

February 28, 2013

Ms. Frances Pritchard
Clerk – Planning & Growth Management Committee
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2N2

**RE: Item 21.1 – Final Report City Wide Zoning
Planning & Growth Management Committee**

Dear Madame Clerk:

I am taking opportunity to write to you in my capacity as Executive Director of Emery Village BIA to put forward our long standing and unwavering position that illegally run massage parlours and/or illegally run “holistic” centres have caused demonstrable detriment to our neighbourhoods and community.

Moreover, their ongoing activities in our BIA, have in effect, contravened our efforts towards creating community improvements, pursuing crime prevention, promotion of community safety and the creation of a viable, stable and inviting business environment. These illegal enterprises operate outside of business hours, in contravention of by-laws, are magnets for criminal activities, and on more than one occasion, have been associated with cases of assault and murder.

So that you are aware, our BIA has retained an outside security firm to investigate their operations within our area. Their reports to us point to the presence and influence of numerous unprincipled and rogue operators of these establishments right within our area. This is not something we are in a position to promote.

It is our understanding that the Staff Report being presented to committee clearly amends the definition for body rub parlours so that they would be legally allowed to provide sexual appealing services. This would be certainly counterproductive to our efforts and to the aims and ongoing efforts of our BIA.

We, herein, formally request the committee to amend the staff report’s definition of body rub parlours and to remove the newly added permitted activity that would serve to allow erotic appetites of sexual services in body rub parlours.

Indeed, we have been advised that the proposed definition by staff is actually in contradiction of an existing definition of body rub parlours, found in the *City of Toronto Act*.

We further request the “sexual services” line be deleted and that the definition for permitted activity in these types of places be consistent and identical to the existing definition found in the *City of Toronto Act*.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Farina, Executive Director
Emery Village Business Improvement Area