

**From:** [SURJ Toronto](#)  
**To:** [Clerk](#)  
**Cc:** [coalitionagainstabuseofbylaw@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionagainstabuseofbylaw@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Counting on your vote in support of Holistic Practitioners  
**Date:** April 20, 2018 6:26:30 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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SHOWING UP FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

April 20, 2018

To Members of Toronto City Council,

This letter is written on behalf of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Toronto, a local chapter of an international organization committed to undermining white support for white supremacist systems and institutions. We work to support and collaborate with local and national racial justice and decolonization organizing efforts led by Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) organizers.

As members of SURJ and residents of Toronto, we are deeply concerned about an upcoming urgent motion before City Council this month, brought forward by the Licensing and Standards Committee. The motion will recommend that City Hall amend Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 545, so that no application for a new holistic practitioner license be accepted from members associated with five professional holistic associations.

We are writing to you to urge you to vote against this recommendation. Here's why:

1. Chapter 545, Licensing, Body Rub Parlours and Holistic Centres is currently being reviewed. Research is meant to take place from May to August this year, and Consultation to take place in September and October. Stopping applications from professional holistic associations before the review is complete circumvents and undercuts the review itself. This motion to bar new licensing is an unreasonable and unnecessary action.
2. As consultations are not taking place until September, none of the Professional Holistic Associations have had a chance to meaningfully and publicly participate in the review. To bar future licensing at this juncture puts individual and small businesses' livelihood to jeopardy without due process.
3. There are many concerns that professional holistic associations have raised about by-law officers, upon whose recommendation this motion is appearing before City Council. In fact, Tracey Cook, executive director of Municipal Licensing and Standards (MLS), told CityNews last week that the City has launched an investigation into allegations of sexual harassment by by-law officers against workers in holistic centers.

We are and are exceedingly concerned about the many ways that the upcoming motion, if

passed, will negatively impact holistic practitioners. Given that it is the responsibility of Toronto City Council to consider the well-being and interests of its residents we are relying on your support to end discriminatory and targeted prosecution of holistic centres and practitioners.

We represent diverse community members who are concerned about increasingly emboldened racism within our city and abuses of power. We act in solidarity with Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour activists and communities.

Sincerely,

SURJ TO

Renee Dumaresque & Brianna Greaves