

Local spa owner sues Farmington Hills

Continued from Page 1

they asked me to put it on the agenda for a hearing. But that does not deter me from making sure Farmington Hills stays squeaky clean. I always felt the ordinance was going to have to get a constitutional test anyway."

Shinn, who is seeking an unspecified amount in damages, is asking the federal court to declare the city's massage regulation ordinance unconstitutional. The spa owner also is asking the court to issue a temporary and permanent injunction restraining the city from applying and enforcing the massage ordinance.

The city has maintained that the

spa at 28841 Orchard Lake Road, has operated as a house of prostitution. The Tokyo spa was one of five Oriental health spas raided by the city in October 1985 following a six-week investigation of resident complaints that sex-related offenses were occurring at the storefront spas.

Three of the 17 Asian-born employees arrested during the raids were from the Tokyo spa. All arrested have either pleaded no contest to lesser charges or have been convicted of soliciting-related charges, Dwyer said.

EACH OF THE five Oriental health spas operating in Farmington Hills last year was closed following

either the October raids or subsequent court proceedings.

The special Nov. 24 hearing was scheduled after Shinn applied for a license last April and the request was denied in September by City Clerk Joan Reynolds.

The clerk's denial followed recommendations by the city's police, building and zoning officials who testified against approval of the license at the special hearing.

During the Nov. 24 hearing, Dwyer said that Shinn — also known as Un Cha Choe — allegedly falsified information on her original application and misrepresented prior spa involvement.

Shinn also filed an amended application Nov. 3, according to Reynolds, who received it after the special hearing was scheduled. The city council chose not to act on the amended application.

"We determined that the character, reputation, moral integrity and operation of Tokyo health spa . . . is adverse to the public health, safety, morals and general welfare of Farmington Hills," Dwyer said in a statement at the special hearing.

Spokojoy, Shinn's attorney, denied allegations that the spa owner falsi-

fied the license application and that the spa was used as a house of prostitution.

FOLLOWING SHINN'S lawsuit filing, Dwyer said "our position is that she was responsible for any immoral activity taking place in the premises" in light of the 1985 police raids and subsequent arrest and conviction of Shinn's three employees on sex-related offenses.

During the special hearing, Spokojoy said, "Ms. Shinn has never been convicted of any crime. She has an unblemished record. There is no legal reason she should not be given a license."

Dwyer said Shinn falsified her business application by neglecting to include information about a Waterford Township health spa, where she was previously charged with soliciting-related charges. The charges were dismissed and she filed an assumed name to do business at that Elizabeth Lake Road spa.

During the city council hearing, Shinn said she did not understand the question and did not answer it. In addition to the Waterford Township spa, Shinn operates a Southfield spa and previously

worked at a spa in Plymouth, according to police testimony and information on Shinn's original business application.

In the suit, Spokojoy, on Shinn's behalf, claimed that a recommendation from the police chief "is based on no measurable standard and thereby allows said officials to arbitrarily recommend or deny at his whim."

THE SUIT also claims that the city ordinance does not set a time limit in which the various city departments must make their recommendations to the city clerk. The clerk must issue the license if all ordinance requirements are met unless it appears that an applicant "has deliberately falsified the application," according to the suit.

The section of the ordinance providing authority allows the clerk "to arbitrarily deny the issuance of a license," according to the suit.

In addition, the suit claims that the ordinance does not provide standards to guide the city council to grant or deny a license.

Under the Hills ordinance, non-exempt businesses providing body massages must comply with business license and operating permit provisions and operating and inspection fees.

The ordinance also addresses the layout of the business where massages will be provided, the need for the business to meet certain health-related provisions, and the type of apparel massage therapists must wear.

The Tokyo spa was shut down by the city for four days last March on the day the massage ordinance took effect. It was reopened after meetings between City Attorney Paul Bibeau and spa attorneys and has operated without a license since that time.

Shinn awaits trial in 47th District Court in Farmington on misdemeanor zoning violations at the spa, according to city officials. Hills zoning officials discovered evidence of someone living in the business last June, a zoning official testified during the special hearing.

Principal remembered for warmth, kindness

Continued from Page 1

ed. "He was always thinking about everybody else's feelings. This is the kind of a person he was."

"He carried a message to me, and I hope we all learned from him."

A rosary service was held Wednesday at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington, followed by a mass on Friday at noon at St. Gertrude's Catholic Church in Farmington. He was interred Saturday at the Lake Forest Cemetery in Grand Haven, where the Abid family has a summer home.

Abid was a principal at three Farmington elementary schools during the past 30 years, serving at William Grace from 1960 to 1978, and at Highmeadow Elementary for two years. He became principal at Gull in 1980 where he served until his death.

HE WAS born in 1926 in Grand Rapids. He began his educational career as an elementary teacher in the Warren school district, moving to Clarenceville schools where he was a principal before joining Farmington.

The Farmington Area Parent Teacher Association Council — an organization of all Farmington-area elementary PTA groups — honored Abid last spring for his 25-year administration of the Student Emergency Fund.

He started the fund during his time at William Grace to help several needy children and their families with food, clothing, shelter, utility bills and necessary items. Abid remained the fund's sole administrator since inception, and many times its sole fund-raiser.

Abid began the fund with \$90 raised through a rummage sale, and continued with minimal contributions which, added together, helped many Farmington students and their

families over the years.

EVENTUALLY THE PTA Council shared in the responsibility and became a major contributor to the fund and many local groups and private individuals also make donations.

"We don't want anyone to feel that it's charity," Abid said about his program in 1977. "These people have a lot of pride. They're people who have come on to hard times and need a little help."

Abid's family has suggested that memorial contributions be made to the fund in care of Gull Elementary.

The longtime principal also contributed to the districtwide flouridation program and was a member of the Mens Club of St. Gertrude's Catholic Church, the Farmington Principals Association, the Education Association of Michigan, and served for 14 years on the St. Vincent de Paul Sara Fisher Home Board of Directors.

In 1978, Abid received the Outstanding Practicing Elementary and Middle School Award from the Michigan Association of School Principals.

Freedman said he spent a lot of time with Abid during the last few days of his life. "Two nights before he died, he was very ill and was in a lot of pain," Freedman said. "He smiled, held my hand for quite a while and said 'don't worry about it, everything will be OK'."

"He was worried about how I felt, and that's how he was. A kind-hearted, soft, wonderful person."

Abid is survived by his wife Juanita; one daughter, Linda Dubue of Union Lake; four sons, Nicholas, Jr., of Holland, Andrew of Walled Lake, David and James both of Farmington; two brothers Joseph and Louis both of Grand Rapids; and eight grandchildren.

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