

Dear Councilperson:

I'm writing to ask that you pass legislation this year which will better regulate the growing massage spa industry in Macon and prevent the possibility of trafficking within their doors.

We ask that your legislation model itself after other cities' successful massage parlor regulations, and we ask that your legislation include at least the following stipulations:

1. A thorough licensing application process filed with the police and appropriate city regulatory bodies which includes the applicant's past residences and business employment for a three year period; social security number and license (if available); fingerprints and photograph; a disclosure of any past convictions; and an agreement that the applicant accept responsibility for actions of massage therapists within.
2. Each massage parlor should contain at least one state certified massage therapist.
3. The applicant should agree to inspections at least twice a year by building, code enforcement, and/or police. Failure to cooperate would entail revocation of license.
4. Each massage therapist employed by an establishment should wear prominently identification with permit number issued by the police or code enforcement. No massage therapist may be under the age of 18 years.
5. Any violation of a city ordinance, state law, or federal law by a certified massage therapist on the premises of a massage establishment shall be grounds to revoke, suspend the licenses of the massage establishment or to levy a fine upon that establishment. Lack of knowledge shall not be a defense.

For a model of successful massage parlor regulation, see Clarkstown, New York's code at <http://www.town.clarkstown.ny.us/> (click "code" and search for "massage").

Sex trafficking is a human rights abuse that internationally harms hundreds of thousands of mostly women and children every year, including tens of thousands of mostly women and children here at home in the United States. (Trafficking in Persons Report, State Department: <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2009/>).

Let's make sure that Macon, Georgia takes strong steps to prevent sex trafficking in our city.

Thank you,