

Introduced 3/6/17
Public Hearing 3/20/17
Council Action 4/3/17
Executive Action 4/17/17
Effective Date 6/17/17

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2017 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 5

Bill No. 21 -2017

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive and
Cospensored by Jon Weinstein

AN ACT repealing certain County licenses and inspections related to massage; defining certain terms; allowing certain entry into massage establishments; authorizing the right to request certain authorization; providing for certain penalties; and generally relating to massage establishments in Howard County.

Introduced and read first time March 6, 2017. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on March 20, 2017.

By order Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on April 3, 2017 and Passed , Passed with amendments _____, Failed _____.

By order Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 4th day of April, 2017 at 12 a.m./p.m.

By order Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Approved/Vetoed by the County Executive Apr. 17, 2017

Allan H. Kittleman
Allan H. Kittleman, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment

1 **WHEREAS**, Section 6-405(a)(2) of the Health-Occupations Article of the Annotated Code
2 of Maryland provides that Howard County, after consultation with the Board of Massage Therapy
3 Examiners, may adopt ordinances or regulations relating to the verification, inspection, and display
4 of massage therapy licenses; and

5
6 **WHEREAS**, the Human Trafficking Task Force noted that human trafficking can occur in
7 establishments that operate under the guise of massage establishments; and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, the Howard County Police Department is committed to fighting human
10 trafficking and operations masquerading as massage establishments have repeatedly been found to
11 harbor human trafficking and other criminal activity; and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, the authority granted in Section 6-405(a)(2) is important as the County moves
14 forward with addressing human trafficking and implementing the Howard County Human
15 Trafficking Task Force recommendations; and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, this legislation is needed to improve the Police Department's ability to detect
18 and eliminate criminal activity with minimal burden on legitimate business.

19
20 ***Section 1. Be It Enacted** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the Howard*
21 *County Code is amended as follows:*

22 1. *By repealing Title 14 “Licenses, Permits and Inspections”*
23 *Subtitle 8 “Massage Establishments”*

24
25 2. *By adding Title 17 “Public Protection Services”*
26 *Subtitle 8 “Massage Establishments”*

27
28 **Title 17. Public Protection Services.**

29 **SUBTITLE 8. MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS.**

1 **SECTION 17.800. PURPOSE AND SCOPE.**

2 (A) *PURPOSE.* THE PURPOSE OF THIS SUBTITLE IS TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND
3 WELFARE OF THE CITIZENS OF HOWARD COUNTY BY ALLOWING THE COUNTY TO INVESTIGATE
4 POSSIBLE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY OF INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES HOLDING THEMSELVES OUT AS
5 PROVIDING MASSAGE WHILE ENSURING MINIMAL DISRUPTION TO MASSAGE PRACTITIONERS
6 WHO ARE AUTHORIZED UNDER STATE LAW.

7 (B) *SCOPE.* THIS SUBTITLE SHALL APPLY TO:

- 8 (1) ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO PROVIDES MASSAGE, SOLICITS CUSTOMERS TO PROVIDE
9 MASSAGE, OR HOLDS THEMSELVES OUT AS PROVIDING MASSAGE; OR
10 (2) ANY BUSINESS THAT SOLICITS CUSTOMERS TO PROVIDE MASSAGE OR HOLDS
11 ITSELF OUT AS PROVIDING MASSAGE.

12
13 **SECTION 17.801. DEFINITIONS.**

14 WORDS AND PHRASES USED IN THIS SUBTITLE HAVE THEIR USUAL MEANINGS EXCEPT AS
15 SPECIFICALLY DEFINED IN THIS SECTION:

16 (A) *CHIEF* MEANS THE CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OR THE CHIEF'S DESIGNEE.

17 (B) *DEPARTMENT* MEANS THE HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE.

18 (C) *MASSAGE* MEANS THE MANIPULATION OF TISSUES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, BY
19 RUBBING, KNEADING, OR TAPPING WITH THE HAND OR AN INSTRUMENT. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS
20 SUBTITLE, MASSAGE SHALL INCLUDE MASSAGE THERAPY AS DEFINED IN SECTION 6-101 OF STATE
21 LAW.

22 (D) *MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENT* MEANS A BUSINESS ENTITY:

- 23 (1) WHERE ONE OR MORE INDIVIDUALS HOLD THEMSELVES OUT AS PROVIDING
24 MASSAGE;
25 (2) THAT ADVERTISES, OFFERS, OR ADMINISTERS MASSAGE PROVIDED BY ONE OR MORE
26 INDIVIDUALS; OR
27 (3) WHERE IT IS REASONABLY BELIEVED THAT ONE OR MORE INDIVIDUALS ARE
28 PROVIDING MASSAGE.

29 (E) *STATE LAW* MEANS THE HEALTH-OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF

1 MARYLAND.

2 (F) *STATE AUTHORIZATION* MEANS PROOF OF LEGAL AUTHORITY TO PRACTICE MASSAGE UNDER
3 SECTION 6-301 OF STATE LAW.

4

5 **SECTION 17.802. RIGHT OF ENTRY; PROOF OF STATE AUTHORIZATION.**

6 (A) *AUTHORITY TO ENTER – PUBLIC AREAS.* FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH
7 SECTION 6-301 OF STATE LAW, THE CHIEF MAY ENTER THE PUBLIC AREAS OF A MASSAGE
8 ESTABLISHMENT:

9 (1) UPON EXHIBITING PROPER CREDENTIALS; AND

10 (2) AT ANY TIME DURING BUSINESS OR OPERATING HOURS.

11 (B) *ENTRY REQUIRED.* A PERSON MAY NOT DENY ENTRY TO THE CHIEF IN THE PERFORMANCE OF
12 THE CHIEF’S DUTIES UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

13 (C) *REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE LICENSE.* UPON REQUEST, A PERSON SUBJECT TO THIS SUBTITLE
14 SHALL PRODUCE THEIR STATE AUTHORIZATION.

15 (D) *RIGHTS NOT LIMITED.* THIS SECTION DOES NOT RESTRICT OR LIMIT THE RIGHT OF ENTRY OR
16 INSPECTION AUTHORIZED BY ANY OTHER STATE OR COUNTY LAW INCLUDING, WITHOUT
17 LIMITATION, THE HOWARD COUNTY FIRE PREVENTION CODE, OR THE HOWARD COUNTY HEALTH
18 CODE.

19

20 **SECTION 17.803. DISPLAY OF AUTHORITY.**

21 AN INDIVIDUAL HOLDING STATE AUTHORIZATION SHALL DISPLAY THE STATE AUTHORIZATION
22 CONSPICUOUSLY IN A PUBLIC AREA OF THE MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENT.

23

24 **SECTION 17.804. ENFORCEMENT.**

25 (A) *GENERALLY.* THE DEPARTMENT MAY INSTITUTE ANY ACTION AT LAW OR EQUITY, INCLUDING
26 INJUNCTION OR MANDAMUS, TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.

27 (B) *CIVIL PENALTIES.* ALTERNATIVELY, AND IN ADDITION TO AND CONCURRENT WITH ALL OTHER
28 REMEDIES, THE DEPARTMENT MAY ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE WITH CIVIL

29 PENALTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 24 OF THIS CODE AS FOLLOWS:

1 (1) A VIOLATION OF ANY PROVISION OF THIS SUBTITLE IS A CLASS A OFFENSE; AND

2 (2) EACH INSTANCE THAT A VIOLATION CONTINUES IS A SEPARATE OFFENSE.

3 (C) *CIVIL CITATION*. A NOTICE OF VIOLATION IS NOT REQUIRED PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF A CIVIL
4 CITATION UNDER TITLE 24 OF THIS CODE.

5 (D) *CRIMINAL PENALTIES*. A PERSON WHO VIOLATES ANY PROVISION OF THIS SUBTITLE IS GUILTY OF
6 A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000.00 OR
7 IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING SIX MONTHS OR BOTH.

8 (E) *REPORT TO STATE BOARD*. THE DEPARTMENT MAY REPORT ANY VIOLATIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE
9 OR ANY PROVISION OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND TO THE STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE
10 THERAPY EXAMINERS.

11

12 **SECTION 17.805. SEVERABILITY.**

13 IF ANY PART OF THIS SUBTITLE IS HELD INVALID, THE INVALIDITY SHALL NOT AFFECT THE OTHER
14 PARTS.

15

16 *Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland that*
17 *this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.*

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, stands enacted on April 7, 2017.



Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been passed by the yeas and nays of two-thirds of the members of the Council notwithstanding the objections of the Executive, stands enacted on _____, 2017.

Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having received neither the approval nor the disapproval of the Executive within ten days of its presentation, stands enacted on _____, 2017.

Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, not having been considered on final reading within the time required by Charter, stands failed for want of consideration on _____, 2017.

Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been disapproved by the Executive and having failed on passage upon consideration by the Council stands failed on _____, 2017.

Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, the withdrawal of which received a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Council, is withdrawn from further consideration on _____, 2017.

Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

Reply all | Delete Junk |

FILE COPY

CB 21

DB David Barkley <davidprayermin@earthlink.net>
Mon 3/27, 6:25 PM
CouncilMail

Reply all |

Dear Council Members,

Thank you in advance for voting for CB 21, authorizing our county police to verify that establishments in our county advertising themselves as message parlors are licensed to do so and are not in reality fronts for prostitution and sex trafficking.

Sincerely,

David Barley

Reply all | Delete Junk |

Please authorize CB 21

AM Andrea Morris <andream@christiancounselingassociates.org>

Reply all |

Tue 3/28, 5:25 PM
CouncilMail

Dear County Council:

Please authorize CB 21 on April 3, 2017.

Thanks,

Andrea S. Morris, Ph.D

Reply all | Delete Junk |

From a Howard County pastor

P pastorsteve <pastorsteve@me.com>
Tue 3/28, 5:28 PM
CouncilMail

Reply all |

Dear Council,

Please vote in favor of CB 21 on April 3. It would protect lives and assure dignity for women.

Thank you very much.

Regards,

Steven Sorensen
Pastor, Community Bible Church of Highland

410-715-0030

Reply all | Delete Junk |

CB21

DS David Stancil <dcstancil@verizon.net>
Wed 3/29, 4:10 PM
CouncilMail

Reply all |

| Action Items

Dear Council Members:

I am very concerned about human trafficking, and am an active supporter of anti-trafficking legislation and groups. Since Howard County is exemplary in so many other ways, let's be exemplary in the seriousness with which we attack the processes of human trafficking in our area as well.

Please vote for CB 21 when it comes before the Council.

And THANKS!

Dave Stancil, Pastor
Columbia Baptist Fellowship

--

Live Simply, Love Generously,
Care Deeply, Speak Kindly,
And Trust in God Who Loves You.

Reply all | Delete Junk |

CB21

Don Cox <edoncox@gmail.com>

Reply all |

Wed 3/29, 4:59 PM

CouncilMail

Keep

Dear Coucil-person:

I fully support the passage of CB21 and each of you will support its passage.

E Don Cox
Columbia, Md

FILE COPY

CB21-2017 Howard County Lacks Explicit Authority to Inspect Massage Registrations

JH joel hurewitz <joelhurewitz@gmail.com>
Today, 3:59 AM
CouncilMail

Reply all |

Keep

Dear County Council,

While the County's objectives to stop illegal trafficking and prostitution are laudable goals, County officials and community advocates have from the inception expressed a lack of understanding of the technical details of the regulation of massage therapists and massage practitioners in the Maryland Health Occupations Code.

When the Police Chief and other members of the Police Department state that massage therapists and massage practitioners are "licensed" by the State, they do not realize that this not a technically correct statement. As discussed further below, massage therapists receive "licenses" while massage "practitioners" have registrations. When advocates cite the regulation of massage in Charles and Washington Counties, they show that they do not understand the regulatory and legal landscape. While Howard County has home rule with a charter, Charles and Washington Counties have more limited commissioner governments. Noticably, Charles County's ordinance has many similarities to the existing Howard County Code which CB21 repeals. In addition, there seems to be no evidence that Washington County ever enacted any local massage ordinance pursuant to the state enabling law. This is has been confirmed by a search of county code and a phone call with the office of the County Attorney. See http://www2.washco-md.net/washco_2/pdf_files/legal/CPLL2007.pdf

I believe that the state enabling law for the massage regulation is flawed in that the County was not given explicit authority to inspect massage "registrations," and therefore risks, like the recent tassar prohibition, having it challenged one day by a defense attorney.

In addition CB21 seems to inaccurately use "practitioners" on line 5 of page 2 as a short-hand term for people who perform massage. Because "practitioners" is a legal term in the Health Occupations Code, it should be amended to "providers."

HB671 2016 gives Howard County the authority to confront illegal activity operating under the guise of massage establishments by inspecting and verifying massage **"licenses"**:

"(2) In Howard County, after consultation with the Board, the governing body may adopt ordinances or regulations relating to verification, inspection, and display of licenses issued under this subtitle."

Health Occupations Code §6-405

However, the Health Occupations Code makes a distinction between those "licensed" and those "registered:"

"§ 3-5A-01. Definitions

* * *

(d) License. -- "License" means, unless the context requires otherwise, a license issued by the Board to practice massage therapy.

* * *

(h) Registered massage practitioner. -- "Registered massage practitioner" means an individual who is registered by the Board to practice massage therapy in a setting that is not a health care setting.

* * *

(i) Registration. -- "Registration" means, unless the context requires otherwise, a registration issued by the Board to practice massage therapy in a setting that is not a health care setting."

* * *

As seen in the definitions, "registered massage practitioners" operate outside of health care settings. Generally the establishments which concern the Howard County Police operate outside of health care settings. Therefore, the omission of "registrations" from the law creates a possible enforcement issue and ambiguity for illegal activity to continue, by limiting the scope of Howard County's explicit authority to "licenses" but not "registrations."

The enforcement provisions for Charles and Washington Counties recognize the distinction between "license" and "registrations" and clearly give law enforcement the authority to inspect both licenses and registrations:

"(d) Charles County and Washington County. --

(1) In Charles County and Washington County, an individual may not perform a massage or offer to perform a massage on another person for compensation unless the individual who performs the massage or offers to perform a massage is a **licensed massage therapist or registered massage practitioner**.

(2) A law enforcement officer in Charles County or Washington County may demand proof of **licensure or registration**."

Health Occupations Code § 3-502. Misrepresentation (Emphasis added).

There are additional instances of the distinction between "licenses" and "registrations" from the Health Occupations Code including the following:

"§ 3-5A-04. License and registration required.

Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, an individual shall be:

(1) Licensed by the Board before the individual may practice massage therapy in this State;

or

(2) Registered by the Board before the individual may practice massage therapy in a setting that is not a health care setting in this State."

"§ 3-5A-06. Qualification for license and registration."

"§ 3-5A-06.1. Issuance of license or registration.

(a) In general. -- The Board shall issue a license or registration to any applicant who:

(1) Pays a license or registration fee set by the Board; and

(2) Meets the requirements of this subtitle.

(b) Contents. -- The Board shall include on each license and registration that the Board issues:

(1) The seal of the Board; and

(2) The kind of license or registration."

Therefore, because of the clear statutory distinctions between "licenses" and "registrations" an amendment should be made to the Howard County provision in the state code to insert after Licenses "OR REGISTRATIONS." Without this clear authority, Howard County risks having the

whole regulation of purported massage establishments operating outside of health care settings thwarted by a legal challenge to its authority to inspect massage "registrations."

Sincerely,

Joel Hurewitz

Reply all | Delete Junk |

CB 21-2017, In Favor Of.

Keith Ohlinger <kohlinger05@verizon.net>

Reply all |

Today, 7:22 AM

CouncilMail

Keep

CB 21-2017, In Favor Of.

Keith Ohlinger
2790 Florence road
Woodbine, MD 21797

Dear Members of the County Council:

I was horrified to hear the testimony regarding this bill last month. I had no idea this was going on and I just cannot imagine the pain and suffering these women face. This needs to stop and this bill should be a great help to the authorities in shutting these places down.

As a farmer, I sustain many injuries both from normal wear and tear on the body and in handling animals far larger than myself. Over the past several years I have had several surgeries and injuries that required physical therapy, acupuncture, chiropractor adjustments, and massage. Massage is a huge benefit in recovery and prevention of these injuries. I believe this bill is important in preserving the integrity of the lawful establishments that help people every day. I urge you to vote in favor of this bill. As always, thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Very Truly Yours,

Keith Ohlinger
Heritage Hill Farm

ALLAN H. KITTLEMAN
County Executive



GARY L. GARDNER
Chief of Police

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
3410 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

March 2, 2017

Mr. Lonnie Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer
Howard County Government

Dear Mr. Robbins,

As you know, the Howard County Police Department continues to receive complaints about disreputable massage establishments which we know have long been a haven for illegal activities including prostitution and human trafficking. In Annapolis last session, enabling legislation was passed to allow us to implement local legislation to better address disreputable establishments operating in our County.

State law requires the licensing of massage therapists and massage practitioners, however the State simply has limited resources available to conduct proactive inspections and enforcement responsive to complaints received from every jurisdiction. We are seeking Howard County legislation to allow for the right of entry into questionable massage establishments and the appropriate enforcement of any criminal or civil violations.

Law enforcement has noticed an increase in the number of massage parlor advertisements in the adult section of websites that cater to adult services. A growing number of complaints from citizens concerning questionable businesses, suspicious activity and other "quality of life" issues demands our attention. In addition, Human trafficking arrests are on the rise in Howard County. This local legislation simply gives the HCPD the right to enter an establishment claiming to be a massage business and verify that State licenses are properly in place. This vital tool will ensure that illegal activities, such as prostitution and human trafficking are curtailed.

We want the citizens of Howard County to feel confident and safe when patronizing legitimate spas and massage-related services and to ensure that no one stumbles into illegitimate businesses.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Gardner
Chief of Police

GLG:tgb

(410) 313-2203
(410) 313-2272-FAX
WWW.HCPD.ORG
HCPD@HOWARDCOUNTYMD.GOV

Nationally Accredited Since 1990



Melissa Matthey
15116 Players Way
Glenwood, MD 21738

I am here this evening to follow up on my original testimony to once again support the Howard County Police Department's efforts to gain legislative authority to inspect massage establishments to prevent illegal activities, including prostitution and human trafficking.

Unfortunately, some of these establishments have been known to be a haven for human trafficking and also exploiting women for profit.

With just one inspector for the entire state, the State has been unable to enforce their own regulations. I support the submittal of Delegate Howard County Council 20-2017 Flanagan's House Bill that requests Howard County be added to the list of counties enabled to enforce local legislation and provide the Howard County Health Officer, and the Howard County Police Department, with the authority to carry out any laws adopted under the bill. Passing this bill authorizes Howard County to adopt ordinances or regulations relating to massage establishments and the practices of massage therapists, practitioners, and any other individuals who provide massage for compensation.

Thank you for your time.

Grace Community Church – Grace 4 Freedom
8200 Old Columbia Rd, Fulton, MD 20759

Testimony of Grace 4 Freedom
IN SUPPORT OF CB21-2017: MASSAGE LEGISLATION
Before the Howard County Council
March 20, 2017

Good evening,

My name is Angie Persing. I am representing Grace Community Church's anti-trafficking group called Grace 4 Freedom.

Brothels fronting as massage parlors are proliferate in Howard County. At last count, there were 10 of these establishments. Illegal massage parlors are known to harbor victims of human trafficking, which is also on the rise. Criminals know where laws are weak or are not being enforced. They openly advertise these businesses on a site called "rubmaps.com" with erotic massage reviews and the tagline "where fantasy meets reality". In fact, a member of Grace 4 Freedom visited one such parlor two years ago. There was no marketing information for patrons passing by. She asked for a brochure of their massage services and was told that there were no brochures available. She asked for a tour, but was told she could not have one. But, that massage parlor does have information about their services – priced at \$60/hr – on "rubmaps.com".

I am passionate about fighting for a world without modern-day slavery. That passion has taken me across the globe to international centers of sex trafficking. But it is heartbreaking that I don't have to travel outside of my county to find evidence of slavery. It is unnerving to think that I have to be careful to not stumble into a brothel when I simply searched the internet for a new place to get a massage.

We need to consistently inspect and close down the establishments where illegal activities are occurring. Grace 4 Freedom is seeking your support to ensure that there are no more opportunities for human trafficking in Howard County.

Thank you,
Angie Persing

Public Testimony from Elizabeth W. Halley
Community Impact Liaison, The Samaritan Women
And concerned Howard County Citizen

In Support of CB21-2017

Good Evening, County Executive Kittleman, and County Council members, my name is Elizabeth Halley and I serve as volunteer staff at The Samaritan Women, a national charity providing restorative care to survivors of domestic human sex trafficking. I am also a resident of Howard County, and as both a concerned citizen, and an individual deeply entrenched in the fight against human trafficking, I stand before you to offer testimony in favor of CB21-2017, local enabling legislation that would allow our Howard County Police Department the authority to carry out regulations in regard to massage establishments, including: conducting inspections, enforcing criminal and civil violations, searching for evidence of human trafficking, and offering services to victims in need of help.

If someone had told me two years ago I would be standing in front of County Council providing public testimony on behalf of victims of human trafficking, I would have said they were crazy...I didn't have an inkling of the scope of human trafficking, much less that it was actually occurring in my own back yard. But, the sad truth is that human trafficking does occur right here in Howard County and we need to join together to do all we can to stop it, and help those who are trapped in the bonds of modern day slavery. I mentioned that I was providing public testimony on behalf of victims of human trafficking because that is what the enabling legislation we are discussing here is...help for those who are trapped in something too horrible for us to even imagine.

At the Samaritan Women we have provided care for survivors who endured being "sold" through the guise of a massage parlor. I would like to share one resident's story with you... "B" came to us after local authorities investigated the spa where she "worked". She was referred to us by local law enforcement that recognized she was a victim of human trafficking. Now, this did not happen in Howard County, but it just as easily could have... "B" was working in a massage parlor located in an affluent Virginia suburb. She was initially lured to the U.S. by a recruiter in her own country that, unbeknownst to "B", was affiliated with a human trafficking ring right here in the states. Once she arrived, she was met by another affiliate of the trafficking ring and transported to Virginia, where she met her new "boss". Now, this boss, a woman, owned numerous massage parlors across the metro area, trafficking other victims, as she was about to traffic "B". "B" had her identification taken from her, as well as, any personal items she arrived with. She was told she would be providing "massages" and anything else her customers wanted...including sex. The spa charged \$300 for the "Girlfriend Experience", meaning that in their allotted time frame, they could ask their "girlfriend" for anything...if they just wanted sex they received a \$30 discount. Of the \$300, \$70 immediately went to the house, and \$30 went to the booker or call man...so, if you asked "B" how much she was paid, she would tell you \$200...but, if you ask her how much she kept, she would tell you \$0. You see, she had to pay her boss for food, rent, clothing, etc...so, not only was she caught in sex trafficking, but labor debt bondage. On top of that, "B" was told that if she saved \$50,000 she could "buy" a fake husband and

speed up her citizenship process – she was flown to the Midwest, set up a joint checking account with this “husband”, and was told to take lots of selfies with him to support this story. In reality, this was just another scam to take any money she was given and to hold her in debt even longer. Fortunately, “B” was rescued and sent to TSW. Unfortunately, her story is not that uncommon – she was forced to service up to 10 customers a day- and this same scenario could just as easily be happening right here in Howard County. We need to give our police department the tools they need to combat this...and CB21 will do just that.

Not only will CB21 help victims of human trafficking, it will help legitimate spa and massage businesses differentiate themselves from those running illicit businesses. You may be familiar with Truckers Against Trafficking, an organization started by truckers to who wanted to aid in the fight against human trafficking and help restore the image of the trucking industry. Through education and awareness efforts, including signs and stickers truckers could put in their windows offering help to victims, trafficking at truck depots and stops has started to decrease. I bring this up because legitimate spas are starting to step forward to do the same thing...they want to support the anti-human trafficking effort, and restore consumer confidence in the spa industry. Recently, The Samaritan Women partnered with Luna Day Spa to host the “Salon Challenge”, an education, awareness and fundraising campaign in support of the fight against human trafficking. An education center was set up in the reception area with printed information on human trafficking that customers could read and take with them. In addition, Luna Day Spa, and owner Sonia Singh, designated 10% of their profits in the January, which was National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, to be donated to TSW to help survivors of domestic human trafficking.

Legitimate businesses, like Luna Day Spa, want to be part of the solution, and they want to help in solving the problem. Our experience shows that they support enabling legislation, and any tools that aid in the fight against human trafficking. This, in turn, helps assure their customers that they are caring, concerned and legitimate business owners. And that is the type of business that citizens can and will support.

In closing, I ask for your support in moving forward with CB21...enabling legislation that will allow our police force to fight human trafficking, our legitimate spa owners to differentiate themselves in the market place, and the citizens of Howard County to feel secure in the fact that illegitimate organizations that promote human trafficking will not thrive in our backyards.

Respectfully Submitted,


Elizabeth Halley
Community Impact Liaison, The Samaritan Women
bhalley@thesamaritanwomen.org
Concerned Howard County Resident



| | |
|---|--|
|  THE SAMARITAN WOMEN | |
| Beth Halley Community Impact Liaison | |
| 602 S. Chapel Gate Lane Baltimore, Maryland 21229 410.984.6136 mobile bhalley@thesamaritanwomen.org | |

CB21 – 2017

Good evening,

My name is Mavourene Robinson, and I am testifying in support of CB21 – 2017 legislation that will allow the Howard County Health Officer and the Howard County Police Department to regulate the practice of massage parlors and spas. As much as we would like to pretend that it is not an issue in a relatively wealthy and well-educated county like Howard or that these parlors provide services between consenting adults, the truth is that sex by coercion or under financial or physical duress of any kind is rape. It is not a victimless crime. It is immoral and illegal. At present, Howard County is limited in the level of its enforcement and, as evidenced in the reported increased in online advertising for sex services in our County, we are perceived by the criminals as easy prey. Moreover, as known purveyors of human trafficking, illegitimate massage parlors/spas are able to continue these most heinous crimes with little risk to themselves. Our neighbors in Charles County and Washington County have enacted the local legislation necessary to strengthen enforcement of on-site inspections and that allow local Police Departments to be responsive to complaints regarding illegal activities such as prostitution or suspected human trafficking. Each have reported quantifiable decreases in the number of questionable/illegitimate massage parlors. I implore you as the elected officials of Howard County, entrusted with protecting the rights of every citizen, to join in that legislation. To not make ours a sanctuary County for human subjugation and cruelty that is beyond imagination.

This is our opportunity to, “Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

Thank you,

Mavourene Robinson

March 20, 2017

Good Evening and thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion regarding local Howard County Legislation to address human trafficking. My name is Kathy Donnelly and I own a business which has been in Howard County for 25 years. We are located next door to a Day Spa, that was closed down in 2015 by Howard County. What motivates me to testify is the situation that I have witnessed there. It was obviously an "adult spa" frequented only by men and women were not welcome there. I know because several patrons of my business saw the "Day Spa" sign and stopped by there only to be turned away. Bigger than that in my view, was the awareness that the women who worked inside the spa did not come out. The manager would bring in groceries and we could smell food cooking often, but the women did not "come in to work in the morning or leave at night" they were always there. The only time we saw them was when we had some flooding in the building or when the power went out.

It appeared to me to be a very controlled and unhealthy atmosphere. If I owned a legitimate spa I would want these apparently illegal spa's to be inspected and as a business owner I feel it is extremely important for the Howard County Police to be able to inspect these establishments for the protection of its citizens. Thank you for your time.

Bill No. 21-2017 – Howard County –Practice of Massage Regulation

Good evening,

My name is Deborah Hoover. I am a member of Howard County AGAST (Advocacy Group Against Slavery and Trafficking), and one of the co-leaders of Grace 4 Freedom. Also I am a volunteer driver for the survivors of human trafficking who are residents at The Samaritan Women in Baltimore.

First I would like to applaud Howard County Police Department for the strides they have made in combating this horrific crime. I know that they are serious about this plight and are working very hard to combat it.

As a volunteer, I see personally what this crime has done to these women. Once rescued out of trafficking, they have a very long road of recovery. This crime destroys their sense of self and it takes years to recover and the trauma is never fully recoverable.

Since 1996, the State Board of Chiropractic and Massage Therapy Examiners were charged with enforcing state laws for massage therapists and practitioners. But with only 1 inspector for the entire state, this state office has not done inspections for years, allowing the proliferation of illegal massage parlors in Howard County. We are grateful that the initial legislation in Howard County was passed but now they need to add on to that regulation to allow police to request proof of licensure.

Currently Maryland law does not allow for local agencies to conduct inspections of massage establishments. In order to provide massage, the massage practitioner must be licensed. All establishments that are legitimate should have no trouble showing an officer their license. This becomes a problem only if the establishment is working without a license. These disreputable massage establishments have been a haven for illegal activities including human trafficking and prostitution. We need this additional measure to be added so police can effectively investigate, shut down and enforce any and all criminal and civil violations.

These are brothels masquerading as spas, health centers, and wellness clubs. Massage Parlors are known to harbor victims of HT, which is on the rise in this form or other forms. Criminals know where the laws are weak or are not being enforced. They openly advertise these businesses on a site called "rubmaps.com" with erotic massage reviews and the tagline "where fantasy meets reality." At last count, there were about 10 of them, in all parts of Ho Co. The site offers a list of 161 erotic massage parlors in Maryland. Gratefully, many have been closed and now there are 75 active massage parlors in Maryland. Of the 86 that have been closed, only 6 were closed in Howard County.

In July of 2015, women from Grace 4 Freedom visited a disreputable massage parlor in Howard County. There was no marketing information for patrons passing by.

They asked for a brochure of services and were told they didn't have any. When they asked for a tour, they were told they could not have one. No marketing, no brochures, no list of services, no tours, and no massage services for women?? But yes, you guessed it. This massage establishment is listed on rubmaps.com as one of 10 in Howard County where fantasy meets reality for \$60 an hour.

Human Trafficking, a form of modern day slavery, is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world, and it is happening in Howard County. Charles and Washington County have adopted local enabling legislation, and as a result have successfully closed many massage parlors operating as hubs of human trafficking.

We need to be able to inspect, regulate, and close down these establishments where illegal activities are occurring. We are seeking your support to ensure that complaints can be easily investigated and inspections conducted under local authority. Please help us in reducing the opportunity for Human Trafficking activities in Howard County.

Thank you,
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