



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COUNCIL

TO: Richmond City Council
FROM: Jim Bruce
General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services
RE: **Suspension of Business Licence
for Kingdom Massage and Acupressure Centre**

DATE: May 9, 2001
FILE: 8060-20-7048

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That Council suspend the business licence of Kingdom Massage and Acupressure Centre for the period May 16, 2001 through July 14, 2001 both dates inclusive.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Bruce', with a large loop at the start.

Jim Bruce
General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services

STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

The City has been making a concerted effort to monitor many of the adult entertainment businesses in the City in an effort to control late night activities which the RCMP believe are problem areas for them to police as well as to improve customer and employee safety.

Many of these efforts are being realized through zoning restrictions and hours of operation. There are however several of these businesses that continue to operate outside the parameters established in our business use and regulations bylaws. This report details one such business.

ANALYSIS

City staff and the RCMP continue to make unscheduled visits to many of the City's adult business establishments. Several of these businesses continue to operate outside the established rules and regulations.

The new regulations have now been in place for roughly a year and our efforts to get compliance from a few of the businesses has not been successful. Kingdom Massage and Acupressure Centre is one of these businesses.

This business had a previous 30 day licence suspension authorized by Council in October of 2000.

The business, after reopening, has again had several infractions and was subject to a business licence suspension hearing in March, 2001. As a result of that hearing the Chief Licence Inspector issued a warning letter to the business and did not recommend a licence suspension. The attached letter details that hearing. Subsequent to that hearing the business has again had 2 ticketable offences and tickets were issued.

It is my belief that as much as the company advocates that it will undertake compliance, the reality of the situation is that it is not happening.

As the Chief Licence Inspector for the City, I believe some action must be taken on this matter and consequently, I am recommending another licence suspension to this business.

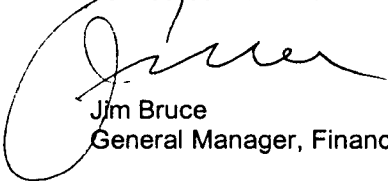
As this will be a second suspension I believe a 60 day suspension is warranted.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact to the City.

CONCLUSION

That the City has been tolerant in attempting to get compliance to the Business Licence and Regulation Bylaws and as Kingdom Massage and Acupressure Centre has not co-operated and has continued to commit violations, that Council suspend their business licence from May 16, 2001 through July 14, 2001 both dates inclusive.



Jim Bruce
General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services

JWB:tlm
Att. 1



City of Richmond

6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1
Telephone (604) 276-4000
www.city.richmond.bc.ca

May 9, 2001
File: 8060-20-7048

Finance & Corporate Services
Fax: (604) 276-4162
Admin. 276-4219 Accounts Receivable 276-4277
Payroll 276-4137 Purchasing 276-4097
Tax 276-4145

Mr. Ip Li
483663 BC Ltd.
doing business as
Kingdom Massage and Acupressure Centre
Unit 170 - 8351 Alexandra Road
Richmond BC V6X 3P3

Dear Mr. Li:

**Re: Kingdom Massage and Acupressure Centre
Business Licence Review Hearing**

This correspondence will serve as official follow-up to your business licence review hearing held before me at Richmond City Hall at 11:00 a.m. on May 4, 2001 in meeting room 2.103.

I have now had the opportunity to review all the facts as presented by Mr. Duarte, the City's representative who presented both his findings and those of the RCMP as gathered at on-site visits. I have also taken into consideration all the comments put forward by your representative Mr. Chan. The findings clearly indicate that your business was operating in contravention to the City of Richmond Business Licence and Regulations bylaws.

You have had a previous licence suspension in October of 2000 and were given an official warning in March 2001 about a continuing problem of contravening the bylaws. Although this warning did not result in a suspension, you were given warning that further contraventions could result in further suspension hearings. These contraventions have continued and I therefore have no alternative but to recommend to Richmond City Council that a suspension of your business licence is warranted.

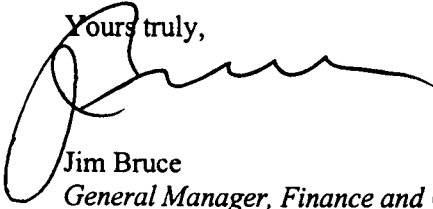
I will therefore be recommending to Richmond City Council that your business licence be suspended from May 16, 2001 through July 14, 2001 both dates inclusive, which is a total of 60 days.

This recommendation will be dealt with by Richmond City Council at their meeting of May 14, 2001. This meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m. sharp and you have the right to appear before Council to debate the recommendation and to present your case as to why the recommendation should not be supported. Should you wish to attend the meeting to present your case, please contact Mr. Richard McKenna, the City Clerk, and he will ensure you are added to the Council agenda as a delegation.


RICHMOND
Island City, by Nature

Should you have any questions regarding this recommendation, or the process relating to the Council meeting, please feel free to call me directly at 276-4095.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Bruce", with a large, stylized initial "J" that loops around the first part of the name.

Jim Bruce
General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services

JWB:tlm

pc: J. Hikida
V. Duarte
R. McKenna
A. Spevak - RCMP



CITY OF RICHMOND

LICENCE SUSPENSION HEARING KINGDOM MASSAGE & ACUPRESSURE CENTRE

MINUTES

HELD May 4, 2001
Room M.2.103
RICHMOND CITY HALL

In Attendance:

Mr. W. Chan (WC) Interpreter
Mr. I. Li (IL)
Mr. V. Duarte (VD)
Mr. J. Bruce (JB)

1. JB – explained the process and advised WC that as Mr. Li had been here just recently the process was the same as explained last time.
2. VD made presentation.
 - April 12/01 RCMP (3 members) and himself had made a site visit at 4:00 p.m.
 - They were delayed from entering the facility due to locking control on the front door.
 - As they entered, the employees hurried to get on their jackets. These are red jackets that are supplied to each employee in an effort to meet the City's dress regulations.
 - The RCMP proceeded to the various massage rooms to complete the investigation of the premises.
 - One of the rooms was not accessible as a wedge had been placed under the door from the inside to prevent opening.
 - When the employee did open the door she was putting on her dress.
 - 2 tickets were issued.
 - Business had previously had their licence suspended (Oct. 16/00-Nov. 12/00)

- Business had received another Business licence suspension hearing on March 7/01. There was no further action on this and Business was given a warning notice that further infraction could lead to a recommendation for suspension.
 - Attempted to deliver the latest letter for this suspension hearing but was delayed from the entering the premises.
 - When actually allowed in to the building, did not serve any other tickets as did not have his ticket book along, but it was obvious that another infraction was visible.
3. WC – wanted to address each part set out by VD, one at a time.
- The delay in opening the door was to ensure that the person who wanted in would not be a problem. There is a problem with theft if people can just run in and out. That is also why door for exit can be controlled from the counter. It is also very hard to leave the door open as there is only one employee who looks after the front reception area and often they are away from the desk.
 - VD asked why there is an intercom system and why is it necessary for the reception employee to make an announcement over the intercom before the door is open.
 - WC says the intercom is there so the customer or employee can order tea etc. Again, if this happens the receptionist must leave the desk therefore the door needs to be locked.
 - IL brought out one of the jackets supplied to staff. They take them off as it is very hot in the rooms and because of this they take the jackets off.
 - VD asked why the jackets are not in each room if they take them off.
 - WC answered that they sometimes forget them in the staff lounge area. Mr IP also said he didn't know as he wasn't there but he tells them to wear them. Each girl has 2 jackets. Both girls who didn't follow the rules the day RCMP and VD were there have been fired.
4. WC – the reason for the doors being wedged shut is for privacy. Often when a client leaves the room to go for the Sauna he comes back and gets confused as to which room he came from even though the rooms are numbered. Because they go to the wrong room they enter on to some other person's room and invade their privacy. They may be showering or changing. Mr Ip showed the doorstop, but VD said that was not what was used and Mr. Ip had no response.
5. VD – detailed that the last suspension was for having locked doors and asked WC to ask IP if he remembered this. IP repeated this but said it is not practical to have the doors unlocked because of privacy, therefore he uses the wedges.
6. WC – the rooms are poorly lit because the patron needs a place to relax and having lights too bright is not conducive to relaxation. He has dimmer switches in the rooms.

IP brought out some of the other types of clothing he is going to have the staff wear to help them keep cool while working.

7. VD – said the female RCMP officer observed the employee getting dressed and her hair was wet. The customer was in the shower.
8. WC – employee only had wet hair as she was sweating from hard work and cleaning up the room.
9. WC – thinks the bylaw should be changed to account for privacy.
10. JB – staff don't make the rules. If they feel the rules are too restrictive he should get the other business operators to make representation to Council for a rule change.
11. JB - Explained where we go from here i.e. review the information and either a letter to the business re-clarifying the rules or a letter detailing a suspension recommendation to Council.

JB:tlm



City of Richmond

6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1
Telephone (604) 276-4000
www.city.richmond.bc.ca

April 20, 2001
File: 8275-20

Finance & Corporate Services
Fax: (604) 276-4162
Admin. 276-4219 Accounts Receivable 276-4277
Payroll 276-4137 Purchasing 276-4097
Tax 276-4145

Mr. Ip Li
483663 BC Ltd., doing business as
Kingdom Massage & Acupressure Centre
Unit #170-8351 Alexandra Road
Richmond, BC V6X 3P3

Dear Sir:

Re: Business Licence Contravention and Licence Review Hearing

It has been brought to my attention that a recent site inspection was conducted and your business has again been cited for contravention of the City of Richmond Business Regulation Bylaw No. 7148.

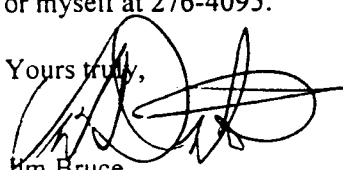
Since your Business Licence Suspension Hearing of March 07, 2001, you have received 2 more municipal tickets for contravention's to the bylaw as noted above.

The contravention's have been specific to the operating standards as set in the bylaw.

You are hereby requested to appear at a Business licence review hearing to discuss these matters, which may result in the suspension or cancellation of your Business Licence. The hearing has been set for 11:00 a.m. on Friday, May 4th in room T.2.103 at the Richmond City Hall located at 6911 No. 3 Road.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter please feel free to call either Mr. Duarte at 276-4389 or myself at 276-4095.

Yours truly,


For Jim Bruce
Chief Licence Inspector

JWB:vmd

pc: V. Duarte


RICHMOND
Island City, by Nature



City of Richmond

6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1
Telephone (604) 276-4000
www.city.richmond.bc.ca

March 13, 2001
File: 8060-20-7048

Finance & Corporate Services
Fax: (604) 276-4162
Admin. 276-4219 Accounts Receivable 276-4277
Payroll 276-4137 Purchasing 276-4097
Tax 276-4145

Mr. Ip Li
Kingdom Massage & Acupressure Centre
Unit 170 – 8351 Alexandra Road
Richmond
V6X 3P3

Dear Mr. Li:

Re: Business Licence Suspension Hearing

Thank you for attending the Business Licence Suspension Hearing on March 7, 2001 at the Richmond City Hall.

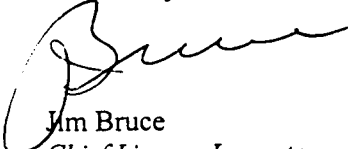
Based on all the evidence that was presented, it is clear that you have again been in contravention of the appropriate City of Richmond Business Licence and Regulations Bylaw.

As the infraction was specific to late night operating hours and the customer was somewhat disadvantaged in relation to his physical ability to leave the premises, I am prepared, at this time, to give you some degree of leniency and as a result, I will not be recommending that your licence be suspended.

I will, however, advise you that should any future infractions be reported you will again be faced with another suspension hearing.

Should you have any questions in relation to this matter or want to discuss this further, please feel free to call me directly at 276-4095.

Yours truly,



Jim Bruce
Chief Licence Inspector

JWB:naw

pc: V. Duarte


RICHMOND
Island City, by Nature