

# Massage Faciity Ordinance

Presented By City Clerk Laura Bauer

## Purpose

- Review a proposed ordinance
  - Update massage licensing structure to comply with revised state law
  - Focus licensing structure to address illegitimate facilities and sex trafficking
  - Provide industry feedback



# Background

- State law prohibits municipalities from regulating "the practice or the profession of massage therapy
- City's "massage parlor" licensing structure is antiquated and inadequate to address illegitimate businesses



# Illegitimate "Massage" Businesses

- Over 9,000 illicit massage business in the U.S.
- Operate as commercial sex businesses
- Indicated by (Polaris 2018):
  - Pricing below market rates
  - Cash payment only & large tips demanded
  - Excessive work or on-call hours
  - Locked, controlled or discreet entrances
  - Covered windows
  - Advertisements on commercial sex websites

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- Living spaces in business

# Illegitimate "Massage" Businesses

- Impacts:
  - Unlawful sexual activities
  - Human Trafficking
  - Illegal building modifications
  - Zoning violations
  - Nuisance activities



### Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards Human Trafficking Task Force Report

- Page 15: The actions of state and local governmental units to reduce the prevalence and impact of human trafficking on the massage profession include:
  - Regulating establishments, and revoking establishment licenses for unlicensed practice within an establishment;
  - Criminal actions against businesses and landlords;
  - More expansive nuisance abatement ordinances that hold property owners responsible;
  - Closing massage establishments;
  - Restricting hours of operation;
  - Banning sleeping quarters in massage establishments;
  - Increased coordination between law enforcement, licensing boards, and human trafficking support services

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## C3 Massage Parlor Example







# **Rub Maps**

#### Where Fantasy Meets Reality

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We want to take this opportunity to remind our users that Rubmaps has zero tolerance for underage prostitution and/or any type of sexual acts between unconsenting individuals, which includes sex trafficking. If any user becomes suspicious or aware of any such activity, please report to the appropriate authorities.

United States: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) cybertipline - report child exploitation 24-Hour Hotline: 1-800-843-5678

United States: National Human Trafficking Resource Center (Polaris Project) report human trafficking 24-Hour Hotline: 1-888-3737-888

http://www.missingkids.com/home

http://www.polarisproject.org/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=90&Itemid=95

I'M OVER 18 I agree to the terms and conditions

or leave website

## rubmaps

Commerce City erotic massage parlors with reviews - 5					
				Photos only	Sort by Newest Review
	Royal Spa 303-288-7037 6667 Brighton Blvd Commerce City, CO, 80022 59 reviews	<b>\$ 60</b> per hour	Asian massage	Cash Only	Newest Review
	Chinese Massage 626-757-4758 7251 East 53rd Place Commerce City, CO, 80022 5 reviews	\$80 per hour	Asian massage	Cash Only	Newest Review ∰ 3 weeks ago
	Ocean Spa 303-288-9626 7280 Magnolia St Commerce City, CO, 80022 57 reviews	\$ 40 per hour	Chinese massage	Cash Only	Newest Review ∰ 2 months ago
	Blue Spa 303-288-3806 5985 Quebec St Commerce City, CO, 80022 44 reviews	\$ 60 per hour	Chinese, Korean massage	Cash Only	Newest Review ∰ 3 months ago
	Green Spa Wellness Center 303-954-0495 6025 E. Parkway Dr # 175 Commerce City, CO, 80022 18 reviews	<b>\$ 40</b> per hour	Korean massage	Cash Only	Newest Review ≝ 5 months ago

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## **Royal Spa Advertisement**





## **Blue Spa Advertisement**





# **Proposed Ordinance Goals**

- Supports legitimate massage businesses
- Creates barrier for illicit businesses
- Regulates the operation of the business and facilities without regulating practice or profession
- Licensing process confirms legitimacy and creates faster enforcement mechanism

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# **Proposed Ordinance Goals**

- Create a barrier to entry of illicit businesses without creating a barrier to legitimate ones
- Legitimate business engaged in good practices should easily comply
- Detect hidden ownership through application process
- Permanent removal of illicit business from criminal network (loss of investment)

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# **Proposed Ordinance Goals**

• EXCLUSIONS:

Licensed solo practitioners

- Massage provided in athletic clubs, health practitioners, cosmetologists
- Training rooms of accredited schools and athletic teams
- ► Alternative practices



### **Questions and Discussion**



