

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (WORKING SESSION) - OCTOBER 25, 2005

BODY RUB ENFORCEMENT

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services, in conjunction with the Senior Manager of the Enforcement Services Department, recommends:

1. That the enforcement activity related to legal and illegal body rub parlours continue and that a part-time position be created for this purpose.
2. That this report be received.

Economic Impact

The report below contained a number of options that were examined for this report.

Option 1

This option would see the creation of a new part-time enforcement position. If the efforts of the two part time-staff are combined, the project results should be maintained. The cost of this option would be \$30,000.

Option 2

This option has a combined negative impact on the budget of \$210,000. This combines salary dollars and reduced parking revenue.

Option 3

This option carries an impact of approximately \$80,000.

Option 4

This option has an impact of \$80,000. which is offset by \$26,600. in part-time revenue.

Purpose

This report is to provide an update on the enforcement efforts undertaken since July in relation to Body Rub Parlours.

Background - Analysis and Options

Council, at its meeting of June 15, 2005, Item 1, Report 38, required a report be brought back in October 2005 outlining the status of increased enforcement relating to Body Rub Parlours.

In order to conduct this project a member of the Enforcement Services Department's Special Enforcement Unit was reassigned to concentrate his efforts solely on Body Rub Enforcement. This individual received some hands-on training from York Regional Police. Enforcement actually commenced in the last week of June 2005.

A number of enforcement strategies were deployed for this project and the combined results have had an impact on the Body Rub industry in Vaughan.

Staff conducted a total of 118 inspections in Body Rub facilities. York Regional Police worked with our staff for six days accounting for 22 joint inspections.

The 118 inspections resulted in 98 charges being filed. These charges generated potential fine revenue of \$44,000. There are additional charges pending under the City of Vaughan Zoning By-law. The cost of this four month project was approximately \$66,000., \$16,000. salary and \$50,000. is reduced parking fines generated over this time frame.

More importantly, the enforcement efforts by staff have resulted in the closure of 8 illegal parlours. These are:

Olympus Health Spa - 20 Hanlan Road
Rivermede Spa - 20 Rivermede Road
Elite Health Clinic - 80 Roysun Road
Daisy Health Spa - 830 Rowntree Dairy Road
Delvera Spa - 250 Regina Road
Skin and Body Health Centre - 7007 Islington Avenue
Steeles Spa - 2150 Steeles Avenue

These closures reduce the illegal parlours in Vaughan to 10 and legal remain at five.

In order to achieve this success, a much focused effort had to be undertaken. In order to maintain these successes or make further progress, the effort should be continued. Staff have examined a number of ways to ensure continued success and they are outlined below. All of them have budgetary impacts, however, there would be an offset by any revenue received from convictions on the charges laid.

Option 1

This option would see the creation of a new part time enforcement position. If the efforts of the two part time staff are combined, the project results should be maintained. The cost of this option would be \$30,000.

Option 2

This option is the continuation of the assignment of a Special Enforcement Officer. This option has the greatest financial impact at \$210,000. This is the salary of the officer and a loss of at least \$150,000. in fine revenue.

Option 3

The creation of a second full-time Licensing Enforcement Field Officer position would permit full-time activity to be continued as well as perform other licensing and parking activities. As indicated in the Economic Impact Section, the cost for the addition of this new position is approximately \$80,000. which includes salary, benefits, and computer.

Option 4

This option would see the current part time licensing position being converted to a full-time position. This would have an impact on licensing enforcement in the after hours period. The financial impact would be approximately \$53,000. (\$80,000. for the full-time position being offset by the \$26,000. part-time salary.)

The results of this project are positive and encouraging. Enforcement with dedicated staff members should continue. Revenue may provide an offset due to fine payments, however, as

the number of illegal Body Rub establishments decline, the number of available charges will also decline. This source of revenue is provided from York Regional Courts after fine payment.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is in keeping with the Vaughan Vision 2007 as it speaks to the goals of Community Safety and the City's leadership on key issues.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have not been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

The project focusing on illegal Body Rub activity was successful and should continue in order to prevent a resurgence of the trade in Vaughan.

Attachments

None

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services