



BOOKMARK (http://www.addthis.com/bookmark.php) Print Email

Secrecy in sex case involving owners of the Inn at Laurel Lake

By Dick Lindsay, Berkshire Eagle Staff, (mailto:rlindsay@berkshireeagle.com?)

subject=Berkshire Eagle Online:)

POSTED: 02/24/2012 01:55:53 AM EST

UPDATED: 02/24/2012 11:02:34 AM EST

Friday February 24, 2012

LEE -- Authorities are tight-lipped about the results of show-cause hearing involving two innkeepers local police claim had been running a prostitution business out of their historic bed and breakfast.

Lee police say they can't divulge the outcome of this week's show-cause hearing held in the Southern Berkshire District Court in Great Barrington involving Tara Viola and her husband, Thomas Fusco, owners of the Inn at Laurel Lake.

In mid-January, police had charged the wife with soliciting sexual favors for a fee at the inn on Route 20. Viola, 39, and Fusco, 47, were also each accused of keeping a house of ill fame and conspiring to promote prostitution.

Related Stories

[Jan. 20, 2012: Prostitution alleged at The Inn at Laurel Lake](#)

(http://www.berkshireeagle.com/ci_19780161)

The couple was summoned to appear before clerk magistrate Thomas Bartini, who held the hearing on Tuesday -- the result of which has been sealed, according to Lee Police Chief Joseph Buffis.

There is a nondisclosure agreement among the parties involved,"

Buffis said. "The findings of the magistrate will not be made public."

Buffis wouldn't comment if the ruling means the case is closed against the couple or if it remains open.

He did note that keeping secret the results of a show-cause hearing isn't unusual.

"This is typical of non-violent, misdemeanor cases," Buffis said. "The reason to keep them at the show-cause level is it gives normally law-abiding citizens an unblemished record."

According to police, Viola and Fusco tried discretely to advertise the prostitution service on the Internet under the guise of the wife's massage business conducted at the lakeside inn. Viola is a licensed masseuse.

Local authorities were alerted to the online advertisement that had been posted for some time.

On Jan. 19, Lee police and members of the Berkshire County Drug Task Force arrived at the inn and informed the couple of their month-long investigation. The couple lives at the inn.

Fusco bought The Inn at Laurel Lake in 1996, one of only five owners of the 130-year-old establishment, according to the inn's website. Built in 1881, George W. Boardman was the original innkeeper. He also served as Lee's fire chief from 1913 until his death in 1930.

To reach Dick Lindsay:

rlindsay@berkshireeagle.com (mailto:rlindsay@berkshireeagle.com),

or (413) 496-6233.

BOOKMARK (http://www.addthis.com/bookmark.php) Print Email Return to

Top

AdChoices

2013 Best Skin Tighteners

www.SkinCareSearch.com/FaceLifting
An Unbiased Review List of The Top Performing Skin Tighteners in 2013

Still Working & Committed

BP.com
BP is Still Committed to Restoring the Gulf. Follow the Progress.

Tanglewood Music Center

Tanglewood.EventTicketsCenter.com
Tanglewood Center Lenox Ma tickets. Tanglewood Music Center tickets.

Free Obituary Search

Ancestry.com/Obituaries
1) Enter anyone's name 2) Find their obituary instantly!

Death Records & Obituaries

www.myheritage.com/Death_Records
Death records, burial records, cemeteries and obituaries.

Bank Owned Homes For Sale

www.Auction.com/MA
Find Local Bank Owned Houses, Free. 5000+ Cheap Homes to Choose From!

Massage North Conway

www.advancedskincarenh.com
Save \$10 on any service Look and feel your best!

Whitewater Rafting

www.CrabAppleWhitewater.com
Locations in Maine, Massachusetts & Vermont. Trips since 1983.

Happening Around the

News

Berkshires



Jim Therrien @BE_therrien

State Dems weigh primary ballot access changes - <http://t.co/pEHKRGkiC2>



N. Adams Transcript @NATranscript

Two years for assault and battery on man outside of McDonald's.
<http://t.co/m7bczrVKwW>

Courtney seeks money for museum in CT

Plans are in the works to create a commemorative coin to help raise money for the planned National

Carpe Vacay
Sale ends soon

One-way fares as low as

\$69

Based on nonstop flights. Restrictions apply. Select markets. 14-day advance purchase.

SOUTHWEST.COM **BOOK NOW**

powered by Crowdnews

SEE MORE