



**OFFICE OF THE  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 30, 2021**

**NEW YORK WOMAN RECEIVES SIX MONTH SENTENCE FOR  
INVOLVEMENT IN PROSTITUTION RING**

**ELKTON-** Monday, June 28, 2021, Bifang Zhong, a Chinese native who recently lived in New York, was sentenced to six months of incarceration for her role in a prostitution ring formerly operated out of Spa Aromatherapy located at 1657 Elkton Road, Elkton.

In October of 2020, Maryland State Troopers began an investigation into a possible prostitution ring operating out of Spa Aromatherapy. Troopers, using surveillance cameras, cellphone tracking, and other investigative techniques determined that several women were living in the building at Spa Aromatherapy and were engaging in sexual activities in exchange for money. During the course of the investigation, it was learned that Zhong was functioning as representative for these women and would facilitate appointments for the sale of sexual activities. In addition, Zhong would regularly travel between New York and Elkton to bring supplies to the women and return with money they earned.

On December 16, 2020, Troopers executed search and seizure warrants on Spa Aromatherapy and a vehicle containing Zhong after she was observed leaving Spa Aromatherapy. During their search, Troopers found significant evidence of an ongoing prostitution ring, including thousands of dollars in cash contained in Zhong's purse that was portioned into several individual envelopes. Further, upon execution of the warrant at Spa Aromatherapy, two women of Chinese descent were found to be housed there. In light of disclosures these women made, no charges were brought against them.

Zhong pled guilty to one count of Receiving Earnings of Prostitution. MD Sentencing Guidelines recommended a sentence between probation and two years, visiting Circuit Court Judge Broughton M. Earnest sentenced the Defendant to serve eighteen (18) months of incarceration at the Cecil County Detention Center, with just over six months to serve. Based on Zhong's immigration status, upon the completion of her sentence in Cecil County, she will be taken into custody by U.S. Immigration and Custody Enforcement.