

**December 16, 2019 Council meeting re Body Rub Parlour Zoning**

**Mayor Fougere and councillors. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today regarding the zoning bylaws for body rub parlours in Regina.**

**The decision to allow body rub parlours to continue to operate in Regina was made with the narrowest of margins. I respect the democratic process, but now we are faced with the question of how to mitigate the harm that is being done by these establishments. Harm to the women selling sexual services. Harm to the men who can anonymously purchase those services and harm to our cities families, neighbourhoods and legitimate businesses.**

**We are considering a recommendation to restrict body rub parlours to the IL and IH industrial zones. This is certainly better than the existing situation where body rub parlours have been allowed to operate with impunity despite being in contravention of existing zoning bylaws covering adult entertainment establishments.**

**In addition to being restricted to the IL and IH zones, there must be discretion applied within these zones as to where a body rub parlour will be allowed to operate. There are converted warehouses that are now condos and establishments such as dance clubs, gyms and churches that are used by families with children. There needs to be an approved separation distance applied before a body rub parlour would be allowed to operate within an approved industrial zone.**

**A buffer distance of one city block is also needed around the outside boundary of the industrial zone to prevent a body rub parlour from being just across the street from a school, playground, daycare or other sensitive establishment. The width of a city street is not sufficient to protect these types of properties from a body rub parlour just across the street in an IL or IH zoned area.**

**At this point we are considering how we can mitigate harm using zoning regulations. Even with rigorous enforcement of zoning there**

**will be harm to the providers and buyers of the sexual services being offered by the body rub parlours. Establishing the zoning regulations for body rub parlours in our city is only the beginning.**

**Just moving an establishment to try to reduce the harm done to its neighbours does nothing to mitigate the harm happening inside its walls. Next we will need to develop strong regulations that focus on what goes on inside these body rub parlours. Regulations that will be enforced.**

**Let's show the people of Regina that we care more about the safety and wellbeing of our citizens than the profits of the owners and operators of the body rub parlours.**

**Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today.**

**Ed Smith**