



Marnie Hill, Deputation Newmarket Committee of the Whole – June 16, 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. I have read the PWE Staff Report and I commend Flynn Scott and his team in their efforts to establish a licensing framework for Personal Wellness Establishments in Newmarket. I also commend you, Mayor and Council, for undertaking this complex issue. For becoming the first municipality in the Region to step up and take a stand against the exploitation, abuse and trafficking of women in body rub parlours.

You just heard Robert Vallee speak of the critical importance that your new framework for PWEs be robust enough to stand on its own. To have enough teeth to enable enforcement by city staff so that police involvement is rarely, if ever, required.

I believe that the Licensing Framework for PWEs before you effectively achieves that goal. Therefore, my ask of you today is threefold:

1. That you unanimously endorse the Staff Report Framework and all its recommendations, amendments and improvements, as it brings a full prohibition to any business related to sexual activity while allowing legitimate wellness businesses to exist.
2. That, in support of the efforts by -- the Council of Women Against Sex Trafficking in York Region and PACT Markham -- to end the sexual exploitation and trafficking of women in commercial establishments in all of York Region, that you authorize our use of your Licensing Framework for PWEs. We would like to use it as the basis for our discussion with the remaining eight municipalities of the Region, asking for their support and implementation before the next municipal election in October 2022.
3. I ask that you designate a member of Council to work with us to enlist the Region of York ... along with our Provincial government ... in amending the Municipal Act of Ontario:
 - To not license body rub parlours,
 - To provide legitimate massage establishments with protection from unwanted competition by criminal massage operators,
 - To protect trained and qualified personal wellness providers from the harassment of unwanted requests for sexual services by clients,
 - To free up police resources to focus on their equally critical child-trafficking prevention initiatives, and
 - To support the Province's human trafficking initiative.

By working together, we can make the trafficking, exploitation and abuse of women and girls a historic footnote ... not only in Newmarket but in all of Ontario. **Can we count on your support?**

Marnie Hill
Director of Communications
Council of Women Against Sex Trafficking in York Region

Cc Robert Vallee, PACT Founder, Board Chair & CEO