

June 11, 2018

City Commission
Lawrence City Hall
6 E 6th St
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Commissioners,

The Lawrence Massage and Bodywork Alliance Steering Committee supports the current draft of Ordinance 9305.

We are grateful to the City Attorney's office and law enforcement officials for listening to, learning from, and collaborating with our professional community this year. They held multiple, in-depth meetings with local practitioners to understand our profession, business structures, and training programs. They integrated many of our recommendations and removed offensive, unnecessary portions of their policy's first draft.

In contrast to the proposal you saw a year and a half ago, the policy before you now is a professionally-oriented policy using industry-standard language and regulations. It verifies that all bodywork practitioners in Lawrence, KS are legitimately-trained practitioners acting professionally, safely, and ethically. And it recognizes the City's need to draw upon our community's expertise by creating a board of professionals who can advise the City on this policy and its implementation.

This proposal is also groundbreaking because it comprehensively includes all bodyworkers, including Structural Integrators, Reflexologists, subtle-energy practitioners, and more. Most state regulations only cover massage therapists and exempt other bodyworkers. From a regulatory perspective, this leave loopholes for illicit practitioners to claim they practice an exempted modality. From a professional perspective, it means non-massage bodyworkers are unrecognized, and unregulated, as professionals by governing bodies.

With our professional community's help, the City crafted a comprehensive policy that covers all bodyworkers. This inclusive approach better reflects our broader profession, better protects our clients and ourselves, and is a progressive approach that more cities and states should consider as a model.

We understand the advantages of regulating bodywork, and we are grateful to have such a reasonable and accurate policy before the Commission. We ask that you pass Ordinance 9305.

Thank you,
Lawrence Massage and Bodywork Alliance, Steering Committee

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