

Sandy Hart County Board Chair

18 North County Street – 10th Floor Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4351 Phone847 377 2300 Fax847 984.5816 www.lakecountyil.gov

Date: February 8, 2022

To: Lake County Board From: Chair Sandy Hart

Cc: Julie Brockman Volk, 611 Rockland Road, Suite 2, Lake Bluff, Illinois

Re: In the matter of Touched by Jules LLC for a Massage Therapy Business License, Applicant

Julie Brockman Volk

On January 10, 2022, after due notice to the applicant, a hearing was held under Chapter 114 of the Lake County Code regarding the issuance of a Lake County Massage Therapy Business license to Julie Brockman Volk. (hereafter "applicant"). The hearing was held under Section 114.09 with a court reporter present making a record of the proceeding. The applicant was made aware that she is responsible for paying for the record, which will be presented to the Lake County Board. The applicant and Detective Kyle Brasewicz of the Lake County Sheriff provided sworn testimony. Exhibits 1 and 2 were presented to the License Officer during the course of the hearing. Exhibit 1 contains the contents of the application; Exhibit 2 contains a police report and screenshots of text messages.

The hearing was presided over by Chair Sandy Hart in her capacity under Chapter 114 as License Officer for Massage Therapy Business licenses.

<u>Pursuant to Section 114.08 and 114.09, Chair Hart recommends to the Lake County</u> Board that the license application for Touch by Jules LLC be granted.

In summary, at the hearing, Detective Brasewicz testified to the following. He conducted an investigation into a massage therapy business, Touched by Jules. During the course of his investigation, he looked up Touched by Jules and found a website that appeared to be for Touched by Jules. The website showed one massage location as 611 Rockland Road, Suite 2, Lake Bluff, Illinois and provided a phone number to contact to make appointments. Detective Brasewicz exchanged text messages with the business. Through text message, Detective Brasewicz confirmed an appointment using the name "Kyle Matthews" for 3pm on December 9, 2021 at the Lake Bluff location for Touched by Jules. Detective Brasewicz was told through text message that the cost was \$120 for an hour. On December 9, Detective Brasewicz responded to the Lake Bluff location and waited on site. Julie Brockman Volk, the applicant, arrived. Detective Brasewicz identified himself. The applicant denied that she was operating and Detective Brasewicz brought up that he had in fact made an appointment for that day at 3pm. The applicant complained that other businesses were operating without a license. Detective Brasewicz issued a citation for operating without a license in violation of Lake County Code, Section 114.03.



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Section 114.03 states:

"No person shall operate a massage establishment or hold himself or herself out as a masseuse or masseur operating within unincorporated areas of Lake County, Illinois a massage establishment without first having obtained a license therefor from the county. A masseuse or masseur must comply with the requirements of this chapter." Lake County Code, § 114.03.

Detective Brasewicsz's report and screenshots of test messages were presented during the hearing and are attached as Exhibit 1.

The applicant also provided testimony at the hearing. The applicant testified, in summary, to the following. The applicant is the sole owner of Touched by Jules, and she has been in business for several years. The applicant's business is currently located in Warrenville, Illinois, and she has had a license there for years. She stated she believed the process in Lake County would be that she submitted her application and would be issued a license as a matter of course. The applicant testified that Detective Brasewicz was her first customer at the Lake Bluff location. The applicant explained she is in the process of moving her business to Lake Bluff and she hopes to be an active member of the community.

The applicant also provided testimony that she assisted a police department by providing information about massage therapy to further their efforts at combating issues with businesses.

The applicant was advised that if she has information about establishments that are operating without a license, she can bring that information forward to the Sheriff's Office to investigate.

The applicant also testified about her passion for her work as a massage therapist and that she likes to provide positive contributions to her community.

In arriving at the decision to recommend the application be approved, Chair Hart considered all of the evidence, including the testimony and exhibits, and weighed the factors in aggravation and mitigation.

Wherefore, after an open hearing where the parties were able to present testimony and evidence, the License Officer, Chair Sandy Hart, does hereby recommend to the full Lake County Board that the license application for Touched by Jules be granted and submits to the Board a record of this proceeding for their examination, consideration and vote.