

2005 Retired N.J. Police Chief Admits Promoting Prostitution

May 25, 2005 “MORRISTOWN, N.J. -- A retired Chatham police chief admitted trying to enlist a prostitute's help in opening a brothel, but was spared jail time under a plea deal with prosecutors.



Thomas Ramsey, 55, of Mansfield, **admitted Tuesday in state Superior Court that he proposed running a brothel and using a massage parlor as a front while speaking to a prostitute in a Mount Olive motel last year.**

During the conversation, Ramsey acknowledged, he encouraged the woman to continue working as a prostitute. The plan would have included a third person, and Ramsey would have used his law enforcement knowledge and connections to protect the brothel, he said.

Ramsey was a police chief for seven years, retiring in 1998.

He had faced up to five years in prison and more than \$15,000 in fines for promoting prostitution. Under the plea deal, he faces up to **five years on probation** when he is sentenced July 1.

His attorney, Peter Gilbreth, said Ramsey is currently unemployed "and he wants to get this chapter of his life over with."

Morris County Prosecutor Michael M. Rubbinaccio said he was satisfied with the plea.

"It is a shame he tarnished his long law enforcement career," Rubbinaccio said.

Ramsey, who is married and has three children, most recently ran Morris County's youth detention center in 2003. He stepped down from that post during an investigation of payroll issues at the facility.”

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