

Council Meeting of
September 14, 2010

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Adopt an interim urgency ORDINANCE enacting a moratorium on the issuance of any permits or licenses for new massage and acupuncture establishments. Expenditure: N/A.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the City Attorney, the Chief of Police, the Community Development Director and the Finance Director that City Council adopt an Interim Urgency ORDINANCE enacting a moratorium on the issuance of any permits or licenses for new massage and acupuncture establishments. Staff further recommends that the City Council approve the attached summary of the Interim Urgency Ordinance for publication.

FUNDING

Not applicable.

BACKGROUND

Since 2002 there has been a dramatic increase in the number of massage therapy businesses operating in the City of Torrance. This trend has heightened public safety and health concerns based on the criminal activity that can be associated with this type of business. The City and the Police Department have received complaints regarding various massage businesses in the City. Complaints range from nuisance and public eyesore issues to overt prostitution activity. While there are legitimate massage businesses in operation, others are fronts for criminal activity. During its investigations of massage businesses in the City, the Police Department has encountered violations of the Torrance Municipal Code as well as lewd conduct criminal activity.

In 2002, the City had only 14 licensed massage businesses and fewer than 60 licensed massage technicians. By April 2009 the number had grown to 36 licensed massage businesses and 261 licensed massage technicians. As of the end of August 2010, the number of licensed massage businesses had grown to 44. The City continues to receive and process new applications. In the past eight years, the City's number of licensed massage businesses has more than doubled and its number of licensed massage technicians has more than quadrupled, with concomitant negative

effects on the quality of life within the community and impacts to the Police Department's ability to provide a safe and secure community.

In the past several years, the City has experienced a sharp rise in problems associated with massage establishments. From January 2009 to August 31, 2010, there have been a total of 13 convictions for violations of California Penal Code Sections 647(a) (lewd conduct) and 647(b) (prostitution), and Section 35.12.7(f) of the Torrance Municipal Code (immoral massage). From December 2009 to February 2010, six massage establishments have had their business licenses revoked for violations of Sections 647(a) and 647(b) of the California Penal Code. Four other massage establishments have had their business licenses conditioned for a probationary period pursuant to settlement agreements, based on violations for unlicensed massage technicians and failure to follow sanitary guidelines listed in the Torrance Municipal Code.

In addition to the problems identified with respect to massage establishments, the Police Department has also experienced a number of problems with respect to acupuncture establishments. In the past eighteen months, the Police Department has carried out undercover operations with respect to seven acupuncture establishments. Citations were issued with respect to all seven establishments. Four establishments were cited for violations of Penal Code section 647(a)[lewd conduct in an area accessible to the public]. One other acupuncture establishment was cited for a violation of Penal Code section 647(b)[prostitution]. No licensed acupuncturists were on the premises. Six of the seven establishments did not have acupuncture equipment or supplies on the site. The remaining two establishments were cited for violations of the Torrance Municipal Code, including unlicensed masseuses. Three of the establishments have closed. Action is pending against the others.

There are currently 42 licensed medical acupuncture establishments within the City, up from 41 establishments eighteen months ago.

California Government Code section 65858 allows the City to adopt as an urgency measure an interim ordinance prohibiting any uses that may be in conflict with a zoning proposal that the City Council, Planning Commission, or the Community Development Department is considering or studying or intends to study within a reasonable time. In general, there are three requirements for the adoption of a Temporary Moratorium Ordinance. First, the Temporary Moratorium Ordinance must be approved by a four-fifths vote. Second, the Temporary Moratorium Ordinance can remain in effect for an initial period of no more than 45 days. Third, to adopt the Temporary Moratorium Ordinance the City Council must make a legislative finding that there is a current and immediate threat to the public health, safety, or welfare, and that approval of additional licenses for massage or acupuncture establishments and technicians would result in a threat to the public health, safety, or welfare.

During the initial 45 day period of the moratorium, the City Council may hold an additional noticed public hearing, after which it may extend the moratorium for an additional period of 10 months and 15 days. A second extension – again after a noticed public hearing – of one additional year is also available. All extensions of the moratorium period require four-fifths votes.

ANALYSIS

On September 1, 2009 the California Legislature enacted new statutes that impact how local government regulates massage businesses and massage technicians (Senate Bill (SB) 731). SB 731 effectively gutted local control over the licensing of massage establishments and massage technicians.

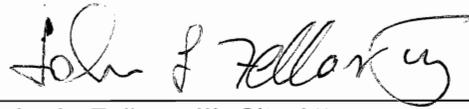
In response to these new statutes in 2009, the City modified its procedures for the licensing of massage businesses and massage technicians. These new procedures have not been as effective in controlling criminal activity associated with massage businesses as staff hoped.

This year in Assembly Bill (AB) 1822 the California Legislature reconsidered the statewide massage statutes enacted by SB 731. As introduced in February 2010, AB 1822 would have returned the licensing of massage establishments and massage technicians to local control as of January 1, 2016. During its course through the Legislature, the bill was amended six times, before being enacted on August 31, 2010, the last date on which the Legislature could act. As finally enacted all provisions of AB 1822 that would have returned licensing of massage establishments and massage technicians to local control as of January 1, 2016, have been removed. As enacted, all that remains of AB 1822 is the enlargement of the board of directors of the nonprofit Massage Therapy Organization created by SB 731 to issue statewide massage certificates. Pursuant to the new legislation the board of directors would be increased by two members: one member selected by the California Police Chiefs Association and one member selected by the California State Sheriffs' Association. AB 1822 has been sent to the Governor for signature.

Staff recommends City Council adopt the attached interim urgency ORDINANCE establishing a moratorium on the establishment of massage therapy businesses and acupuncture businesses. The moratorium will focus on a staff review of appropriate zoning districts for massage establishments and acupuncture establishments, as the first task in updating the City's zoning ordinance to bring it into conformity with the City's newly revised general plan.

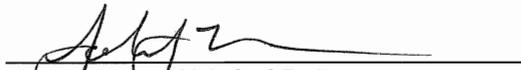
A letter notifying landlords of the City's massage businesses of the proposed urgency ordinance and its scheduled consideration by the City Council was mailed on September 8, 2010. A similar letter notifying the City's massage business owners and acupuncture business owners of the proposed urgency ordinance and its scheduled consideration by the City Council is expected to be mailed on September 9, 2010. Copies of the form of each notice letter are attached as Attachment 3.

Respectfully submitted,



John L. Fellows III, City Attorney

CONCUR:


John J. Neu, Chief of Police
Jeffrey W. Gibson,
Community Development Director
Eric Tsao, Finance Director

NOTED:


LeRoy J. Jackson, City Manager

Attachments:

- A. Ordinance
- B. Ordinance Summary
- C. Form of Notice Letters

URGENCY ORDINANCE NO. _____

**AN INTERIM ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY
ADOPTED AS AN URGENCY MEASURE ESTABLISHING
A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON ISSUANCE OF
PERMITS AND BUSINESS LICENSES FOR MASSAGE
AND ACUPUNCTURE ESTABLISHMENTS.**

The City Council of the City of Torrance ordains as follows:

Section 1. Purpose and Intent

The purpose of this Ordinance is to provide for the public safety, health and welfare of residents of the City of Torrance by exercising the police power provided for in the California Constitution that underlies the City's zoning powers, so that the location and operation of massage and acupuncture establishments in the City is conducted in such a manner as to be compatible with existing and future uses. In order that this may be accomplished, the City Council intends to impose a temporary moratorium on the issuance of permits, business licenses and any other entitlement for such establishments, except those establishments exempted by this ordinance, in order to provide City staff, the City Council, and the residents of the City sufficient time to consider a comprehensive ordinance regulating the zoning and siting of such establishments.

Section 2. Applicability

The provisions of this Ordinance will apply to all applicants seeking to open massage establishments within the City.

a. For purposes of this Ordinance massage establishment has the same meaning as that contained in Torrance Municipal Code Section 35.14.020(e):

"The term 'massage business or establishment' means any business or establishment which offers massage therapy in exchange for compensation at a fixed place of business. Any business or establishment which offers any combination of massage therapy and bath facilities, including, but not limited to, showers, baths, wet and dry heat rooms, pools and hot tubs, will be deemed a massage business or establishment under this Article."

b. For purposes of this Ordinance massage therapy has the same meaning as that contained in Torrance Municipal Code Section 35.14.020(c):

“Massage, Massage Therapy, Bodywork. The terms ‘massage,’ ‘massage therapy,’ and ‘bodywork’ are used in this Article interchangeably and mean the application of various techniques to the muscular structure and soft tissues of the human body, including, but not limited to, any method of pressure or friction against, or stroking, kneading, rubbing, tapping, compression, pounding, vibrating, rocking or stimulating of the external surfaces of the body with hands or with any object or appliance. The terms ‘massage,’ ‘massage therapy,’ and ‘bodywork’ specifically exclude the diagnosis, prescription, intentional manipulation or adjustments of the skeletal structure, or any other service, procedure or therapy which requires a license to practice (e.g., chiropractic, osteopathy, orthopedics, physical therapy, podiatry, or medicine), hypnosis, naturopathic, colonic irrigation, acupuncture, vacuum cupping, nutritional or dietary counseling, detoxification programs, yoga, exercise, spiritual healing, or procedures which penetrate body cavities, either manually or with any other method of intrusion.”

Massage establishments shall be subject to all the provisions as set forth below, unless otherwise specified in this Ordinance, notwithstanding other existing zoning provisions and regulations of the City of Torrance.

The provisions of this Ordinance will also apply to all applicants seeking to open acupuncture establishments within the City.

Section 3. Temporary Moratorium

a. Moratorium Applies to All Zoning Districts Within the City. Within all areas situated in the City of Torrance, State of California, including but not limited to each and every zone and zoning district, there shall be a temporary moratorium in effect, commencing on the effective date of this Ordinance, prohibiting the issuance of permits for construction or remodeling of massage and acupuncture establishments, of the issuance of business licenses or of any other entitlement for such establishments, except for renewals of business licenses of existing and approved massage and acupuncture establishments, notwithstanding other existing zoning provisions and regulations of the City of Torrance.

b. Applicant may elect to have City staff continue to accept and process applications during moratorium. This temporary moratorium is not intended to affect the acceptance and/or processing of permit applications by City staff for any and all establishments described above in Section 2: it is intended to prohibit only the issuance of permits and business licenses for such

establishments. City Staff will continue to accept permit applications received after the effective date of this Ordinance. At the applicant's written request, the City will continue to process applications during the term of the moratorium; however, any new standards for such establishments and the permitting thereof which are adopted during the moratorium and are effective at the expiration of the moratorium will nevertheless apply to each such application. Any time limits or mandatory approval of time frames relative to the processing and action upon permit applications for any and all establishments described above in Section 2 are tolled during the term of this moratorium.

Section 4. Exceptions

The provisions of this Ordinance will not apply to the issuance of renewals of currently valid business licenses for massage and acupuncture establishments.

Section 5. Authority and Findings

a. Authority for adoption. This ordinance is an interim zoning ordinance adopted as an urgency measure pursuant to Article XI, Section 7 of the California Constitution, California Government Code Section 65858, and Torrance City Charter Section 726, to protect the public safety, health and welfare by prohibiting land uses that may be in conflict with a contemplated zoning proposal which the Community Development Director, Planning Commission and City Council intend to consider and study within a reasonable time.

b. Findings. The City Council hereby finds that there is a current and immediate threat to the public health, safety and welfare resulting from the approval of use permits, variances, building permits, business licenses, or any other applicable entitlement for massage and acupuncture establishments, and that such approvals and any further introduction of massage establishments into the designated areas would result in a threat to public health, safety and welfare, for the following reasons:

(1) Massage establishments are businesses that involve significant intimate contact between persons, which creates opportunities for acts of prostitution and other unlawful sexual activity to occur.

(2) At the present time there are 44 licensed massage establishments and 42 licensed acupuncture establishments operating within the City.

(3) In the past several years, the City has experienced a sharp rise in problems associated with massage establishments. From January 2009 to August 31, 2010, there have been a total of 13 convictions for violations of California

Penal Code Sections 647(a) (lewd conduct) and 647(b) (prostitution), and Section 35.12.7(f) of the Torrance Municipal Code (immoral massage). From December 2009 to February 2010, six massage establishments have had their business licenses revoked for violations of Sections 647(a) and 647(b) of the California Penal Code. Four other massage establishments have had their business licenses conditioned for a probationary period pursuant to settlement agreements, based on violations for unlicensed massage technicians and failure to follow sanitary guidelines listed in the Torrance Municipal Code.

(4) In addition to the problems identified with respect to massage establishments, the Torrance Police Department has also experienced a number of problems with respect to acupuncture establishments. In the past eighteen months, the Police Department has carried out undercover operations with respect to seven acupuncture establishments. Citations were issued with respect to all seven establishments. Four establishments were cited for violations of Penal Code section 647(a)[lewd conduct in an area accessible to the public]. One other acupuncture establishment was cited for a violation of Penal Code section 647(b)[prostitution]. No licensed acupuncturists were on the premises. Six of the seven establishments did not have acupuncture equipment or supplies on the site. The remaining two establishments were cited for violations of the Torrance Municipal Code, including unlicensed masseuses. Three of the establishments have closed. Action is pending against the others.

(5) There is a current and immediate threat to the public health, safety and welfare because, without the moratorium, a massage or acupuncture establishment could be granted a license, or an overconcentration of massage or acupuncture establishments could occur within the City, without full protection to primary and secondary schools, residential zones and other sensitive receptors from the potential secondary effects of such establishments.

In view of the above, the City must proceed cautiously in considering and adopting revised zoning regulations for massage and acupuncture establishments, so that the location of such establishments in the City are conducted in a manner compatible with existing and future uses within the City.

Section 6. Written Report Required.

The report required by Government Code Section 65858(d) shall be prepared by the Community Development Department describing the measures taken or to be taken to alleviate the conditions that led to the adoption of this Ordinance. The report shall be issued no later than October 15, 2010.

Section 7. CEQA Exemption

The City Council finds that, regarding the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), there is no possibility that the adoption of this ordinance may have a significant adverse effect on the environment (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060(c)(2) and (3), 15061(b)(3)) because this ordinance will reduce the possibility of such effects by: limiting the range and intensity of new uses possible in the areas it covers and restricting new uses to those of a type that are more compatible with the established or planned character of those areas.

Section 8. Severability

If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is for any reason held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such provision shall be deemed severable, and the invalidity thereof shall not affect the remaining provisions or other applications of the Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application thereof.

Section 9. Effective Date and Publication

a. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage. It shall be of no further force and effect 45 days from its date of adoption unless extended following a public hearing, as provided for in Government Code Section 65858. A public hearing is hereby set for 7:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, on October 26, 2010, to be held in the City Council Chambers, 3031 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance, California, for the purpose of considering extending this Ordinance for a reasonable time, up to an additional 10 months and 15 days.

b. The City Clerk is authorized and directed to publish this Ordinance, before the expiration of fifteen (15) days after its passage. This Ordinance shall be published once, with the names of the City Council members voting for and against it, in at least one newspaper of general circulation published in the City of Torrance, State of California.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Torrance, State of California on the _____ day of _____, 2010, by the following vote.

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

Mayor, City of Torrance

ATTEST:

Sue Herbers, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

John L. Fellows III, City Attorney
By:

Patrick Q. Sullivan
Assistant City Attorney

ORDINANCE NO. _____

SUMMARY

On _____, 2010, the City Council of the City of Torrance adopted Ordinance No. _____, which establishes a temporary moratorium on the issuance of business licenses, building permits, or land use, zoning or other approvals which pertain to massage and acupuncture establishments. The Interim Urgency Ordinance took effect immediately upon its adoption. The Interim Urgency Ordinance shall continue in effect for 45 days from the date of its adoption and shall thereafter be of no further force and effect unless, after notice and a hearing pursuant to California Government Code section 65090, the City Council extends this Interim Urgency Ordinance pursuant to Government Code section 65858.

*****City Clerk to add a paragraph stating that copies of the ordinance are available at the City Clerk's office and stating the names of the City Council members that voted in favor and those that voted against.*****

**OFFICE OF THE
CITY ATTORNEY**

CITY ATTORNEY
JOHN L. FELLOWS III
ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY
PATRICK Q. SULLIVAN
DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEYS
TATIA Y. STRADER
DELLA D. THOMPSON-BELL
GILLIAN S. STUDWELL
JOCELYN N. POBLETE
LAW OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
ALICE RUSA

September 8, 2010

JOHN L. FELLOWS III
writer's direct dial:
310-618-5808
e-mail: JFellows@TorranceCA.gov

Recipient
Address

Re: ***Subject***

Dear ***Recipient***,

I am sending you this letter because City records indicate that you are owner of property at the above address that is leased to a massage establishment doing business as _____ (City of Torrance Business License Number _____).

In the past several years, the City has experienced a sharp rise in problems associated with massage establishments. From January 2009 to August 31, 2010, there have been a total of 13 convictions for violations of California Penal Code Sections 647(a) (lewd conduct) and 647(b) (prostitution), and Section 35.12.7(f) of the Torrance Municipal Code (immoral massage). From December 2009 to February 2010, six massage establishments have had their business licenses revoked for violations of Sections 647(a) and 647(b) of the California Penal Code. Four other massage establishments have had their business licenses conditioned for a probationary period pursuant to settlement agreements, based on violations for unlicensed massage technicians and failure to follow sanitary guidelines listed in the Torrance Municipal Code. Notwithstanding these enforcement efforts, the City believes that massage establishments within the City continue to present significant law enforcement problems.

For that reason I would like to advise you of additional enforcement tools available to the City to ensure compliance with state and local law. Title 1, Chapter 3, Article 2 of the California Penal Code contains the state's Red Light Abatement Law, portions of which I highlight for you.

§ 11225. Place of . . . prostitution . . . as nuisance

(a) Every building or place used for the purpose of . . . lewdness, assignation, or prostitution,

and every building or place in or upon which acts of . . . lewdness, assignation, or prostitution, are held or occur, is a nuisance which shall be enjoined, abated, and prevented, and for which damages may be recovered, whether it is a public or private nuisance.

§ 11226. Abatement action . . .

Whenever there is reason to believe that a nuisance . . . is kept, maintained, or is in existence . . . the city attorney . . . may maintain an action in equity to abate and prevent the nuisance and to perpetually enjoin the person conducting or maintaining it, and the owner, lessee, or agent of the building or place, in or upon which the nuisance exists, from directly or indirectly maintaining or permitting it.

§ 11229. Violation of injunction; Punishment

Any violation, or disobedience of an injunction or order expressly provided for by this article is punishable as a contempt of court by a fine of not less than two hundred dollars (\$200) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than one nor more than six months, or by both.

§ 11230. Order of abatement directing closing of building or payment of damages; Disposition of damages collected

(a) (1) If the existence of a nuisance is established in an action as provided in this article, an order of abatement shall be entered as a part of the judgment in the case, directing the removal from the building or place of all fixtures, musical instruments and movable property used in conducting, maintaining, aiding, or abetting the nuisance, and directing the sale thereof in the manner provided for the sale of chattels under execution, and the effectual closing of the building or place against its use for any purpose, and that it be kept closed for a period of one year, unless sooner released. . . .

(2) While the order remains in effect as to closing, the building or place is and shall remain in the custody of the court.

(3) For removing and selling the movable property, the officer is entitled to charge and receive the same fees as he or she would for levying upon and selling like property on execution.

(4) For closing the premises and keeping them closed, a reasonable sum shall be allowed by the court.

(b) The court may assess a civil penalty not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) against any and all of the defendants, based upon the severity of the nuisance and its duration.

§ 11231. Proceeds of sale; Sale of building

The proceeds of the sale of the property, as provided in Section 11230, shall be applied as follows:

1. To the fees and costs of removal and sale;
2. To the allowances and costs of closing and keeping closed the building or place;
3. To the payment of plaintiff's costs in the action;
4. The balance, if any, shall be paid to the owner of the property so sold.

If the proceeds of the sale do not fully discharge all such costs, fees and allowances, the building and place shall also be sold under execution issued upon the order of the court or judge and the proceeds of such sale applied in like manner.

§ 11235. "Building"

"Building" as used in this article means so much of any building or structure of any kind as is or may be entered through the same outside entrance.

In addition to the state's Red Light Abatement law, Sections 35.14.170 – 35.14.190 of the Torrance Municipal Code provide additional enforcement tools:

SECTION 35.14.170. - PUBLIC NUISANCE.

Any use or condition caused or permitted to exist in violation of any of the provisions of this Article will be and is hereby declared a public nuisance and, as such, may be abated or enjoined from further operation pursuant to Penal Code Section 370 et seq., Penal Code Section 11225 et seq., Civil Code Section 3479 et seq., Torrance Municipal Code Section 92.35.2, or any other federal, state, or local law.

SECTION 35.14.180. - CRIMINAL PENALTIES.

Any person subject to this Article who personally, or through an agent, employee, independent contractor or other representative, violates any provision of this Article commits a misdemeanor. Any person convicted of a misdemeanor will be subject to punishment by fine and/or imprisonment to the maximum extent permitted by state law.

SECTION 35.14.190. - CIVIL INJUNCTION.

The violation of any provision of this Article will be and is hereby declared to be contrary to the public interest and will, at the discretion of the City, create a cause for injunctive relief.

Red Light Abatement Letter
September 8, 2010
Page 4

Both the state's Red Light Abatement Law and the Torrance Municipal Code permit the City to abate nuisances and obtain injunctions both against the **owner** of properties that permit nuisances to exist and **directly against the property** itself. The City seeks your assistance in ensuring that no tenant of any property you own within the City operates in a way that violates state or local law. Should violations occur, in addition to revoking the business license of the offending massage establishment, the City will seriously consider proceeding with an abatement action to prevent recurring violations.

As a final note, I would like to advise you that at its meeting of September 14, 2010, the Council is scheduled to consider adoption of an urgency interim ordinance imposing a permit, business license and other entitlement moratorium on massage establishments, to enable the City to consider what zoning districts are appropriate for massage establishments. If adopted by the Council, the urgency ordinance would immediately stop the issuance of any additional permits of any kind for new massage establishments. The agenda and staff reports for that meeting should be available the afternoon of Thursday, September 9.

If you have any questions about this letter, please feel free to call me.

Very truly yours,

John L. Fellows III

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Re: ***Subject***

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There are currently 42 licensed medical acupuncture establishments within the City, up from 41 establishments eighteen months ago.

For that reason I would like to advise you of additional enforcement tools available to the City to ensure compliance with state and local law. Title 1, Chapter 3, Article 2 of the California Penal Code contains the state's Red Light Abatement Law, portions of which I highlight for you.

§ 11225. Place of . . . prostitution . . . as nuisance

(a) Every building or place used for the purpose of . . . lewdness, assignation, or prostitution, and every building or place in or upon which acts of . . . lewdness, assignation, or prostitution, are held or occur, is a nuisance which shall be enjoined, abated, and prevented, and for which damages may be recovered, whether it is a public or private nuisance.

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Any violation, or disobedience of an injunction or order expressly provided for by this article is punishable as a contempt of court by a fine of not less than two hundred dollars (\$200) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than one nor more than six months, or by both.

§ 11230. Order of abatement directing closing of building or payment of damages; Disposition of damages collected

(a) (1) If the existence of a nuisance is established in an action as provided in this article, an order of abatement shall be entered as a part of the judgment in the case, directing the removal from the building or place of all fixtures, musical instruments and movable property used in conducting, maintaining, aiding, or abetting the nuisance, and directing the sale thereof in the manner provided for the sale of chattels under execution, and the effectual closing of the building or place against its use for any purpose, and that it be kept closed for a period of one year, unless sooner released. . . .

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If the proceeds of the sale do not fully discharge all such costs, fees and allowances, the building and place shall also be sold under execution issued upon the order of the court or judge and the proceeds of such sale applied in like manner.

§ 11235. "Building"

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In addition to the state's Red Light Abatement law, Sections 35.14.170 – 35.14.190 of the Torrance Municipal Code provide additional enforcement tools:

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As a final note, I would like to advise you that at its meeting of September 14, 2010, the Council is scheduled to consider adoption of an urgency interim ordinance imposing a permit, business license and other entitlement moratorium on acupuncture and massage establishments, to enable the City to consider what zoning districts are appropriate for those types of establishments. If adopted by the Council, the urgency ordinance would immediately stop the issuance of any additional permits of any kind for new acupuncture establishments. The agenda and staff reports for that meeting should be available the afternoon of Thursday, September 9.

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TATIA Y. STRADER
DELLA D. THOMPSON-BELL
GILLIAN S. STUDWELL
JOCELYN N. POBLETE
LAW OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
ALICE RUSA

September 9, 2010

JOHN L. FELLOWS III
writer's direct dial:
310-618-5808
e-mail: JFellows@TorranceCA.gov

Property Operators

Address

Re: **Business Name, address (Business License Number _____)

Dear *

I am sending you this letter because City records indicate that you are operating a massage or an acupuncture establishment at the above address.

I would like to advise you that at its meeting of September 14, 2010, the Council is scheduled to consider adoption of an urgency interim ordinance imposing a moratorium on the issuance of permits, business licenses and other entitlements to massage establishments and acupuncture establishments, to enable the City to consider what zoning districts are appropriate for massage establishments and acupuncture establishments. If adopted by the Council, the urgency ordinance would immediately stop the issuance of any additional permits of any kind for new massage and acupuncture establishments, until an updated zoning ordinance is adopted. The agenda and staff reports for that meeting should be available the afternoon of Thursday, September 9.

If you have any questions about this letter, please feel free to call me.

Very truly yours,

John L. Fellows III