

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 4



City and County of San Francisco

KATY TANG

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 31, 2013

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**** PRESS RELEASE ****

**SAN FRANCISCO SUPERVISOR KATY TANG INTRODUCES LEGISLATION
TO STRENGTHEN MASSAGE PARLOR REGULATIONS AND
ENFORCEMENT**

Legislation Part of Larger Effort to Address Human Trafficking Issues

San Francisco, CA -- On July 30, Supervisor Katy Tang introduced legislation designed to address enforcement issues with massage parlors in San Francisco.

The legislation: 1) codifies penalties for violations of health codes concerning massage parlors, which are currently only recommendations; and 2) introduces additional regulations concerning massage parlor operations that are allowable under state law.

These additional regulations include:

- Requiring massage practitioners licensed by the Department of Public Health to wear a photo identification card;
- Authorizing denial of a massage establishment permit to an applicant who has been convicted of specified crimes and providing for a subsequent appeal process for anyone denied a permit;
- Prohibiting sexual activity, and consumption of alcohol and non-prescription drugs on the premises of a massage establishment during business hours; and
- Providing other health and safety requirements

“For years, our office has heard from the community about potentially illegal activity taking place in some of our massage parlors in our district,” said Supervisor Katy Tang, who represents the Sunset District. “We have also seen blatant advertisements in newspapers, highlighting some of the alternative services that one can receive at our local massage establishments.”

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Supervisor Tang’s office conducted an informal survey of massage parlors located in the Sunset District and discovered there are at least 30 massage establishments operating in the district.

A relatively recent addition to state law from 2008 limited the ability of local governments to regulate massage establishments if all of the therapists in a massage establishment are certified under the California Massage Therapy Council, which is a voluntary licensing program. The current state law regulating the massage industry has created many loopholes in terms of enforcement, and Supervisor Tang hopes her legislation will address some of these loopholes as allowed under State regulations.

In drafting the legislation, the Supervisor’s office took into special consideration the safety concerns of potential victims of human trafficking and wanted to respect establishments that are operating in compliance with local, state and federal laws.

“This legislation is just a small component of a larger discussion that I am participating in with city departments to figure out how we as local government can do our part to better help address the issue of human trafficking,” Supervisor Tang said.

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