

Date: August 20, 2020

To: City Council re: Body Rub Establishment Licensing

The Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act (PCEPA) has made it legal to sell intimate body massage to protect the vulnerable trapped young workers from further injury from our justice system.

However, PCEPA still makes it illegal to purchase these services (johns), for others to profit from the sale of it (owners/pimps), or advertise (by owners/pimps only).

- You have voted to allow body rub establishments in our Regina industrial areas. I am in opposition to allowing them in Regina.
- You will be voting on licensing the owners or operators (pimps) as recommended by Regina City Administration. This is still illegal in Canada as clearly outlined in PCEPA. I am in opposition to licensing them. We cannot and should not license illegal activity in our City. Illegal activity should be enforced to be stopped, not sanctioned through licensing.
- While the claim of those recommending licensing is that our street workers will be better protected; I disagree. Past workers of other licensed body rub establishments in Canada report, or are found, to being abused, neglected and trapped.<sup>1</sup> Imagine if it were your sister, daughter, niece or grandchild. These establishments are known to employ vulnerable Asian women; and not Regina street workers in most cases.
- If these owner/operators (pimps) are licensed, it will be nearly impossible to arrest and charge them for pimping, since that is what they would be licensed/sanctioned to do by our city officials.
- If workers are licensed, during the application process, there should be something enacted where if any deception or falsehood is used (e.g., stating owners are not involved, but they are found out to be involved), that would be cause for automatic revoking of the license and a ban on re-applying for multiple years. There needs to be proper documentation in place during the application that the workers can attest/sign that owners are not involved.
- In addition, please ensure that our police hands are not additionally tied by requiring them to give notice before attending these establishments for checkups, since this would allow all evidence of human trafficking or owner/pimp involvement to be removed in advance.

Please do not allow or license pimps/owners in our city.

Please put in the proper paperwork during the application process to ensure workers attest/sign that no owners are involved, and that licenses are revoked (and reapplication cannot occur for several years) if any false statements are made during the application. This is a critical requirement for the safety of the workers to add proper checks and balances to protect against possible human trafficking situations from occurring. Please allow police to do their job without hands tied by allowing them to check up on these body rub establishments unannounced (without having to book appointments in advance). Your citizens are counting on you. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrew Waithe