

Testimony in Support of HB-5455

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I WANT TO THANK THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR BEING WILLING TO HEAR OUR CONCERNS AND FOR THEIR AVAILABILITY IN ADDRESSING AN ISSUE THAT HAS BEEN OF GREAT CONCERN TO MANY OF THE CITIZENS OF BRIDGEPORT. I URGE YOU TO SUPPORT THE PASSAGE OF HB5455K, AN ACT CONCERNING PENALTIES FOR AND THE INVESTIGATION OF THE OPERATION OF ILLEGAL MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS.

THE ISSUE OF THE MASSAGE PARLORS IS ONE THAT HAS BEEN A THORN IN MY SIDE SINCE WE MOVED TO THE BLACK ROCK SECTION OF BRIDGEPORT FROM FAIRFIELD 15 YEARS AGO. MANY OF US WHO ARE COMMITTED TO THE CITY HAVE WORKED SO HARD TO RECLAIM THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF BLACK ROCK, WHICH TO US IS A VERY SPECIAL PLACE. THE NUMBER OF STOREFRONTS ALONG FAIRFIELD AVENUE, KNOWN AS MASSAGE PARLORS. WHICH HAVE BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR YEARS, IS VERY DISCONCERTING.

RUMORS PERSIST ABOUT WHETHER THE WOMEN WHO "WORK" IN THESE ESTABLISHMENTS ARE FORCED TO DO SO. IN ADDITION MANY OF US QUESTION WHO IS PROFITING FROM THESE BUSINESSES.

SUCH SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESSES MAKE STATEMENTS ABOUT OUR PRIORITIES AS A CITY AND THEIR PRESENCE MUST BE ADDRESSED AND REGULATED. PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE OF US WHO ARE FIGHTING TO RECLAIM BRIDGEPORT AND MAKE IT A SAFE, PLEASANT, FAMILY ORIENTED, AND VIABLE PLACE TO LIVE.

SINCERELY,

MAXINE D GREENBERG, MSW, LCSW

265 BALMFORTH ST

BRIDGEPORT, 06605

March 16 2012