



City of Dallas

Massage Business Regulations

**Public Safety Committee
January 10, 2022**

Eddie Garcia, Chief of Police
Dallas Police Department
City of Dallas

Presentation Overview



- Massage Business Background
- Massage and Reflexology Definitions
- State Law and Chapter 25A Texas Dept. of Licensing and Regulation
- DPD Enforcement
- MB Enforcement -- Other Cities
- Challenges
- Next Steps



MB Background



- Massage Business
 - Identified as a business that often offers massage and reflexology as a cover for criminal activity which can be:
 - Prostitution
 - Organized crime
 - Money laundering
 - Sex & Labor (human)trafficking



Massage and Reflexology



- Massage therapy- manipulation of soft tissue by hand or through a mechanical or electrical apparatus for the purpose of body massage
- Reflexology therapy- type of massage that involves applying different amounts of pressure to “only” the feet, hands, and ears



State Law and Chapter 25A



- Chapter 25A of the Dallas City Code
 - Massage Establishments
- Texas Occupations Code, Title 3
 - Health Professions Chapter 455
 - Massage Therapy
 - It states no local ordinance supersedes this law
- August 1991 Memorandum from City Attorney's Office



Texas Department of Licensing & Regulations



- Texas Department of Licensing & Regulations (TDLR)
 - Regulatory Body for massage establishments in Texas and responsible for issuing their licenses
 - Uses Administrative Law to enforce (fines)
 - Reflexology is not regulated by TDLR



DPD Enforcement



- Since 2019, DPD Vice Unit completed 22 MB specific operations which resulted in 38 arrests and 50 workers offered resources.
- DPD mostly uses investigations and operations to interdict these businesses – massage or reflexology.
- DPD works with TDLR during their regulatory inspections
- Code Compliance assists DPD during operations



MB Enforcement- Other Cities



Texas Cities	MB Enforcement Methods
Houston	Houston PD utilizes criminal investigations, as well as Code Compliance and TDLR enforcement.
San Antonio	San Antonio PD utilizes criminal investigations, as well as Code Compliance.
Austin	Austin PD utilizes criminal investigations, as well as TDLR and Texas Attorney's General Office.
Fort Worth	****No Response Yet****
El Paso	El Paso PD does not conduct enforcement. El Paso County conducts enforcement with TDLR.
Laredo	Laredo PD utilizes criminal investigations.



Challenges



- Texas Occupations Code regulates the massage business industry and preempts certain provisions of Chapter 25A Businesses are inspected or investigated mostly based on complaints, not as a consistent regulatory process
- Organized Crime adapts quickly to law enforcement operations minimizing the impact



Next Steps



- City Attorney's Office is currently reviewing Chapter 25A
- DPD and city departments explore modern processes for inspecting and regulating Reflexology establishments
- Explore legislative changes/ update



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The logo of the City of Dallas, featuring a stylized white 'D' on a dark blue background. Inside the 'D' is a white three-leaf plant. To the left of the 'D' is a white square with a smaller square inside it.

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