

Green Tree no hotbed of prostitution



By [Nafari Vanaski](#)
Thursday, Oct. 7, 2010



If you want an idea of what a neighborhood truly is like, you have to waltz through its police station.

In the concrete jungle that is Green Tree -- a bedroom community of about 4,400 residents -- the police station is part of the borough's municipal building. The place is littered with notices about yoga classes, car cruises, farmers markets and advertisements about the dangers of rabid animals and the West Nile virus.

There's nothing mentioned about prostitution, although the police chief there is on the case, anyway.

Chief Andrew Lisiecki, 50, is under fire for a Sept. 9 prostitution arrest he made, which ended with him naked on a hotel room bed. According to his report, before he could seal the bust on Akudo Esther "Island Hottie" Duru, he had to be sure, so he waited until she touched his genitals to shut it down.

Duru is awaiting trial.

So, clearly in a quiet police station such as this, you can tell there's a dark underbelly that begs to be exposed.

Just ask Debbie Dunn, who has lived on Greentree Road for three years.

"I wish I had moved here sooner. It's a real nice community," Dunn said.

Has she ever heard of prostitution being a problem in these parts? "You don't even see anyone walking around who looks like they have too much makeup on," she said.

Yet there must be a problem in Green Tree to use key manpower on an undercover operation such as this. There's got to be a record of how serious prostitution is in this community, even if residents are in denial.

I asked a nice police officer for numbers; he directed me to a nice secretary, who directed me to the mayor, who wasn't in his office.

Mayor Chuck Hammer did call me, though, and when I asked him about prostitution statistics, he said: "I'm not sure." Hammer suggested I ask the aforementioned secretary, or better yet, Chief Lisiecki. Oh, the guy who isn't in and won't be in until later in the week? Yep, that guy.

State police statistics show there were nine prostitution arrests in Green Tree so far this year, and 13 last year.

Hammer said no one has complained to him about prostitution.

Who is complaining, then? Lisiecki said the complaints came from hotels. Five are located in Green Tree, and understandably, none would cop to making such complaints. Who wants to be known as the prostitution capital of Green Tree?

Even if illegal activity takes place in the hotels, wouldn't residents hear about that sort of thing? I lived in Brooklyn as a kid, but we all knew what happened on 42nd Street in Manhattan. If you live in an area long enough, you hear things.

Yet in answer to that question I got a firm head shake "no" from Paul Carr, who lives on Baldwick Road with his girlfriend, Kathie Simmers. He has lived there four years; she, just one year. Neither considers prostitution to be a problem in the borough.

In fact, said Carr, the biggest problem in the area is speeding.

But for police, I suppose hiding in a parking lot with a radar gun probably loses its thrill after a while.