March 5, 2014

The Honorable Brian Nestande
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX: (916) 319-2142

RE: CAMTC HEARING, March 10th, 2014

Dear Assembly Member Nestande:

Like many cities in the State of California, The City of Beaumont has also been negatively impacted by SB 731 (Oropeza, 2008). The City of Beaumont is located in Western Riverside County in Southern California. The City is 30.93sq miles, with a population of approx. 39,000 and a median family income of $79,000. Currently the City of Beaumont has twelve (12) Massage Establishments and/or businesses that offer Massage services (see attached map) within our jurisdiction. Of these massage establishments we have had four (4) that have been a continual problem for the City of Beaumont Police and Code Enforcement Departments.

In September 2013, the City of Beaumont successfully revoked the massage establishment permit and closed operation of one of our “illicit” massage parlors. This particular establishment had been cited numerous times by Code Enforcement Officers for not having a properly licensed massage therapist on site. Additionally, when conducting business checks and inspections on the establishment, Code Enforcement and Police Officers located evidence associated with prostitution, illicit sexual conduct and possible human trafficking. This establishment had been located on the website www.Rubmaps.com, which gives reviews and rates the businesses for the cost and types of illicit massage “services” offered and was attracting out of town clientele from Victorville, Lancaster and other areas far outside our immediate neighboring communities.

Since 2009, the number of massage establishments that have set up business in the City of Beaumont has tripled. Of the 12 that are currently active within the city, 3 of these establishments are owned and/or operated by individuals who come from locations outside of Riverside County, primarily Los Angeles. They have all repeatedly been cited for violations of their conditions of approval and the Beaumont Municipal Code, including not having properly licensed massage therapists on site, converting portions of the business into a residence, which is a zoning and building violation, and unpermitted construction. Enforcement of these establishments requires a significant amount of staff time to ensure that they are complying with local ordinance and legally operating. Based on our inspections, it is our belief that these businesses have the markings of being part of the sex and human trafficking trade. Some of the key indicators are that the majority of the employees we contact are not from the area, seem to
have been trained on how to respond to contacts by Police Officers or representatives of the City, and have a significant language barrier that prevent us from obtaining information about the business and its operations. Additionally a majority of the masseurs and employees we contact do not have the proper licensing, certifications or identifications making it difficult to determine if the business is employing legitimate and credentialed massage therapists.

Beaumont has experienced significant growth during the past seven years and it is our belief that our ability to regulate these types of establishments has been severely impacted by current legislation, and that without the ability to regulate we will only see more, and potentially greater problems attributed to this industry, burdening our limited resources, bringing blight to our retail, commercial, and neighboring residential areas and negatively affecting and impacting our communities.

Sincerely,

Frank Coe
Chief of Police
City of Beaumont

cc: Elissa Silva, Consultant, Assembly Business and Professions Committee, FAX: (916) 319-3306
Ted Blanchard, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus, FAX: (916) 319-3902
Erin Sasse Regional Public Affairs Manager, EMAIL: esasse@cocities.org
Kirstin Kolpiteke, League of California Cities, FAX: (916) 658-8240
BEAUMONT

MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS

- In compliance
  - 8 establishments
- Multiple violations
  - 3 establishments
- Permit revoked
  - 1 establishment

BEAUMONT DEMOGRAPHICS
Population: 39,776
Size: 29.9 sq. miles
Households: 12,039
Median Family Income: $79,800