

Massage parlor legislation sails through board

Brothels posing as massage parlors may have a little more trouble doing business in San Francisco after the Board of Supervisors passed legislation Tuesday aimed at cracking down on the suspected 50 or so establishments citywide.

The laws were authored by **Supervisor Carmen Chu** and Mayor Gavin Newsom, respectively. Chu's measure will make it more difficult to get a permit to run a massage parlor, in part by requiring public hearings, and also make it easier to revoke those permits. Newsom's law would increase fines for those who violate their massage permits and require parlors to close by 10 p.m. Certain violations, such as operating after hours and employing unlicensed or underage masseuses, could result in misdemeanors charges, with jail time up to six months or a \$1,000 fine. A fee could be imposed on parlors that require reinspections after code violations are found.

Though some sex workers spoke out against the legislation, saying it could hurt women more than business owners, Chu's legislation received unanimous support at the board, and only Supervisor Chris Daly voted against Newsom's measure.

The legislation was introduced not long after a Chronicle story by Rob Selna detailed the city's lax attitude toward the alleged brothels, some of which are suspected to be central to sex trafficking rings.

Posted By: Marisa Lagos | June 24 2009

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