

Massage Ordinance

Police/Investigations

February 23, 2016



Background

Since 2013, Wichita Police received complaints of certain local massage businesses engaged in sexual relations for hire.

Human trafficking

The illegal movement of people typically for the purposes of forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation.

Background

2014

- 14 Investigations
- 11 Arrests (Human trafficking, other criminal violations)

2015

- 24 Investigations
- 22 Arrests (Human trafficking, other criminal violations)

Background

- Kansas Legislature not able to institute a state law.
- Kansas is one of five states that does not regulate massage businesses
- Local massage industry requested an ordinance
- Several jurisdictions in Kansas have enacted ordinances

Background

- The absence of regulations attractive to elicit business
- Illegal activity harmful to victims and community

Analysis

- Working committee of representatives from Police, Fire, Law, MABCD, Finance and Public Works
- Created a draft ordinance (3.55)
- Several meetings with local massage industry representatives for input and review

Staff Recommendation

- Provisions for obtaining massage therapy business license
- Provisions for individual massage therapy permit
- Requirements for licensing existing practitioners
- Provisions for suspension, revocation and appeal

Staff Recommendation

- Minimum eighteen years of age
- Lawful citizen/U.S. resident
- Five years proceeding, no conviction felony/moral turpitude
- No current indictment felony/moral turpitude
- Not a registered sex offender

Staff Recommendation

- Training standards for therapists
- Compliance with Building, Fire, Health and Zoning requirements
- Grandfather provisions for legal businesses currently in the industry
- Appeal of revocation/suspension to City Council

Expected Outcomes

10

- Helps combat human trafficking
- Safer environment for industry and community
- Recommend City Council approve ordinance

Massage Ordinance

Police/Investigations

Serving You, In Many Ways, Every Day

