

Riechel Informs:

California Massage Therapy Council Reports

By [Robert Riechel, Patch Contributor](#) | May 25, 2016 11:03 pm ET | Updated May 28, 2016 10:55 pm ET

The San Bruno Police Department hosted a no-cost training provided by the California Massage Therapy Council (CAMTC) focused on eliminating and preventing illicit massage businesses and tools law enforcement agencies can use to shut them down.

"The San Bruno Police Department recognizes that massage therapy can offer valuable health and therapeutic services. The department further recognizes that, unless properly regulated and monitored, the practice of massage therapy and the operation of massage businesses is susceptible to being associated with unlawful activity. Among these behaviors are prostitution and human trafficking. Accordingly, the San Bruno Police Department has partnered with CAMTC to facilitate training for law enforcement personnel throughout the Bay Area," said Ed Barberini, Chief of Police.

CAMTC ramped up law enforcement training sessions last year in order to share information with law enforcement agencies and discuss new developments and changes in the Massage Therapy Act, which went into effect January 1, 2015.

The San Bruno Police Department is the latest law enforcement agency to have officers undergo CAMTC training. The two-hour session focused on a variety of topics, ranging from general information sharing between organizations, to the types of evidence CAMTC uses to take disciplinary action, including suspension and revocation. The training sessions strengthen information sharing between CAMTC, law enforcement agencies, and code enforcement officers and provide important information on best practices that law enforcement agencies can use to save time and money, while successfully shutting down criminal enterprises.

After officers receive the training, which has been offered for the last two years, they are armed with detailed knowledge about how to work cooperatively with CAMTC to take stronger enforcement action and craft more focused weapons in the fight against illicit massage parlors.

"CAMTC is pleased to provide this training to law enforcement agencies across the state," said Rick McElroy, director of CAMTC's Professional Standards Division. "We believe communication and information sharing are key components in ensuring public safety by working together to close illicit 'massage parlors.' As the public demand for accessible therapeutic massage increases, it is critical that we work with all stakeholders to weed out the bad apples."

2008 SB 731 (Oropeza) created a nonprofit public benefit corporation known as the California Massage Therapy Council. To date, the Council has successfully implemented a voluntary certification process established by the legislature for massage professionals. CAMTC's central goal is to protect and maintain public safety when consumers are choosing certified massage professionals. CAMTC's 'enabling law' completed its first Sunset Review by the legislature. The legislature has re-authorized CAMTC's 'enabling law' for another two years.

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