

Body Rub Centres Task Force Recommendation Implementation

Recommendation	Lead	Status
1 Require body rub centres to have a number of approved plans (e.g. security control, emergency response) 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 - Ongoing Amended by Council on March 1, 2016. 2019 - Working with Law and licensing to update control plans to reflect current trends in the industry.
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	COMPLETE - Ongoing On-site 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. 2019 - Community safety liaison acts as the single point of contact for workers within the centres. Regular outreach conducted with other agencies offering direct client service has helped bridge gaps and ease access.
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	COMPLETE - Ongoing Resource binders contain health information and promote Alberta Health Services 811 service, discussions with Alberta Health Services are ongoing. 2019 - Health information provided by Compass and Street Works within the licence information sessions is continually updated. Outreach nurse from StreetWorks attends body rub centres on an ongoing basis with Implementation Team members.

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	<p>COMPLETE - Ongoing Implementation Team is continuing to assist with the facilitation.</p> <p>2019 - Continual relationship building with Edmonton Police Service Human Trafficking and Exploitation Unit to ensure complaints are handled appropriately. As a single point of contact, the community safety liaison also supports practitioners to access Edmonton Police Service directly, or with support through The Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation and other non-profit agencies well placed to support people longer-term.</p>
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	<p>COMPLETE - Ongoing Amended by Council on March 1, 2016.</p> <p>2019 - Ongoing enforcement, awareness and education by municipal enforcement officers to primarily centre owners of this requirement. Clarifying this requirement for centre owners is a priority in the current control plan updates.</p>
6	Ensure regular occupational health and safety inspections of body rub centres.	Body Rub Centres Task Force Implementation Team led by Citizen Services	<p>COMPLETE - Ongoing</p> <p>2019 - Implementation team observes the state of centres during outreach or inspections and is continually working to support owners to increase safety of their businesses and improve working conditions.</p>
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	<p>COMPLETE - Ongoing Administration will continue to build relationships with provincial and federal departments and align with policy and legislation.</p> <p>2019 - Regular attendance at The Action Coalition on Human Trafficking Alberta Enforcement Collaboration Team meetings, and</p>

			formation of a working group specifically to address emerging concerns in this industry.
8	Reduce the cost of body rub centre licences to bring them in line with other business licenses (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's 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 - Ongoing This function exists through programs such as KARE and we 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 - Ongoing 2019 - Course is currently offered bi-weekly, in-person only. The time of the course was changed to accommodate feedback provided by participants needing to arrange childcare in order to attend.
13	Increase fines to body rub centres to levels that act as a real deterrent to non-compliance.	Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development	COMPLETE No change required.
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 2019 - The Family Centre Centralized Interpretation Services was contracted in 2019 for 24 participants at 19 information sessions, 18 times for centre visits/inspections and two for control plan meetings with centre owners. ASSIST Community Services provides volunteer hours to update printed materials and licence

			information session presentation content as needed.
15	Do not allow for the transfer of centre licenses - 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 license 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	COMPLETE - Ongoing 2019 - Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development is currently in the process of the full bylaw rewrite for the Business Licence Bylaw 13138. The applicable sections of this bylaw (Part IV: Body Rub Centre Sec. 33, Body Rub Practitioner Sec. 35, Escort Sec. 39-42, Escort Agency Sec. 43-44, Escort Agency (Independent) Sec. 45-47, Exotic Entertainer Sec. 48-51, Exotic Entertainment Agency Sec. 52-53, Exotic Entertainment Venue Sec. 54-55) are scheduled for rewrite to be complete in 2021.
19	Establish a higher standard for issuance of body rub centre business licenses 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	COMPLETE - Ongoing discussions with Enforcement Officers provide opportunities to determine required Business Licence Bylaw amendments. Currently the Bylaw has 4 additional application requirements and 10 deemed conditions.

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 CPTED analysis when reviewing applications for development permits. 	Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development	COMPLETE
21	Review advertising standards for body rub centres and ensure that standards for public signs are set and met. These standards would ensure discreet signage.	Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development	COMPLETE No change required, federally regulated.
22	Ensure a comprehensive and integrated planning process that brings together staff from licensing, enforcement, and community services when dealing with body rub centre business license applications.	Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development and Body Rub Centres Task Force Implementation Team led by Citizen Services	ONGOING The two departments work together on this file
23	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 creation of an integrated team that ensure compliance and supports body rub centres. This team would have a public safety focus.	Body Rub Centres Task Force Implementation Team led by Citizen Services	ONGOING The Body Rub Centres Task Force Team has been meeting with Edmonton Police Service Human Trafficking and Exploitation Unit since the start of the Task Force to create and maintain a collaborative approach. The implementation team also links back to Human Trafficking and Exploitation Unit 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	COMPLETE 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 support, 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	COMPLETE - Ongoing 2019 - The licence information session materials are currently translated into three languages (Mandarin, Spanish and French) and an interpreter is hired on an as-needed basis. An assessment tool is used and materials are continually updated based on feedback (assessment is also available in the same three languages as above). Course content is collaborative with the Implementation Team presenting information on bylaws and regulations, City resources and supports . The Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation discusses supports available for schooling, career options, housing support, etc. Compass Centre for Sexual Wellness shares information on safe sex practices, birth control and consent. Lastly, StreetWorks educates on opioids, overdose prevention and Naloxone administration, as well as offers on-site sexually transmitted infection testing following the course for those who are interested.
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	COMPLETE - Ongoing 2019 - Implementation team began training for licensing clerks to recognize the signs of human trafficking and some strategies around what to do if they have concerns about an applicant's safety. Training began in July 2019