

Addenda
Minnetonka City Council Meeting
Meeting of July 18, 2022

**ITEM 14A – Appeal of Massage Establishment license denial for Sunshine Massage, LLC,
and its owner, Sasha Harmon**

Attached is additional information provided by the applicant's attorney after distribution of the packet.



14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345 | 952-939-8200 | minnetonkamn.gov

To: City Council
From: Julie Wischnack, AICP, Community Development Director
Date: July 18, 2022
Subject: Change Memo for the July 18 City Council Agenda

ITEM 14A – Appeal of Massage Establishment license denial for Sunshine Massage, LLC, and its owner, Sasha Harmon

The applicant's attorney provided additional information for the city council. See attachment.



West Metro Chinese Church
双城西区基督教会

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to confirm that Mrs. Sasha Harmon started to participate in our church activities since April 11, 2021. The list below details her involvement in our Church,

1. She regularly attends the Friday evening fellowship meeting in the Gospel Group.
2. She completed the Baptism course.
3. She completed the Faith Edification course in 8 weeks.
4. She regularly attends the Sunday worship services.
5. She participated in the Gospel small group performance for Thanksgiving celebration.
6. She has participated in the disciple training class since December 20th, 2021.
7. She actively serves as a lay leader in the Gospel small group co-worker team.

If you have any questions regarding Mrs. Sasha Harmon's participation in our church of West Metro Chinese Church, please do not hesitate to contact us through wmcc@gmail.com.

Regards,

Church Pastor: Qizhuo Gao

July 13th 2022

Address: 14720 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN 55447

Email [REDACTED]

From Longfei Hu
Layman of Minnesota West Metro Chinese Church
14720 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN 55447

July 12, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Because of pandemics since early 2020, the majority activities of our church (Minnesota West Metro Chinese Church) are through online service. Starting early this year, we have limited time to meet in our church facility (14720 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN 55447). This pandemic does impact our outreach to those Chinese who come to the West Metro Area. However, we are thankful that God still brings many new Chinese friends to our church through various events either through online or in person. Sasha Harmon is one of them.

This is to confirm that sister Sasha Harmon started to participate in our church activities since she started to come to our church on April 11 2021 for the very first time Sunday worship service. She then continues to join the various church gathering through Zoom online Bible study, Bible Edification, disciple training class, baptism class, and most of the Sunday worship services in person. The following are some of the detail information:

1. Sasha regularly attended the Friday evening fellowship meeting in the Gospel Group.
2. Sasha attended the whole Baptism classes serial starting on June 27th 2021 (Sundays).
3. Sasha attended the Faith Edification class on September 26th 2021 for 8 weeks (Sundays).
4. Sasha also attended almost all of the Sunday worship services in person or through Zoom.
5. Sasha also participated in the Gospel group performance Thanksgiving event (monthly Saturday potluck).
6. Sasha participated in the disciple training started on December 20 2021, and is still on-going (Monday nights).
7. Sasha participated in the church-wide retreat during Memorial Day long weekend.
8. Sasha was invited to join the Gospel team small group co-worker team to serve the Gospel group.

We are thankful that God brought Sasha to our church, not only actively participating the church activities, but also inviting more non-believers to our church and eventually she became an active co-worker in the Gospel group. If you have any questions regarding Mrs Sasha Harmon's participation in our church of West Metro Chinese Church, please do not hesitate to contact me at [REDACTED]

Best Regards,


Longfei Hu

7/12/2022

WILLIAM H. HENNEY Attorney at Law

Admitted in Minnesota and Florida

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Minnetonka, MN 55345-4116
(952) 474-4406
Fax (952) 474-5270

July 14, 2022

To whom it may concern
Minnetonka City Council

RE: 5100 Thimsen Avenue, Minnetonka, MN

Dear Sir / Madam:

I am the chief manager and owner of 5100 Thimsen LLC. 5100 Thimsen LLC owns an office building located at 5100 Thimsen Avenue, Minnetonka, MN near Highways 7 and 101. I am writing this letter to ask the City Council to immediately and decisively approve the license application for Sunshine Massage LLC.

I have been practicing law in the City of Minnetonka since 1982, and have been a partner in the ownership of this building and another office building across the street since 1987. My law practice is located at 5101 Thimsen.

When 5100 Thimsen LLC signed a lease with Sunshine Massage over three months ago, we were anticipating a 30-day license approval process, a very brief buildout consisting of new flooring and removing locks from the interior doors, and that the business would be up and running and paying rent in about 45 days. I did my due diligence in ensuring that the applicant / tenant would be compatible with our office building and other tenants. The other tenants include accounting, financial planning and insurance businesses and the tenants are looking forward to having a massage practitioner in the building.

I have reviewed the license denial letters, and here is what I have been told about the City's reasoning:

- In 2015, the applicant attended a Chinese massage school in Roseville, and in 2020, a state agency made allegations that the school had certain students and employees with connections to prostitution, which were never proven or admitted, and the massage department of the school subsequently closed down. No nexus has been suggested between the applicant's attendance in 2015 and the 2020 allegations against the school, other than the fact that she and some 400 other Chinese students had previously graduated from this school. While the City of Minnetonka has two alternate methods of qualification (education or experience), and the applicant was clearly qualified under the experience prong, the City found the allegations leading up to the school closure to be cause for denial, and then the City later realized it was in error.

- The “reconsideration” included a second, three-week long police investigation (for which applicant did not consent, and later learned there had already been a police investigation before the first denial), and was based upon 7 year old allegations on a private subscription-only offseas-based website, in which anonymous men can comment on alleged female prostitutes, which purport to identify the women by name and location of employment. There is no fact checking that is done, the website claims it is “fictional,” the applicant was not aware of these allegations until she received the second denial, the city did not ask her about it, the allegations are vehemently denied, the applicant has taken steps to have these reviews removed, and the website has refused to remove these reviews. And the reviews misidentify the applicant by name, age, and apparel, are internally inconsistent, and refuted by other commentors. It is not known what steps the City has taken to make the original declarants of this hearsay available for cross examination.

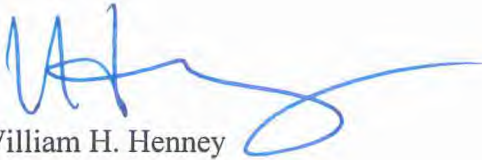
I understand the City's concern in keeping out riffraff and illegal activity, and as a potential landlord and neighbor, I take the City's allegations and concerns seriously. I absolutely do not want trouble in my building and neighborhood. Now that I am aware of the city's “evidence”, I still have no reason to believe that this business is going to be a front for illegal activity. I should note that unlike the people making these accusations, I have personally met the applicant. If I or other tenants have reason to believe that illegal activity is taking place, immediate and appropriate action will be taken.

This process has dragged on far too long. The City's dilatory tactics are highly concerning. I would like to think that the City of Minnetonka embraces diversity and inclusion.

I ask the City to take immediate and decisive action to approve this license.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



William H. Henney
Attorney at Law

jsm

From: David Haase <[REDACTED]>
Date: July 18, 2022 at 12:10:56 PM CDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Sasha Harmon

Vitality Health and Wellness
12100 Singletree Lane #167
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

July 18th, 2022

City of Minnetonka
Regarding: Sasha Harmon
To whom it may concern:

My name is David Haase I'm a chiropractor in Eden Prairie, I have been here since 2006. I'm also the team Chiropractor for the Minnesota Vikings from 2012 to present. Sasha was hired in 2011 to work part time in my Eden Prairie office she worked 2/3 days a week until 2015. She has worked with many of my patients including a number of Vikings players throughout those yrs. I've always heard positive feedback from anyone she had worked on. She is very hard working and a great person. A good reliable massage therapist would be an asset to your community.

Thank you!
Dr. David Haase

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

7/12/2022

To whom it may concern-

I have known Sasha Harmon since 2013. She worked as a licensed massage therapist in the same building as my chiropractic office. Sasha has treated my patients, my staff and myself since then. She is a great licensed massage therapist. Everyone really enjoys her professionalism and quality of care. She would be a great addition to your community. Please don't hesitate to call me with any questions regarding Sasha. 6 [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Dustin Carlson
The Carlson Clinic of White Bear Lake

2130 2nd Street
White Bear Lake, Mn 55110
www.carlsonchiro.net

Letter of Reference for Sasha Xia.

July 15, 2022

I know Sasha Xia to be a very well trained and competent Therapeutic Massage specialist. For over ten years I have sought out her services for my back pains resulting from muscle skeletal problems. Below is a brief statement of my background and supporting information for my opinions of Sasha's skills.

I am Bruce Bain a retired Executive from the Medical Device Industry and have been a resident of Minnesota for 43 years. In retirement I am active in civic affairs and engaged in philanthropic endeavors.

My wife and I first met Sasha Xia in Dennis and Meagan Doyle's charity Hope for The City in 2012 when we both were volunteers. My wife and I were in their warehouse engaged in manual labor required for the packing and loading of medical supplies for a Mission Trip to the Philippines. Sasha knew Dennis and Megan through church and she volunteered to set up a table in the warehouse to provide free massages to those volunteers.

I aggravated my back by my insistence of working like I was still in my youthful prime. So at the end of that day in 2012 with pain from tight and tense muscles I had my first massage treatment by Sasha in the warehouse. I felt immediate relief and continued to be pain free for days. As I had a prescription for strong pain relievers, on an as needed basis, was pleased to discover that I needed less medication. I consulted my Neurosurgery physician and he agreed that a skilled masseuse could provide pain relief and suggested it would be a good idea to continue to receive a therapeutic back massage.

Therefore since 2012 whenever the occasion arises that I need pain relief from knots, strains and tension I first turn to massage therapy instead of medication. Over the years in polite conversation with Sasha I know that she is constantly improving her skills through courses of study and on topic reading. I consider her to be an important part in the care for my back. Her comportment is very professional and I am comfortable in her care.

Sincerely,


Bruce Bain



Wed 7/13/2022 3:42 PM

Mike Brill

Sasha Harmon Letter

To  Boyle, Mary Bridget

[EXTERNAL MESSAGE]

To whom it may concern,


This letter is a reference to the therapeutic massage work Sasha Harmon has done for me.

I have had her work on my right arm (shoulder, elbow and wrist) many times from 2018 to 2021. He has been a great asset to me and has very good skills. She is able to find the problem areas and help reduce the pain.

Sasha is also a very professional and reliable massage therapist. She is very gifted in Therapeutic massage. I hope that she is allowed to open a shop in Minnetonka and feel she is an asset to our Community.

Sincerely

Mike Brill
4520 W Arm Road
Spring Park, MN 55384



证明

Sasha Harman 在 2021 年 4 月 30 号 至 2022 年 7 月 14 期
间, 在美国商场 Shiatsu Renu 按摩工作当中.
对客人热情, 工作认真, 按摩专业, 和同事之间
和睦相处, 客人评价满意. 她是一个合格的
按摩师。

经理 闫德海

[Translation of Letter Written in Chinese]

Letter of Certification

Sasha Harmon has been working at Shiatsu Renu Massage located in the Mall of America between April 30, 2021 and July 14, 2022. She is professional, hardworking, and highly skilled. She has good rapport with all coworkers, and is well-regarded by clients. She is a qualified massage therapist.

Manager: Dehai Yan



Shiatsu Renu

Full Body Massage / Chair
Massage / Reflexology / Deep
Tissue / Shiatsu / Prenatal / Couple's
Room Available

Kiosk: 220 E Broadway, Bloomington, MN 55425
(Mall of America 2nd floor in front of Ulta)

Spa: 390 W Market, Bloomington, MN 55425
(Mall of America 3rd Floor in front of Macy's)


massagerenu@gmail.com



Mon 7/11/2022 6:50 PM

adam olson

Sasha

To  Boyle, Mary Bridget

[EXTERNAL MESSAGE]

Hello

I wanted to reach out to provide some history of the work I had done with Sasha. I really feel like her services are necessary to the community. I suffer from psoriatic arthritis and cervical spondylosis. There are no cures for these things only pain management and physical therapy. Massage is a key Tennant in my life. If Sasha was not available I'd have fewer options of lower quality. There were many times that I could not find an appointment elsewhere but Sasha made the time. When I had to find therapy elsewhere it was further away and lower quality. Removing this service to the community is a disservice to the community.

Adam Olson



发件人: Pei Huang [REDACTED]

日期: 2022年7月12日 GMT-5 上午11:49:03

收件人: [REDACTED]

主题: 推荐信

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Pei Huang, a teacher in Minnetonka School District. I am proud to offer my recommendation of Sasha Harmon whom I have personally known for about eight years as my friend.

Throughout the years, I have experienced an individual who is organized, hardworking and responsible. I have attended church and prayer services with Sasha, he has been active in our church. She has taken on many responsible roles. Her passion, combined with her organization, makes her a high reputation business owner.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me by email at

[REDACTED]


Regards,
Pei Huang



Thu 7/14/2022 3:53 PM

charles fritz

Character witness for Sasha Harmon

To  Boyle, Mary Bridget

[EXTERNAL MESSAGE]

Hello,

Sasha asked if I might be a character witness for her and I am happy to do so.

my wife and I have know Sasha for 14yrs meeting her when she owned YiLi massage studio.

We have since acquired many mutual friends through social activities as Market Fest a weekly downtown White Bear Lake event where Sasha offered free massages to the public.

We often had Chinese Hot Pot dinners with mutual friends at their different homes over the years.

Through our relationship Sasha began to attend our Church, Twin Cities Chinese Chistian Church, in Lauderdale and at our new location in Roseville. She has since joined and been Baptized at our satellite Church in the west metro as this Church is much closer for her.

We consider Sasha to be a dear and close friend and our lives have been Blessed having known her.

We hope this testimony is useful for you.

Charles M Fritz
4391 Cottage Park Road
White Bear Lake