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# Carlisle massage parlor closes

Owner of Leisure World  
confirms closing of spa  
criticized in business area

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**CARLISLE** — A massage parlor that some saw as casting a taint on Carlisle's downtown business district has quietly shut its doors.

Marcia K. Welsh, president of the company that runs Leisure World Spa on North Hanover Street, confirmed yesterday that the business was closed as of Wednesday, and that its owners are moving out.

"It's just like any business," she said. "You close because you close."

Some Carlisle officials have speculated that more occurred behind Leisure World's doors than the advertised massage and whirlpool services.

One of its most vocal critics, Councilman Richard Ocker, called news of the closure "wonderful."

While acknowledging that he had little hard evidence, Ocker reiterated his belief that Leisure World "was not a legitimate massage establishment, and we just don't need that kind of business in our downtown."

There are indications the Carlisle spa continued to be scrutinized by law enforcement officials. A borough police source said that earlier this year Carlisle officers assisted agents with the state Attorney General's Office in executing a search warrant at the parlor. No arrests were made.

Meanwhile, midstate attorney Pat Lauer confirmed yesterday that he represented several women who were subpoenaed earlier this year to testify before a state grand jury conducting a "multiple jurisdiction investigation of massage parlors."

Lauer said his clients, massage parlor attendants — including one at Leisure World — were offered immunity to testify. "My understanding is that they all testified that they did not receive money for sexual activities, and that sexual activities were not going on," Lauer added.

A spokesman for the attorney general's office said he could not confirm nor deny that the inves-

Attempts to reach Costopoulos yesterday were unsuccessful.

The other spas are Man's World, at 306 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg; Castaways, 1100 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg; Executive II, at 1050 N. George St., York; and two parlors in Reading.

Telephone numbers at the businesses in Harrisburg and York are now all out of service. It was not clear yesterday if those salons have also been closed.

Carlisle Mayor Kirk R. Wilson noted concerns expressed by both residents and elected officials over the years prompted more than one investigation of Leisure World.

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Investigation is being conducted.

Welsh, identified in state records as president and chief executive officer of H&T Enterprises Inc., the corporate parent of Leisure World Spa, denied that the Carlisle spa, which fronts on an alley behind the first block of North Hanover Street, has ever sold sex "since I've been here."

When asked about the investigation and the apparent closure of three other midstate spas advertised as recently as this month with Leisure World in midstate telephone books, she referred all questions to her attorney, William Costopoulos.

And while those probes did not lead to criminal charges, "I don't think you'll see too many people shedding a tear over the closing of that establishment," Wilson said. "Nobody wants a business like that in their downtown."