

University of Rhode Island

From the Selected Works of Donna M. Hughes

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Updates from Middletown

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Updates from Middletown

Asian Spa-Brothel Closes

Middletown Council Passes Anti-Prostitution Resolution

Senator DiPalma Urged to Take a Leadership Role

Two attached documents

Middletown Asian spa-brothel closes

Over the weekend, the Lee Health Tuina Center --- an Asian spa-brothel --- in Middletown closed. The doors were locked and their sign removed.

See interviews with Melanie Shapiro, Eric and Hema Bulmer, and Jenny Meyen by Providence Eyewitness News (WPRI). (click on the link to view the news video)

[Providence Eyewitness News Alleged Middeltown brothel leaves town](http://www.wpri.com/dpp/news/local_wpri_middletown_accused_brothel_shuts_down_20090806_jab)

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Middletown Town Council Adopts Resolution Urging the General Assembly to Close the State's Prostitution Loophole

The *Newport Daily News* ran a front page story on Monday nights' Middletown Council Meeting. See the attachment for the full article. (Thank you to Senator DiPalma for sending me a copy of the story.)

Citizens Against Trafficking is pleased that the Middletown Town Council unanimously passed a resolution that calls for the passage of a prostitution law in Rhode Island. Unfortunately, the resolution has no details on what type of a law should be passed. It does not mention that the law against prostitution must be at the misdemeanor level in order for law enforcement to vigorously investigate and to get Rhode Island included in FBI investigations of the sex trafficking of children.

Senator Lou DiPalma continues to assure people that he supports a prostitution law, but has not withdrawn his support for the Senate bill that decriminalizes pimping activity. **Citizens Against Trafficking urges Senator DiPalma to take a leadership role to ensure that Rhode Island gets a effective, legitimate prostitution law.** The current Senate bill does not "close the loophole," although some people continue to say that it does.