



January 3rd, 2023

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of ANSWER Society to express our support for changing the terminology within the business license category. Specifically, we endorse replacing "Exotic Dancer" with "Erotic Dancer."

The historical context of "exotic dancer" traces back to Victorian-era rural fairs featuring women dancers from distant countries, evolving into a subtype of burlesque by the 1930s. Recent insights from Kitty Velour and other community members highlight its problematic origins, as dances initially performed by Black or Middle-Eastern dancers were later "imported" into Europe and North America with white dancers replacing them.

In our commitment to inclusivity and cultural sensitivity, ANSWER Society recognizes the concerns surrounding "exotic dance." Criticized for potential cultural appropriation and reinforcement of stereotypes, we believe "erotic dancer" better reflects the nature of the work without promoting cultural insensitivity.

Considering these concerns, we recommend adopting "erotic dancer" as a transparent and straightforward alternative for licensing purposes. This term explicitly conveys the performance nature without introducing potential cultural or racial implications associated with "exotic dancer."

Thank you for your consideration.

Kindly,
Sophie Hallée

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sophie Hallée".

Director
ANSWER Society