

Body Rub Centres Task Force Implementation Plan

Recommendation	Lead	Status
1 Require body rub centres to have a number of plans approved (i.e. security control, emergency response, etc.) in place before licences are issued. These plans would include provisions that ensure the security and safety of body rub centre staff (contractors, owners, and others on-site)	Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development	COMPLETE Business Licence Bylaw amended by City Council on March 1, 2016.
2 Ensure practitioners have information on, and access to, social services and other pathways out of the industry if they so choose. This would take the form of a single point of contact that connects workers to service providers.	Body Rub Centres Task Force Implementation Team led by Citizen Services	ONGOING Onsite resource binders were developed in consultation with stakeholders. Canadian Mental Health Association's 211 service promoted as the single point of contact for access to additional resources. This action was completed in 2017.
3 In partnership with Alberta Health Services, the City of Edmonton should provide body rub practitioners and support staff with comprehensive health information.	Body Rub Centres Task Force Implementation Team led by Citizen Services	ONGOING Resource binders contain health information and promote Alberta Health Services 811 service. Binders are updated on an ongoing basis. Binders were in place in 2017.
4 Develop a well-understood and communicated reporting structure for practitioners who want to make complaints safely. This structure would be developed in conjunction with Edmonton Police Service and the City of Edmonton.	Body Rub Centres Task Force Implementation Team led by Citizen Services	ONGOING The reporting structure was in place in 2017 and the Implementation Team continues to build relationships and work with practitioners to encourage reporting.
5 Require body rub centres to have on-site management at all times as a condition of operation. Management would be considered any person who is available as a contact for any administrative or enforcement issues.	Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development	COMPLETE Business Licence Bylaw amended by City Council on March 1, 2016.
6 Ensure regular occupational health and safety inspections of body rub centres.	Body Rub Centres Task Force Implementation	ONGOING Joint inspections with the Implementation Team, the province's Occupational Health and Safety

		Team led by Citizen Services	teams, and Employment Standards teams, are planned for June 2018.
7	Work with provincial partners to find policy solutions at a provincial level that will address health and safety concerns in this industry, existing ensuring compatibility between future policy direction and legislation such as the Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act.	Body Rub Centres Task Force Implementation Team led by Citizen Services	ONGOING The Implementation Team began attending meetings in 2017 with provincial and federal enforcement partners. Administration will continue to build relationships with provincial and federal departments and align to policy and legislation. New OH&S legislation came into affect June 1, 2018.
8	Reduce the cost of body rub centre licences to bring them in line with other business licences (e.g. nightclubs and bars).	Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development	COMPLETE Business Licence Bylaw amended by City Council on December 5, 2017.
9	Eliminate, or significantly reduce, the cost of obtaining a body rub practitioner licence.	Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development	COMPLETE Business Licence Bylaw amended by City Council on December 5, 2017.
10	Remove the requirement for practitioners to obtain a licence for each centre at which they work. Replace this with a requirement to register worksite information with the City.	Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development	COMPLETE Business Licence Bylaw amended by City Council on March 1, 2016.
11	Have emergency contact information collected as part of the practitioner licence application process and stored confidentially with the City. This information would be accessed only in the event of an emergency.	Body Rub Centres Task Force Implementation Team led by Citizen Services	COMPLETE This function exists through programs such as "Project KARE", operated by the RCMP, and Administration will continue to build relationships and support that program.
12	Reduce barriers to travelling practitioners who wish to comply with licensing regulations by offering the information course in an electronic format, preferably online.	Body Rub Centres Task Force Implementation Team led by Citizen Services	COMPLETE Decision was made not to offer the course online due to an inability to confirm who actually completed the course. As an alternate solution, in 2017, Administration began offering the course biweekly to reduce barriers.
13	Increase fines to body rub centres to levels that act as a real deterrent to non-compliance.	Urban Form and Corporate Strategic	COMPLETE Determined no change required.

		Development	
14	Negotiate a contract for 24/7 translation services for workers who may need information or support in their own language or for City staff who are trying to offer services.	Body Rub Centres Task Force Implementation Team led by Citizen Services	COMPLETE / ONGOING Translation services started in February 2018, Translators now attend every bi-weekly information session. The translator service is also provided when visiting women at centres when requested, this is an ongoing service.
15	Do not allow for the transfer of centre licences - even those that are licensed as corporations - to help prevent unqualified individuals from operating body rub centres.	Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development	COMPLETE No change required.
16	Require body rub centre business licence holders to undergo an enhanced security screening through Edmonton Police Service.	Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development	COMPLETE No change required as this service is not provided by the Edmonton Police Service or any provincial or federal service.
17	Remove non-erotic businesses from the body rub centre licensing category	Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development	COMPLETE
18	Review the bylaws and the overall approach to regulating body rub centres every three to five years to ensure that contemporary issues are addressed.	Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development	ONGOING
19	Establish a higher standard for issuance of body rub centre business licences that protects the public interest and safety. This should acknowledge that body rub centres are different from other businesses and thus require a higher standard for licence issuance and continued operation.	Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development	ONGOING

20	<p>In an effort to ensure that vulnerable neighbourhoods are protected and not further stigmatized, the City of Edmonton should analyze and review zoning bylaws:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Determine the appropriateness of locating centres in residential neighbourhoods, commercial zones, and light industrial areas - Set appropriate distances between body rub centres to limit clustering and concentration - Set appropriate distances between sensitive use areas - Provide information to sensitive uses applying for development permit near a body rub centre on the location of the nearby centre - Include contextual and practical analysis of the community impact of body rub centres - Continue with the required Crime Prevention Through Environment Design analysis when reviewing applications for development permits 	Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development	<p>COMPLETE</p> <p>This work was completed as a function of determining the current approach to regulating the use within the Zoning Bylaw. Commercial areas are the preferred location for these uses. This is because these locations are highly visible and have high foot traffic which is a deterrent to crime. The use is not permitted in low density residential zones.</p>
21	<p>Review advertising standards for body rub centres and ensure that standards for public signs are set and met. These standards would ensure discreet signage.</p>	Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development	<p>COMPLETE</p> <p>No change required, federally regulated.</p>
22	<p>Ensure a comprehensive and integrated planning process that brings together staff from licensing, enforcement, and community services when dealing with body rub centre business licence applications.</p>	Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development & Body Rub Centres Task Force Implementation Team led by Citizen Services	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>The two departments work together on this file.</p>
23	<p>Improve the rigor of enforcement in partnership with the Edmonton Police Service Vice Section to ensure businesses are not engaging in illegal activities. This could include providing additional enforcement resources, such as the</p>	Body Rub Centres Task Force Implementation Team led by	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>The Body Rub Centres Task Force Team has been meeting with Edmonton Police Service VICE Unit since the start of the Task Force to</p>

	creation of an integrated team that ensure compliance and supports body rub centres. This team would have a public safety focus.	Citizen Services	create a collaborative approach. This includes the Task Force team attending monthly stings with VICE to be able to support service providers and offer alternative resources. The task force also links back to VICE when they receive information or complaints that need the support of the Edmonton Police Service.
24	Create, communicate, and keep current, a clear protocol and route for handling body rub centre complaints.	Body Rub Centres Task Force Implementation Team led by Citizen Services	ONGOING A protocol is in place and part of ongoing operations.
25	Review and update the practitioner licensing course material to be more relevant, paying particular attention to health and safety information. - Provide information on options available to potential practitioners, including career options, bursaries for education, housing supports, childcare, etc. - Offer licensing course information in multiple languages - Include an assessment tool in the course to ensure practitioners have understood the material presented to them - Review the course material in conjunction with body rub centre owners, current and former workers and relevant public sector and nonprofit organizations with expertise to ensure its suitability	Body Rub Centres Task Force Implementation Team led by Citizen Services	ONGOING Course content was updated January 2017. Review of material is ongoing and input from participants is gathered after each session and suggestions implemented where possible. Translations completed in March 2017 and translators hired (when needed) starting in January 2018.
26	Train City of Edmonton licensing and compliance staff to recognize signs of exploitation and vulnerability (including human trafficking) and create guidelines on how to appropriately deal with it.	Body Rub Centres Task Force Implementation Team led by Citizen Services	ONGOING Initial training was completed in quarter one 2017 and is provided on an ongoing basis as required.