

**METROPOLITAN BUREAU of INVESTIGATION
NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT of FLORIDA**

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November 20, 2007

DIRECTOR:
WILLIAM A. LUTZ

Mr. Jim Buckmaster
Craigslist Incorporated
1381 9th Avenue
San Francisco, CA. 94122

GOVERNING BOARD:

LAWSON LAMAR
STATE ATTORNEY
NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Dear Mr. Buckmaster,

KEVIN BEARY
SHERIFF
ORANGE COUNTY

This letter is in follow-up to the September 28, 2007, letter which was sent to you from the Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (MBI). Since that time several newsworthy events have occurred that have generated television and print media interest concerning Craigslist, Inc.

MICHAEL J. McCOY
CHIEF OF POLICE
ORLANDO

DOUGLAS M. BALL
CHIEF OF POLICE
WINTER PARK

CHUCK W. VAVREK
CHIEF OF POLICE
APOPKA

RON REFFETT
CHIEF OF POLICE
OCOEE

The first event connected to Craigslist, Inc., was when a local resident called the phone number provided on a Craigslist *Erotic Services* advertisement to request an escort, shortly after the escort's arrival the homeowner was the victim of an armed home invasion by the escort's pimp. The homeowner in self defense armed himself and shot the pimp, who later died. This home invasion turned homicide occurred on October 15, 2007, and was the result of prostitution related advertising on the Craigslist category *Erotic Services*.

ROBERT E. HANSELL
SHERIFF
OSCEOLA COUNTY

ASSOCIATE MEMBER
AGENCIES:

U.S. FEDERAL BUREAU OF
INVESTIGATION

U.S. DRUG ENFORCEMENT
ADMINISTRATION

U.S. IMMIGRATION
AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

FLORIDA DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC
BEVERAGES & TOBACCO

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
LAW ENFORCEMENT

The second local event occurred on October 17, 2007, when an Orange County Grand Jury, after reviewing evidence provided by the MBI, decided to indict an incorporated weekly publication for Criminal Racketeering charges for Aiding and Abetting Prostitution. This local publication had designed a classified advertising category, much like your *Erotic Services* category, called *Adult Services*. The *Adult Services* category was being utilized by the prostitution trade in Central Florida to solicit clientele. Law enforcement notified this publication that their *Adult Services* category was being used exclusively by prostitutes and requested they cooperate by removing this category from their publication. The publication refused to cooperate.

These two events have created media interest into the corporate decision by the executive board of Craigslist, Inc. to continue to provide the *Erotic Services* category. MBI received a letter from Craigslist, Inc. dated October 24, 2007, advising that Craigslist, Inc. would respond to the MBI letter dated September 28, 2007, by the week of October 29, 2007. As of this date, we have not received any further response.



As this is an important issue to law enforcement, government officials, and media in the Central Florida area it is hoped that your executive board has decided to do the right thing and eliminate the *Erotic Services* category, which has been corrupted by the prostitution trade, from your website. This action will save countless law enforcement resources around the nation who are also dealing with the symptoms of the advertising in this category.

If for some reason you can not honor this request, I ask that you at the least take a similar action as the Sprint and Bellsouth yellow pages did in 1997 when they removed the *Escort Service* category from Central Florida phone books, by eliminating the *Erotic Services* category from the Craigslist website affecting Central Florida. Your website has many valuable categories, but there is no viable reason for the *Erotic Services* category to exist other than to promote the prostitution industry.

If you have any questions regarding this letter don't hesitate to ask and please send your response to this request as soon as possible. Thanks in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Commander Paul Zambouros
Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation
Vice/Organized Crime Section

PZ/cc

Cc: Ms. Meg Whitman
President and C.E.O.
eBay Incorporated