

Subject: Vote **YES** on Business By-law 2020-31 being amended to adopt the proposed Personal Wellness Establishment with stricter language and requirements

To: Mayor John Taylor, Newmarket Town Councillors & City Staff

Dear Mayor, Councillors and City Staff,

I am writing firsthand to you as a Survivor. I was exploited and trafficked for a decade in these types of establishments while yet a student at one of Newmarket's high schools.

Thank you for the work you have done to protect others, mainly women and children, who through no act of their own find themselves in the same establishments I once was in. Also, thank you for maintaining 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 coming 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 prostitution. The City of Toronto has itself acknowledged this reality. Another frustrating truth, our region and tax payers fund out of jurisdiction investigations <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/man-arrested-for-pimping-underage-teen-1.903193>, which is perfectly fine with me, if we also dedicate ourselves to preventing these same establishments that facilitate exploitation and trafficking.

Even more, that Newmarket Counsel has been accused of racist and anti – Asian discriminative behaviours and attitudes was nothing more than a public bully tactic. These same tactics used against individuals who find themselves in this system is all too common and nearly undefendable alone. One woman in this short video speaks of exactly this experience here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5rZon5hgwE&feature=youtu.be>

As a first hand witness, let me share with you why I believe this accusation is a farce made simply to bully and discredit your decision and vote – ultimately taking the view off of the trafficked and exploited.

In the early 1990's it was mainly Canadians and Eastern European women in Licensed facilities. At the time, it was mostly because of the Visitor Visa system that organized criminals used to aid their operations. "Stripper" Visa's, Visitor Visa's etc. were the legislated systems that criminals used to funnel victims here. Why, simply because this system is preferred by the criminal to remain undetected, while maximizing their ability to commercialize and commodify their victims. Stripper Visa's ended, understanding victims of trafficking and exploitation were found too many. Fast forward to today, the model has adapted to include a false accreditation system. It's the same thing only we are now seeing mainly Asian based exploitation and trafficking instead of

Eastern European in the GTHA still because of the Visa entry system, the Temporary Foreign Worker etc, but organized crime is still the benefactor and culprit.

I will also have you know, its only in the GTHA that there is an overrepresentation of Asian and South Asian persons. Anywhere else its simply not the case, yet you are led to believe this myth as well. People do safety and economic prosperity, just not this way.

This is not Anti Asian sentiment; this is not an act of hatred. What is a racist, colonizing act? What is hatred toward any nation or individual? When any Canadian Government official or citizen, sitting in comfortable offices or homes, fed, housed, and warm agree to make a system, or be a part of one that sells others we are told and know are less comfortable and disadvantaged for sex in Newmarket. That is hatred and Anti-Asian sentiment.

To be in solidarity with those trafficked or at risk anywhere, you will vote YES to adopt this report.

In gratitude to you as a public servant,

Cassandra Diamond
Survivor of licensed establishments.
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