

March 12, 2019

Honorable Chris Cate  
Councilmember, Sixth District City of San Diego  
202 C Street, 10A  
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Councilmember Cate,

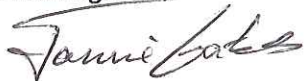
On behalf of the Center for Justice and Reconciliation (CJR) at Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU), we are pleased to offer this letter in support of your proposed changes to the City of San Diego's massage establishment police permit regulations and respectfully request that the City Attorney's office work with the San Diego Police Department to expedite the drafting of ordinance language and legal review.

The CJR is a national leader in the anti-human trafficking movement, with distinctly collaborative leadership across San Diego County. We've co-led groundbreaking research, funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, on the relationship between gangs and sex trafficking in which we listened to hundreds of survivors and over 54 traffickers. This research continues to inform regional efforts to address human trafficking. A central reason why labor and sex trafficking is so hard to predict is that it piggybacks on legitimate businesses. Research on massage parlors in New York and San Francisco have shown how simple it is to hide both labor and sex trafficking in a massage industry with limited regulation. The three massage parlors recently shut down in National City showed how easily human trafficking hides in plain sight. The legitimate massage industry in San Diego needs this level of regulation to keep unscrupulous actors from taking advantage of their industry.

The proposed changes to the City's massage establishment police permit regulations follow best practices that have been adopted by cities and counties throughout the State of California. The changes will provide greater local oversight for massage establishments and ensure businesses that engage in illegal activity, such as human trafficking, will be disciplined through a more streamlined process. We believe that these proposed changes will put the City in a much better position to stop human trafficking when it occurs in massage establishments.

We look forward to supporting you, City Attorney Mara Elliott, and the San Diego Police Department in this important move to prevent human trafficking in our community. Please let us know if there are specific ways we can work together to further increase the research, education and advocacy around human trafficking and better protect our most vulnerable neighbors together.

Kind regards,



Dr. Jamie Gates  
Director, Center for Justice & Reconciliation



Kim Berry Jones  
Director of CJR External Relations & Development

CC: Honorable Kevin L. Faulconer, Mayor  
Honorable Mara Elliott, City Attorney  
David Nisleit, Chief of Police  
Kris Michell, Chief Operating Officer