

ITEM	2
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	46
COUNCIL MEETING	90/07/09

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1990 July 04
 FROM: DIRECTOR FINANCE File: L34
 SUBJECT: LICENCING REQUIREMENTS OF SHIATSU AND REFLEXOLOGY CLINICS
 PURPOSE: To respond to a letter from Mr. Paul Thomson, Council
 investigator for the Association of Physiotherapists
 and Massage Practitioners

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1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mr. Paul Thomson of the Association of Physiotherapists and Massage Practitioners, #103 - 1089 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 1E5

REPORT

Appearing under Correspondence on this agenda is a letter from Mr. Paul Thomson of the Association of Physiotherapists and Massage Practitioners. The Association is the Provincial licencing body for physiotherapists and massage therapists. The letter expresses concern over the issuance of business licences to shiatsu (accupressure) practitioners, esthetics salons and reflexologists.

Staff met with Mr. Thomson to clarify his concerns. He advises that the Association is attempting to tighten control of activities related to "massage". He is requesting that the municipality stop issuing business licences to shiatsu and reflexology clinics.

The Provincial Physiotherapists Act requires individuals operating as massage practitioners to be registered with the Association. Shiatsu or reflexology practitioners are not regulated by the Physiotherapists Act, provided they do not practice "massage".

Shiatsu and reflexology practitioners must meet the following requirements before receiving a Burnaby business licence:

1. They must be in compliance with all Provincial and Municipal building, planning, health and fire regulations.
2. They must provide evidence that they are trained in their discipline and understand that their licence does not permit the practice of massage.

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Currently there are three massage clinics, one shiatsu clinic and no reflexologists licenced in Burnaby. These clinics are in compliance with Provincial and municipal regulations.

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We have contacted representatives of shiatsu and reflexology practitioners. They are of the opinion that they do not come under the jurisdiction of the Association of Physiotherapists and Massage Practitioners.

Mr. Thomson does not agree and maintains that the practice of shiatsu or reflexology infringes on the Physiotherapists Act. Mr. Thomson intends to clarify his Association's jurisdiction through court action.

Until the jurisdictional question is reconciled, we will continue to issue licences according to our established requirements. The Municipal Solicitor is in agreement with this position.


Howard Karras
DIRECTOR FINANCE

TJ:gw

cc: Municipal Solicitor