

A statement from Bob Houston, former FBI agent and President of Praesidium Partners, on the charges against Robert Kraft:

“The unfortunate incident involving Robert Kraft is but one example of the extent to which illicit massage businesses (IMBs) permeate communities across the country,” stated Bob Houston, retired FBI agent and president of Praesidium Partners, an intelligence-driven advocacy organization focused on human trafficking. “There are over 9,000 similar storefronts in the U.S. - a nearly \$3 billion industry - where exploited women endure a horrific reality of forced servitude, often sleeping on massage tables or the floor, forced to service customers all day, and not allowed to leave.”

“As the authorities in Martin County reported, IMB networks are often nodes in international trafficking rings that move women from overseas into storefronts around the country,” Houston continues. “It’s critical that all stakeholders, from community leaders to law enforcement to the general public, view these criminal networks as transnational organized crime rather than simply prostitution or even localized human trafficking, and the women exploited in these horrific businesses must be treated as victims rather than criminals.”

For further information or an interview, contact Bob Houston at Bob.Houston@praesidiumpartners.com.

About Praesidium Partners

Praesidium Partners amplifies data and intelligence on criminal networks in the government, private sector and amongst NGOs to drive intelligence-based policy and advocacy in the fight against human trafficking. Praesidium connects stakeholders, datasets and communities, believing that lasting change occurs when based in groundlevel data and insights. For more information see www.praesidiumpartners.com.

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