



MONTEREY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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**MONTEREY CONTINUES REGULATION TO ENSURE MESSAGE
BUSINESSES ARE OPERATING LEGITIMATELY**

The Monterey Police Department continues to ensure that massage businesses operating in the City of Monterey are legitimate and are not furthering prostitution and human trafficking.

Recent enforcement actions have culminated in ensuring compliance with Monterey's Massage Establishment Ordinance. As a point of reference, on June 16, 2015, the Monterey City Code (MCC), Chapter 22, Article 1, Section 22-31 et seq. ("Massage Establishment Ordinance") was updated. The City of Monterey based the Massage Establishment Ordinance on best practices suggested by the California Massage Therapy Council (CAMTC), which assists California Law Enforcement entities with promulgating regulatory processes and certifies and regulates qualified massage professionals. The MPD conducts various investigative techniques to ensure compliance with the ordinance.

Since the update to the Massage Establishment Ordinance, several massage businesses have been found to be in violation of various sections of the Massage Establishment Ordinance and nine massage establishment permits have been denied or revoked by the Chief of Police. In several of the cases the decision was appealed to the Monterey Appeals Hearing Board.

Examples of the violations have included; solicitation of prostitution, advertising that suggests that prohibited service is available, providing massage in lingerie, employing an unlicensed masseuse, operating a massage establishment in which unprofessional conduct occurs, locking doors during business hours, failing to post necessary information visible from the front entry door, failing to have an on-site manager present, using the establishment for residential purposes, and failure to display current valid CAMTC identification on the person.

The following businesses have had their massage establishment permits denied or revoked as a result of MPD investigations which led to the discovery of violations of the Massage Establishment Ordinance:

- Golden Therapy, 299 Form Street, Suite A, Monterey (01-18-19)
- Win Spa, 243 Foam Street, Suite B, Monterey (12-20-18)
- Luna Foot Massage, 380 Foam Street, Suite E, Monterey (12-20-18)
- Lighthouse Massage Studio, 761 Lighthouse Suite C, Monterey (08-28-17)
- Cypress Studio, 580 Casanova, Monterey (08-28-17)
- Diamond Massage & Spa, 343 Ocean Avenue, Monterey (02-16-16)
- Sea Story, 457 Webster, Monterey (10-16-15)
- Asian Spa, 2252 Fremont Street, Monterey, California (10-12-15)
- Hart Therapy, 525 Hartnell Street, Monterey, California (09-22-15)

Pursuant to Monterey City Code, the denial or revocation of a massage establishment permit, as the result of violations of the code, requires that no permit may be issued at that location for a period of five years.

The MPD will continue to regulate to ensure legitimacy for the massage profession as well as addressing illicit operators which may be contributing to human trafficking.

For Immediate Release

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