

TO: Connecticut State Legislators
4/15/13

RE: Support of HB 6683 Nuisance abatement legislation

In 2012 we were able to get new legislation passed which concerned the issue of the massage "therapy" spas which impacted our quality of life here in Bridgeport.

This legislation allowed police to shut down illegal massage parlors that engaged in prostitution and human trafficking; In addition this law helped promote legitimate massage therapy businesses. It provided our police force with an excellent tool to close down the illegitimate businesses operating as fronts for prostitution;

Police used the new Massage law to close down 10 illegitimate businesses in Bridgeport; However some of the massage parlors reopened after a few weeks; The police revisited the once closed parlors, and closed them a second time. This occurred again, when the same ones reopened again. Such repeated police activity in a city like Bridgeport is clearly a huge waste of time and energy. Monitoring these businesses and continuously going in to make arrests, etc. becomes drain on already strained police department resources; Clearly the massage parlor bill which was enacted, is only one step in the right direction of eliminating illegitimate businesses that repeatedly engage in criminal activity and it is clear to see that this legislation sadly does not have enough clout to give law enforcement officers the power to shut down these places permanently;

Since we as taxpayers both in Bridgeport and the State of Connecticut support a quality of life for our neighborhood and our city we are asking you to support the nuisance abatement law which reinforces the capacity of our police to shut down these establishments which are involved in criminal activities, such as prostitution, human trafficking, drug sales, and violent behavior in a family oriented neighborhood. This proposed law about nuisance abatement not only protects our families and children, but also encourages law and promote economic development in our cities and towns by attracting legitimate businesses.

Thank you for your attention and your support in this very important matter.

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