

Memorandum

TO: City Council
FROM: Cinde Morris , Deputy clerk
DATE: August 3, 2026
SUBJECT: Ordinance updating regulations for licensing and massage establishments
ITEM NUMBER: 8.g
SECTION: CONSENT AGENDA

REQUESTED MOTION

To approve ordinance 1064 and an ordinance summary amending chapter 10, businesses, articles II, licensing and VIII, massage establishments and services.

INTRODUCTION

During the July 20 workshop, the city council discussed possible updates to the city's massage therapy ordinance. They directed staff to bring back the draft ordinance to a future council meeting for consideration.

DISCUSSION

Earlier this year, Little Canada and Vadnais Heights approved updates to their massage therapy ordinances to address complementary and alternative health care (CAHC) practices and establishments. CAHC includes a broad range of healing or therapeutic practices that fall outside of traditional massage therapy practices.

Chapter 10, article VIII of the city code outlines regulations for massage therapists and establishments. Since CAHC falls outside of traditional massage therapy practices, our current city code does not regulate those practices or establishments. After reviewing state statutes and ordinances from Little Canada and Vadnais Heights, staff drafted the attached updates to regulate CAHC practices and establishments. Additionally, staff are recommending changes to chapter 10, article II regarding background checks.

Below is a summary of the changes:

Article II, section 10-32

This section outlines regulations for background checks on applicants. Under the current practice, Ramsey County Sheriff's Office just conducts background checks in Minnesota. Staff are recommending that language be added requiring applicants to submit a third-party background check if they have not lived in Minnesota for the preceding five years.

Article VIII

Many of the changes in this article are to add CAHC to the city's current regulations. Under the proposed changes, anyone practicing or opening a business in CAHC would need to get a license through the city. They would then be required to follow the same regulations that

massage therapists and establishments need to follow such as hours of operation, clothing requirements, liquor and cannabis use, etc. Section 10-229 also includes additional regulations from Little Canada and Vadnais Heights' ordinances. Based on feedback from the July 20 workshop, staff also added language ensuring it was clear that CAHC establishments cannot operate under a home occupation business.

RECOMMENDATION

It's recommended that the city council approve ordinance 1064 and the ordinance summary for publication.

ATTACHMENTS

[Ordinance 1064](#)

[Ordinance 1064 summary](#)