

Hello all:

Before we presented last night, I had written to the Clarkstown city council webpage to see if the parlor legislation was working. I just received this letter from the building inspector. If you haven't sent on the form letter yet, you might want to send along this note to the Junior League (or excerpts from it):

Mr. Silver,

My name is Peter Beary and I am the building inspector for the Town of Clarkstown. To be brief, the massage licensing local law has worked! After the massage establishments were notified of the law and received the application forms, many of them chose to close up shop and leave the town. It did not happen overnight (we allowed a fair amount of time to file) and a persistent effort by the police was needed to re-enforce the Town's resolve. Our town is 80,000 in population and we have issued 14 establishment permits for spas that are now licensed to operate in Clarkstown. We must remain vigilant about the operation of some of these establishments and work closely with the police to ensure that the therapists are properly licensed. Prostitution does still exist and is an ongoing enforcement issue but the bold operations and proliferation of illegal spas has greatly decreased. While I believe that there is sufficient state law to regulate both prostitution and unlicensed massage therapy; the enactment of a local licensing law provided the best way to regulate at the local level a very problematic industry.

Peter Beary

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