

NEWS RELEASE

DIVISION OF POLICE • COLUMBUS, OHIO KIMBERLEY K. JACOBS • CHIEF OF POLICE

For Immediate Release:

For further information, Contact: Sergeant Dean Worthington or Denise Alex-Bouzounis at (614) 645-4593

Public Information Office

July 12, 2018 MA# 43-2018

Columbus Police Make Three Arrests at Adult Entertainment Club

As part of a long-term investigation into allegations of human trafficking, prostitution, along with other vice related violations, Columbus Police arrested three individuals from Club Sirens at 6190 Cleveland Ave., during the early morning hours of July 12, 2018.

Those arrested were Stephanie Clifford (AKA "Stormy Daniels") of Forney, Texas, Miranda Panda of Marion, Ohio, and Brittany Walters of Pickerington, Ohio. All three were charged with Illegal Sexually Oriented Activity in a Sexually Oriented Business. Clifford received a total of three counts of the same violation for illegally touching three different undercover Vice detectives.

Since last fall, Columbus Police were made aware of illegal activity through various adult entertainment clubs throughout the city. Columbus Police have made numerous arrests utilizing this law. The Division engages in these operations routinely with no effect on other calls for service.

This is an on-going investigation. No media interviews will take place. All request for records related to this incident must be directed to <u>publicrecords@columbuspolice.org</u>.

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Statement from Chief Kim Jacobs

The Columbus Division of Police Vice personnel are responsible for enforcing laws regulating alcohol sales, after-hours clubs, massage parlors, human trafficking, nuisance properties among other serious violations of law. The Division strives to do this work and all of our work in an impartial manner.

Vice personnel working last night believed they had probable cause that state law regulating sexually-oriented businesses was violated; however, one element of the law was missed in error and charges were subsequently dismissed. The facts behind the charges and the behavior witnessed by the Vice officers are a matter of public record, and officers were well within their area of responsibility when taking enforcement action. Nevertheless, a mistake was made, and I accept full responsibility.

While the presence of Vice officers at this establishment is reasonable, the motivations behind the officers' actions will be reviewed internally to ensure that our Core Values and duty to serve our community to the best of our ability continue to be the basis for our actions. Some social media and other websites are reporting allegations that are not supported by the known facts, but anyone who has a specific complaint about our officers' actions should call our Internal Affairs Bureau so we can initiate an investigation.

- Chief Kim Jacobs

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