



WATERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

David Brower, Chief of Police

Date: 02/24/26

To: Public Safety and Welfare Committee Members

From: Chief Dave Brower

Subject: Massage Parlor Ordinance

Public Safety and Welfare Committee Members,

We are bringing to you for consideration the attached ordinance intended to better regulate Massage Businesses within Watertown, primarily because of the proliferation of sexual services offered at less-than-legitimate massage businesses, tantamount to prostitution and human trafficking.

We do not wish to be onerous to legitimate massage businesses that engage in legitimate healing and medical efforts. Rather, we intend to be a help to them by preventing and prohibiting and penalizing those not-legitimate businesses that engage in illegal sexual activity under the guise of legitimate business.

Current ordinances regarding massage businesses are outdated in addressing this issue because of changes to state law pertaining to license enforcement. While we continue to be able to address some of these issues with current laws that prohibit prostitution, we can only penalize certain law-breakers in those instances, and cannot readily affect the business itself or the owners. This ordinance will allow penalties to apply to both the individuals who commit the illegal sexual acts, and also the people who finance and run the business in an illegal way.

This ordinance was requested by our Investigations Unit, and much of the work was done by Det. Kathy Riedl, for which I am grateful.

Our City Attorney, Ali Panagopoulos, has spent much time on this ordinance, and we thank her for her expertise.

Dave Brower
Police Chief
Watertown, WI