



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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## ***Board of Supervisors Unanimously Approves Supervisor Herrity's Motion to Address the More Than 100 Illicit Massage Businesses in Fairfax County***

Fairfax, VA - Today the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved Supervisor Herrity's motion to establish a work group of county agencies and non-profits to revise the County's massage ordinance and develop a plan to create a non-permissive environment for human trafficking starting with the more than 100 illicit massage businesses (IMBs) in Fairfax County.

Supervisor Herrity commented as follows:

**"Illicit massage businesses have operated in plain sight in Fairfax County and become safe havens for human trafficking" said Supervisor Herrity who is leading an effort to revise the massage regulations and create a non-permissive environment for IMBs. "Regular, random inspections by county agencies and revised regulations will help us address these illicit businesses, fight human trafficking and get victims the help they need."**

Background:

County staff and nonprofit partners, including the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Initiative (HTI) and Heyrick Research, have gathered critical information regarding the scope of IMBs in Fairfax County and their operations. According to research from these sources there more than 100 IMBs with a potential of over 170 victim workers in Fairfax County.

During his conversations with County staff, Supervisor Herrity discovered the need for a more coordinated approach to stop human trafficking, and more specifically in addressing IMBs. In addition to sharing resources and information between departments, there's a need to strengthen the County's massage regulation ordinance that is weak compared to other jurisdictions.

Jurisdictions around the country have used innovative code changes and other multiprong efforts to significantly reduce or eliminated the presence of IMBs in their communities, including Washington, DC; Kent, WA; Aurora, CO; and San Jose, CA.

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