

To: **Planning Commission**  
From: **Melissa Sonnek, City Planner**  
Date: **May 18, 2021**

## **PC Case 21-05 - Ordinance Amending Section 153.171 Regarding Tattoo, Body Piercing, and Body Art Establishments – City of West St. Paul**

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### **BACKGROUND:**

With the recently approved change in the code separating microblading from definition of traditional tattoos, City Council also requested a review of the current limitations around all tattoo, body piercing, and body art establishments as these types of uses are no longer associated with crime or drug related activities as they once were.

During the April 26, 2021 Council Work Session, the Council voiced an interest in decreasing the 800 feet proximity requirement, but were unsure on what the new proximity requirement should be. Therefore City Staff has attached multiple maps showing different proximity limitations. The Council also mentioned that they would particularly like to preserve the distance requirement as it relates to single family homes. Therefore, while the Dodd Way Shopping Center might serve as a viable location for these types of uses, the concern remains that it may be too close to the single family homes in the area.

### **ORDINANCE LANGUAGE:**

Currently these uses are allowed as a conditional use in the B3, B4, I1, and I2 zoning districts, the code reads with the following list of location and proximity limitations:

Tattoo, body piercing or body art establishment, provided that they are located at least 800 feet, as measured in a straight line from the building on which the establishment is located to the property line, from the following:

- Residentially zoned property,
- Agricultural land located in the neighboring city which is designated for residential use in the Comprehensive Plan,
- Licensed day care or day care center,
- Public or private educational facility classified as elementary, middle, junior high, or senior high school,
- Church,
- Tattoo, body piercing, or body art establishments.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

In addition to the above listed proximity limitations, City Staff would also recommend establishing a limited number of business licenses within the City. City Staff, including the Police Chief, Planning, and the City Attorney feel comfortable with recommending a maximum of two licenses.

If there is a continued interest in allowing this use in the Dodd Way Shopping Center, one option would be to allow it as a conditional use with the condition that it must be located within a shopping center of a certain size or square footage. This would allow the use within the B2 and Smith/Dodd overlay areas while still limiting it to the more shopping center type of building and setting.

Staff recommends the Planning Commission hold a public hearing, review the current ordinance language as well as the attached buffer maps and make a recommendation on the appropriate proximity limitations.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Open Council Work Session Memo from 04/26/2021  
City Survey on Body Art Establishments  
Multiple Buffer Maps

**TIMELINE:**

May 18: Planning Commission (Public Hearing)  
May 24: City Council First Reading  
June 14: City Council Final Reading (Public Hearing)