

Bid to pay pimp's bond rejected

Prostitution money inappropriate, judge says

By KIRK LOGGINS

Staff Writer

Two women cannot use their earnings from prostitution in Nevada to post bond for an admitted pimp who has been jailed in Metro since August, a Nashville judge has ruled.

Criminal Court Judge Steve Dozier said that while prostitution is legal in parts of Nevada, it is a crime in Tennessee "and the court cannot condone that activity."

Dozier ruled that Kenneth Maurice "Fresh" Vaughn still has not come up with a legitimate source of money to cover the \$7,600 bond premium he would need to be released from jail.

Dozier sent Vaughn to jail for almost two years for breaking into a former girlfriend's apartment and vandalizing it.

Vaughn, 33, had earlier proposed selling a Mercedes that he said he owned and using that money to pay his bond premium, but Dozier questioned whether Vaughn really owned the car.

Two women testified March 8 that they were willing to use money they earned at the Moonlight Bunny Ranch in Carson City, Nev., during February to help Vaughn get out of jail.

Dennis Hof, the owner of the Moonlight Bunny Ranch, in a telephone interview Thursday said he wanted to make clear that he is not trying to help Vaughn.

"We don't want to be any part of any illegal activity," Hof said. "I don't entice or coerce these girls to work for me." Hof described his business as "a very high-profile cathouse," which caters to "rock stars, athletes and entertainers."

Vaughn was featured in a report by ABC News' 20/20 program on prostitution in Atlanta. He boasted during an interview, which was taped last summer but not broadcast until January, about his lifestyle and his control over his "girls."

Dozier imposed the maximum sentence, two jail terms of 11 months and 29 days each, when he found Vaughn guilty last summer of the misdemeanors of aggravated criminal trespass and vandalism.

A former girlfriend testified that Vaughn kicked in the door of her apartment on Dec. 29, 2000, and then "rummaged through" the place. Vaughn said at his trial that he had lived in the apartment and was simply trying to recover a

book that he had left there.

Dozier said, in a written ruling released Thursday, that he based his bond decision partly on Vaughn's remarks on the 20/20 broadcast.

Vaughn "openly admits during the interview that he is a businessperson in the adult entertainment industry," Dozier wrote. "Part of the interview showed the defendant dropping off one of his girls to work an area known for prostitution in downtown Atlanta."

The judge said he doubted testimony March 8 from Shannon Garner, who said that she had worked as a dancer for Vaughn but that he had nothing to do with her decision to go to Nevada to earn money to help post his bond.

Dozier also refused Vaughn's request for a lower bond, pending a decision by the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals on whether he was properly convicted and sentenced.

Dozier has said that he gave Vaughn the maximum sentence for two misdemeanors because of his prior record, which included four felony and five misdemeanor convictions; "his threats toward the victim"; and the fact that he did not comply with the conditions of his earlier release on bail, which included electronic monitoring. ■