

METROPOLITAN BUREAU of INVESTIGATION NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT of FLORIDA

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September 28, 2007

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

DIRECTOR:
WILLIAM A. LUTZ

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
LAW ENFORCEMENT



Dear Mr. Buckmaster,

The Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (MBI) is a multi-agency police task force which consists of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies from within the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida. As such, the MBI is responsible for enforcing the laws in both Orange and Osceola County, Florida, regarding vice-related criminal enterprises.

Over the last twenty-eight (28) years, investigations conducted by the MBI have disclosed that the escort service industry provides organized prostitution and relies heavily on advertising to further their illegal undertakings. Specifically, the "Erotic Services" section of **Craigslit.org** has now become one of the, if not the most, popular avenues of advertising for the escort service industry.

This problem exists in more than just the Central Florida area, the "Erotic Services" section of **Craigslit.org** was the topic of discussion amongst vice enforcement investigators at both the Eastern and Western States Vice Enforcement Conferences, and the consensus of the investigators was that the "Erotic Services" section of **Craigslit.org** has created a serious problem by facilitating prostitution nationwide.

As the Chief Executive Officer of a corporation that facilitates over 20 million web site posts a month by its users, you may not be aware of the content contained in the *Erotic Services* section. A simple scan of the any city's Craigslit *Erotic Services* section leaves no doubt that prostitution is the prevailing theme of its content. The advertisers are frequently pictured in various states of nudity, with many exposing their sexual organs accompanied by suggestive text. The MBI has made more than a hundred prostitution arrests of escorts advertising on **Craigslit.org**.

Some of the more disturbing cases revealed during these investigations included minors arrested for prostitution after advertising as escorts on Craigslit, as well as other suspects arrested for preying on women and forcing them into prostitution. I feel confident saying that not once has an MBI agent met with an escort advertised on **Craigslit.org** during an investigation and not been offered prostitution services. Contrary to what some people may believe prostitution is not a victimless crime.

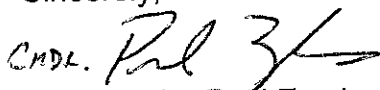
Craigslist.org's various sections are of great use to the internet community. However, the *Erotic Services* section is one that is helping the prostitution industry and the related illegal undertakings thrive. I would ask that the executive board of Craigslist, Inc. do the right thing and eliminate the *Erotic Services* section from **Craigslist.org** in its entirety. At the very least, I would ask that the *Erotic Services* section be eliminated from the site affecting the Central Florida Community. In the past, the MBI has made similar requests to the executive leadership of *Bellsouth* and *Sprint* yellow pages requesting that they remove their *Escort Services* advertisements. In both cases, when provided with the circumstances of these advertisements as stated in this letter, the publications exhibited good corporate citizenship and voluntarily removed the *Escort Services* category from Central Florida directories.

In closing, I would like to point out that the MBI recently filed racketeering charges against a local publication that was engaged in profiting from similar escort related advertisements that were proven to be fronts for prostitution. When speaking with one of their executives his comment to me was that **Craigslist.org** has worse advertisements than they had. It would be a great example of corporate stewardship on your behalf if I could point out that Craigslist Incorporated did the right thing, as the *Bellsouth* and *Sprint* yellow pages did, and denied the escort service industry their main source of advertising by removing a category that was supporting criminal activity.

I am fully aware of the issues related to the recent Fair Housing Lawsuit and that you are not a publisher that controls content provided by others. However, **Craigslist.org** does control the categories and the removal of the "Erotic Services" category from the Craigslist web site would not only enhance the good moral reputation of Craigslist, but would reduce the number of young women victimized by the prostitution trade and would allow law enforcement to redirect enforcement efforts to other crimes.

In summary, this letter is a request for your help in reducing crime, please contact me at (407) 836-9701 or write me with your decision regarding this request so that I may inform the MBI Governing Board members. Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,



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

PZ/cc