

To: Mayor John Taylor, Newmarket Town Councillors & Staff

I am writing as a concern citizen and resident of York Region, to thank you for the work you have done to protect the wellbeing and safety of our community, families and children from the negative impact of Body Rub Parlours. I am asking that you hold firm to your decision and vote YES to ratify By-law 2020-31 being amended to adopt the proposed Personal Wellness Establishment with stricter language and accreditation requirements.

I am deeply troubled by the fact that advocacy groups from Toronto are attempting to cloud the truth of what body rub parlours really are and what "sex work" truly represents. Survivors of human trafficking, the Toronto Police and front-line service providers have all confirmed that people are being trafficked in body rub parlours and holistic spas throughout Ontario and Canada under the umbrella of "sex work". These 'businesses' are fronts for sexual exploitation. The City of Toronto has itself acknowledged this reality.

I would ask that you watch this short video, where 6 women who were formerly in body rub parlours talk about the truth and realities of this experience.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5rZon5hgwE&feature=youtu.be>

Unlike these Toronto groups, I am a resident of York Region and I am standing with you to bring an end to sexual exploitation through body rub parlours and other like establishments in our town. I am asking that you vote YES to ratify By-law 2020-31 being amended to adopt the proposed Personal Wellness Establishment with stricter language and accreditation requirements.

With respect,

Wendy Lee
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Markham ON