

To: Safety and Facilities Services Committee

From: Adam Grant, Commissioner,  
Safety and Facilities Services Department

Report Number: SF-25-22

Date of Report: April 9, 2025

Date of Meeting: April 14, 2025

Subject: Body Rub Parlour Licensing and Treatment Room Standards

Ward: All Wards

File: D-2200

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## 1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present findings from a review of Schedule “C” of the City’s Business Licensing By-law 122-2024 (“Business Licensing By-law”) with respect to standards associated to Body Rub Parlours and provides options for consideration.

**Attachment 1** is a by-law to amend Business Licensing By-law 122-2024 to remove standards relating to the maximum number of designated treatment rooms and the maximum height of walls in a designated treatment room.

## 2.0 Recommendation

That the Safety and Facilities Services Committee recommend to City Council:

That the Safety and Facilities Services Committee select an option as detailed in Section 4.4 of Report SF-25-22 “Body Rub Parlour Licensing and Treatment Room Standards”, dated April 9, 2025.

## 3.0 Input From Other Sources

Legal Services was consulted in the preparation of this report. As part of this review, staff conducted benchmarking on treatment room standards for Body Rub Parlours from the following municipalities:

- Municipality of Clarington
- Town of Whitby
- Town of Ajax
- City of Pickering
- City of Toronto
- City of Markham
- City of Guelph
- City of Cambridge
- City of Windsor

## **4.0 Analysis**

### **4.1 Background**

At its February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, City Council provided the following direction to staff:

“That staff investigate and review Schedule C of By-law 122-2024 being a by-law to licence, regulate and govern certain businesses in the City of Oshawa and report back on options concerning service room design.”

This report responds to Council’s aforementioned direction by presenting findings from the review of Schedule “C” of the Business Licensing By-law and provides options for the Safety and Facility Services Committee’s consideration.

### **4.2 Body Rub Parlour Regulations and the City of Oshawa**

Body Rub Parlours, Operators and Attendants are regulated under Schedule “C” of the Licensing By-law and the current standards have not changed since the licensing system’s creation in 2000. Body Rub Parlours are defined in the Licensing By-law as:

“any premises or part thereof within the geographic limits of the City where a Body Rub is performed, offered or solicited in pursuance of a trade, calling, business or occupation, but does not include any premises or part thereof where the body rubs performed are for the purpose of medical or therapeutic treatment and are performed or offered by persons otherwise duly qualified, licensed or registered so to do under the laws of the Province of Ontario.”

Additionally, Body rubs are defined as:

“includ[ing] the kneading, manipulating, rubbing, massaging, touching, or stimulating, by any means, of a person's body or part thereof but does not include medical or therapeutic treatment given by a person otherwise duly qualified, licensed or registered so to do under the laws of the Province of Ontario and also does not include Sexual Contact.”

The Licensing By-law establishes robust regulations for Body Rub Parlours, Operators, and Attendants in a variety of areas including but not limited to:

- Screening Owners, Operators, and/or Attendants (e.g. Criminal Record and Judicial Matters Check, Medical Clearance Letters for Attendants, etc.)
- Establishing locational requirements for Body Rub Parlours and age restrictions for individuals entering Body Rub Parlours
- Reviewing Floor Plans for Body Rub Parlours
- Establishing treatment room standards

- Operating standards for Owners, Operators and Attendants

#### 4.2.1 Licensing By-law and Treatment Room Standards

In addition to other standards, Schedule “C” of the Licensing By-law establishes standards for a treatment room. A treatment room is a room that is designated by the Body Rub Owner as the **only** room where Body Rubs can be performed, offered or solicited.

Specifically, Section 2.10 sets out the following standards:

- The Body Rub Parlour Owner must designate no more than one (1) single room within the Body Rub Parlour, which is the **only** room within which Body Rubs may be performed, offered or solicited;
- The designated treatment room shall have no area enclosed or partitioned by any wall with a height in excess of two (2) metres measured from the floor; and,
- The designated treatment room shall be open at all times to all persons attending the Body Rub Parlour during the regulated business hours.

#### 4.3 Municipal Benchmarking

As part of Council’s direction to undertake a review, staff undertook a benchmarking exercise (see **Table 1**) of municipalities that regulate Body Rub Parlours. Of the municipalities surveyed, Oshawa was the only municipality that had specific standards limiting the number of treatment rooms and specifying the maximum allowable height of treatment room walls. All municipalities have standards related to ensuring treatment rooms had free and open access to municipal Inspectors and Officers.

**Table 1 Municipal Benchmarking of Body Rub Room Standards**

| Municipality | Maximum # of Treatment Rooms | Maximum Height of Walls <sup>1</sup> | No Locked Rooms <sup>2</sup> |
|--------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Oshawa       | One (1) Treatment Room       | Two (2) metres                       | Yes                          |
| Whitby       | No                           | No                                   | Yes                          |
| Ajax         | No                           | No                                   | Yes                          |
| Pickering    | No                           | No                                   | Yes                          |
| Clarington   | No                           | No                                   | Yes                          |
| Toronto      | No                           | No                                   | Yes                          |
| Markham      | No                           | No                                   | Yes                          |
| Guelph       | No                           | No                                   | Yes                          |
| Cambridge    | No                           | No                                   | Yes                          |
| Windsor      | No                           | No                                   | Yes                          |

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Standard related to maximum height of walls for designated treatment room(s)

<sup>2</sup> Standard related to free and open access of treatment room(s) for Inspectors/Officers

#### 4.4 Proposed Options

The following options are being presented for consideration in sections 4.4.1 and 4.4.2 below with respect to standards relating to a designated treatment room in a Body Rub Parlour.

##### 4.4.1 Option “A” – Maintain Existing Treatment Room Standards

Option “A” would maintain the existing standards for a designated treatment room in a Body Rub Parlour by limiting the number of designated treatment rooms to one (1); limiting the maximum height of walls in the designated treatment room to two (2) metres; and requiring the designated treatment room to be open at all times during the regulated business hours.

In the event that the Safety and Facilities Services Committee chooses this option, the Safety and Facilities Services Committee may wish to pass the following motion:

That the Safety and Facilities Services Committee recommend to City Council:

That report SF-25-22 “Body Rub Parlour Licensing and Treatment Room Standards” be received for information.

##### 4.4.2 Option “B” – Align Treatment Room Standards with Comparable Municipalities

Option “B” would align treatment room standards for Body Rub Parlours with comparable municipalities as detailed in **Table 1** in Section 4.3 of this report by **removing standards** that:

- limit the number of designated treatment rooms to one (1); and,
- limit the height of walls for the designated treatment room to two (2) metres.

Considering all municipalities surveyed require free and open access to treatment rooms at all times during operating hours, Option “B” does not propose any changes to the existing standard requiring the designated treatment room to be open at all times to all persons attending the Body Rub Parlour during the regulated business hours. It is important to note that notwithstanding the removal of the aforementioned standards, Body Rub Parlours would still be required to comply with other robust standards including compliance the City’s screening and operating standards, with the City’s Zoning By-law 60-94 (i.e. parking standards), etc.

In the event that the Safety and Facilities Services Committee chooses this option, the Safety and Facilities Services Committee may wish to pass the following motion:

That the Safety and Facilities Services Committee recommend to City Council:

That Council approve a by-law to amend Licensing By-law 122-2024 in the form of Attachment 1 to SF-25-22 “Body Rub Parlour Licensing and Treatment Room Standards”

to remove standards relating to the maximum number of designated treatment rooms and the maximum height of walls in a designated treatment room.

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications directly related to the recommendation in this report.

## **6.0 Relationship to the Oshawa Strategic Plan**

This report responds to the Oshawa Strategic Plan Priority Area “Lead: Governance and Service Excellence” with the goal to embrace innovation and advance continuous improvement initiatives and actions.



Phil Lyon, Director,  
Municipal Law Enforcement and Licensing Services



Adam Grant, Commissioner,  
Safety and Facilities Services Department



**By-law -2025**  
**of The Corporation of the City of Oshawa**

Being a By-law to further amend By-law 122-2024, as amended (the “Business Licensing By-law”) of the Corporation of the City of Oshawa.

Whereas pursuant to SF-25-12, on March 17, 2025, the Safety and Facilities Services Department recommended to The Council of the Corporation of the City of Oshawa that an amending by-law be passed to address Body Rub Parlours and Treatment Room standards to allow for additional rooms at an establishment and updating enclosures standards for the expansion of these establishments; and,

Whereas the Business Licensing By-law standards regarding body-rub establishments has not changed since 2000, The Corporation of the City of Oshawa has received requests from said owners to update standards for treatment rooms; and,

Whereas the Council of The Corporation of the City of Oshawa considers it appropriate to amend By-law 122-2024, as amended, Schedule “C” by allowing for more than one room at body-rub establishments, update standards for wall heights and enclosures to allow for owners to expand their operations.

Therefore it is enacted as a by-law of The Corporation of the City of Oshawa as follows:

1. The Business Licensing By-law 122-2024 Schedule “C”, as amended, is amended by deleting and replacing the first reference to the word, “room” to “room(s)” in section 1.10., which shall now read as follows:

“1.10. Every Applicant for a Body Rub Owner’s licence shall submit with the application a floor plan of the premises to be used as a Body Rub Parlour, which floor plan shall clearly designate the room(s) contemplated by section 2.10 of this Schedule “C” within which Body Rubs may be performed, offered or solicited, and any rooms contemplated by section 2.14 of this Schedule “C” to be used exclusively as an office or as a storage room.”

2. The Business Licensing By-law 122-2024 Schedule “C”, as amended, is further amended by deleting and replacing the word “room” to “room or rooms” and removing maximum wall heights in section 2.10., which shall now read as follows:

“2.10. The Body Rub Owner shall designate a room or rooms within the Body Rub Parlour which shall be the only room or rooms within which Body Rubs may be performed, offered or solicited. The room or rooms shall be open at all times to all persons attending the Body Rub Parlour during the business hours of the Body Rub Parlour.”

3. The Business Licensing By-law 122-2024 Schedule “C”, as amended, is further amended by deleting and replacing the word “room” to “room or rooms” and removing standards for enclosures and partitioned maximum wall heights in section 2.11., which shall now read as follows:

“2.11. No Body Rub Owner or Body Rub Operator shall permit a Body Rub in any room or rooms, other than in the room or rooms designated pursuant to section 2.10 of this Schedule “C”.”

4. The Business Licensing By-law 122-2024 Schedule “C”, as amended, is further amended by deleting and replacing the word “room” to “room or rooms” in section 2.12., which shall now read as follows:

“2.12. No Body Rub Attendant shall perform, offer or solicit a Body Rub in any room or rooms, other than in the room or rooms designed pursuant to section 2.10 of this Schedule “C”.”

By-law passed this            day of            , 2025.

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Mayor

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City Clerk