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Protect Our Children

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PROTECT OUR CHILDREN**Jenny Meyen**

There is something very disturbing about a business that advertises they are for "men and children" and evidence exists that this business has sexual acts occurring in the same building. That business is *Gateway Barber* and they advertise that they do haircuts, but that is not the only thing they do. According to the internet they are known as *Salon 657* and described as offering erotic services. *Gateway Barber* is located on West Main Road in between two family restaurants. By all appearances one would assume that this is a "family business".

The families of Middletown have already made it clear that these adult businesses are not welcome here. For example, by the end of this week Middletown will feel the loss of a fantastic Children's Science Store, *POW Science*, because of a place that offered sex acts. The owners of *POW Science* stated very clearly why they had to move to Wakefield; in Middletown they were located next to a brothel. They did not feel it was in the best interest of their customers, families with children, to be in close range to prostitutes and their "johns". The danger that is present when you put both innocent children with men seeking prostitution in the same parking lot is alarming.

The question to ask is why does *Gateway Barber* advertise that children are welcome? The man who does haircuts at *Gateway* may not realize that mothers do not want their children in the same building as prostitution. The Town of Middletown may need to ask *Gateway* to change their sign so families do not patronize a place where prostitution is occurring.

PROTECT OUR CHILDREN -- that is what is being asked here. Since *Gateway* has a legal right to be there, then at a minimum the sign needs to say they are for adults only!

Anyone reading this and wondering why the police don't do something about the prostitution; it is because indoor prostitution is legal in our state of Rhode Island. This is your chance to contact your state senator and let them know that you want strong legislation against prostitution. We not only need to PROTECT OUR CHILDREN in Middletown, but in other communities as well. Without strong legislation, these types of businesses will continue to open and operate under many different names and disguises. Currently there about 40 known places of prostitution in Rhode Island and they are finding their way into residential areas as well. It is a cancer to society and will not go away. Please make your voice heard. The House has already passed good legislation called the "Giannini Bill," H 5044A. This legislation has strong laws against prostitution as well as helping the victims of trafficking. The Senate has not supported this bill. That is why WE need to contact our state senators and tell them to support the Giannini Bill.