

Body Rub/Massage Industry – Restricted Hours of Operation

Bylaw 16119 - Business Licence
Bylaw Amendment No. 21

Purpose

To amend the Business Licence Bylaw 13138 to restrict hours of operations for Body Rub Centres.

Readings

Bylaw 16119 is ready for three readings.

If Council wishes to give three readings during a single meeting, then prior to moving third reading, Council must unanimously agree “That Bylaw 16119 be considered for third reading.”

Position of Administration

Administration maintains the same position and concerns that were presented at the April 25, 2012, Executive Committee meeting report 2012SCP008.

Report Summary

This Bylaw amends the Business Licence Bylaw by restricting the allowable hours of operation for Body Rub Centres from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the April 25, 2012, Executive Committee meeting, the following motion was passed:

That Administration prepare amendments to Bylaw 13138 – Business Licence Bylaw, to restrict

hours of operation for body rub/massage industry to 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. and provide a report to City Council.

Report

This Bylaw amendment adds regulations to Body Rub Centres that restrict the allowable hours of operation to 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Body Rub Centres have had the ability to operate 24 hours a day since January 1, 2012. Administration recommended no changes to the Business Licence Bylaw regulations, citing insufficient documented evidence that unrestricted hours create issues for staff, patrons or the community. In addition, Administration expressed concern that excessive regulations may unintentionally drive industry activity underground.

Enforcement agencies and community organizations recommend restricting Body Rub Centre hours of operation, suggesting unrestricted hours of operation may increase instances of criminal code violations and exploitation of industry workers, and create additional safety risks.

Administration has prepared this Bylaw for City Council at the direction of Executive Committee. Impacts will be monitored and findings will be provided in a status report to Executive Committee in the first quarter of 2013.

Corporate Outcomes

This bylaw supports the goal to “Improve Edmonton’s liveability” as described in the Way Ahead – City of Edmonton Strategic Plan 2009-2018.

Attachments

1. Bylaw 16119

Others Reviewing this Report

- D. H. Edey, General Manager,
Corporate Services