

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN AND
HILDA L. SOLIS

November 21, 2017

Massage Establishment Inspection Ordinance

The State of California currently does not require annual health and safety inspections of massage parlors. Only two cities in Los Angeles County – Bell and the City of Commerce – currently contract with Los Angeles Department of Public Health (DPH) to perform annual health and safety inspections for massage parlors. Placing massage parlors under annual inspection for compliance with health and safety requirements protects the public’s health and also reduces opportunities for illegal activities, such as human trafficking.

In order for unincorporated County to have massage parlors inspected annually for health and safety, we must amend our municipal code. In June of 2017, all city managers were sent a letter and given the opportunity to contract with the County for annual massage establishment inspection services, but many incorporated cities also do not have an ordinance that requires massage parlors to be inspected annually for health and safety. If the County were to adopt such an ordinance, other cities who are

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interested in contracting with DPH could adopt the language, which would help deter illegal operations such as human trafficking and provide uniformity in the operation of these venues in unincorporated and incorporated areas.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct County Counsel, in consultation with the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Business License Division under the Treasurer and Tax Collector to:

1. Prepare an ordinance that establishes massage parlor health and safety requirements, requires a public health permit for annual inspections, and recovers costs for such inspections through fees.
2. Submit the recommended ordinance for Board consideration within 180 days.
3. Send a letter to city managers in Los Angeles County encouraging them to adopt the County ordinance on massage parlors so that the establishments in their city shall also be under annual inspection and to contract with DPH to perform these inspections.

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