover agent,” he said, noting that she had even been assigned an informant number. “The information we gleaned from her far surpassed what she was doing, in total benefit. It led to major, major criminals going to jail.”

Lott said Adams, who is also known as Alex Fleming, had provided valuable assistance in the investigations of such figures as financier Robert L. Vesco, who is still a fugitive, murder suspects and major drug traffickers.

Police say the blowzy woman with the boyish haircut, blinding diamond and sapphire rings and personal driver once ran the most lavish and lucrative prostitution network on the West Coast from her blue-and-white bedroom

above the Sunset Strip.

Adams, now 57, does not dispute her reputation, but maintains that she did business under an informal agreement with police that her informant’s role would protect her from prosecution. Her lawyers argue that it is unfair to go after a long-time informant for activities police earlier ignored because they “gave results.”

Interestingly, all the defense witnesses at three hearings before Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Bert Glennon have been law enforcement officers, including the detective who investigated Adams before her arrest.

That officer, Los Angeles Police Detective Alan Vanderpool, testified Friday that the nature of Adams’ relationship with the vice section was “that as long as she provided information she didn’t go to jail.”

However, sometime in the 1980s, Adams apparently dried up as a source. A 1987 police report on her notes “No contact. Inactive. Should go to jail.”

Under cross-examination by Deputy Dist. Atty. Alan Carter, Vanderpool said the investigation and arrest of former informants is not unusual. “It happens every day,” he said.

“If someone is no longer an informant, he is just another crook?” Carter asked.

“Yes,” Vanderpool answered.

Adams was arrested in March, 1988, and charged with pimping and pandering, receiving stolen property and grand theft.

All but the two counts of pandering have been dropped. Adams is free on \$150,000 bail, although prosecutors asked for a million-dollar bail, saying they were worried she might flee.

Glennon set the next hearing for July 27.

## Cops Use Madams and Prostitutes as Informants

The relationship the police had with Madam Alex during the years she reigned as madam in Hollywood should raise some troubling questions for prostitution abolitionists:

First, if ‘pandering’ is worse than rape or robbery (People v. Almodovar 1985) why would one madam be allowed to continue for years to exploit some women while other madams or even just prostitutes are prosecuted and sent to prison for many years *for the same activity?*

Second, is it acceptable to ‘exploit’ some women as long as they cooperate with the police? Third, how do the police determine which prostitutes it is okay to ‘exploit’ (meaning not arrest) and which women should be ‘protected’ from ‘exploitation’ by arresting them, utterly destroying their lives?

Finally, is it acceptable that the women who don’t cooperate with the police and do not provide them with sex, money or information about their ‘johns,’ ‘pimps’ or other prostitutes are arrested and either sent to jail or forced to testify against their non violent, non abusive clients, employers or family members whom the police wish to charge with human trafficking?

As long as a madam or sex worker cooperates with the nice police officers, they can continue to ‘exploit’ or be ‘exploited. *If prostitution is really like rape, why is it okay with society that cops can rape prostitutes and not be punished?*

Become an informant for the cops and you can ‘traffick’ all the women you want

### Madam Alex and the Vice Cops of the LAPD



If you have something to offer the cops- you can be a pimp, panderer or human trafficker- without fear of going to prison. Madam Alex received a probation sentence for her years of pandering and pimping activity of which the cops were fully aware and in fact expected her to remain working in that capacity. Otherwise, she had nothing to offer them.