Illicit Massage in Winston-Salem: An Informational Overview

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What is an Illicit Massage Business (IMB)?

- Illicit massage businesses operate under the guise of legitimate massage and bodywork establishments while illegally providing commercial sex services to clients.

Fighting Illicit Massage Requires Collaboration

- Over the past 4 years, WSPD has worked collaboratively with other jurisdictions and Homeland Security Investigations to combat illicit massage in Winston-Salem.

- The City has also consulted with the NC Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy, who have expressed a desire to assist

Why do we need an ordinance?

- Other cities have been successful in remediating illicit massage by using ordinances to (1) prevent the emergence of IMBs and (2) regulate existing massage establishments.

What Would the Proposed Ordinance Do?

- Require massage businesses to:
  - Apply for a permit
  - Submit to a background check
  - Provide a list of all employees providing massage
  - List other massage establishments owned or operated by the applicant
  - Provide a description of any other businesses the applicant controls that will be operated on the same or adjoining premises

What Would the Proposed Ordinance Do?

- Require:
  - Massage business employees to have a valid license for massage issued by the State (if performing massage)
  - Anyone leasing/renting/advertising the massage business have a valid State massage license
  - Employees of the business be 18+ years old
  - The business notify WSPD in writing of changes in ownership, name, or services within 14 days.
  - *exception for those otherwise exempted from licensure by the NC Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy*

What are Other Municipalities Doing?

Several municipalities have joined the effort to combat illicit massage by enacting ordinances.

Greensboro is the only NC municipality to enact an ordinance to combat illicit massage.

- Municipalities that have enacted ordinances include:
  - Denver, CO
  - Woodstock, GA
  - Cedar Rapids, IA
  - Greensboro, NC*
  - Bucks County, PA

Thank you for your attention.

Questions?