

MINUTES
BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION

MARCH 1, 1988

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the West Hollywood Business License Commission held on the above date in the City Council Chambers of West Hollywood City Hall, 8615 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA, was called to order at 7:12 p.m., by Commission Chair Lester Hirsch.

A. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joe Crow.

B. Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Ellis, Forbes, Hirsch,
Smith, Stribling

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Paul Self, Business License
Officer; Howard Zelefsky,
Planning Manager; Joe Crow,
Secretary II; Michele Beal
Bagneris, Assistant City
Attorney, Deputy Early Lincoln,
L.A. County Sheriff's Licensing
Detail

C. Approval of Agenda

Action: To approve agenda, moving Item V to Item III,
Item III to Item IV, and Item IV to Item V in
order of discussion.

(Motion: Smith, Second: Stribling)
Motion Carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes

Action: To approve minutes of February 16, 1988, with the
following correction:

Page 3 - in middle of page, third action down "that
there are not sufficient grounds" add "in Count
III."

Action: To approve the minutes of February 16, 1988 as
written.

(Motion: Stribling, Second: Ellis)
Motion Carried unanimously.

II. ITEMS FROM CITIZENS: None

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Speakeasy Nightclub, 8531 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood

To discuss whether a public hearing should be held to consider the renewal of the Speakeasy's business license.

Staff report presented by Self.

Action: To allow audience to speak for or against Speakeasy.

(Motion: Forbes, Second: None)
Motion Fails

Action: To place Speakeasy Nightclub, 8531 Santa Monica, on agenda within the next four weeks.

(Motion: Smith, Second: Ellis)

Ellis: Aye
Forbes: No
Hirsch: Aye
Smith: Aye
Stribling: No

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. BLC-87-025
Joseph Valenti dba Venus Picture Arcade
7768 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood

To discuss whether Commission should adopt Resolution 88-01 revoking the Picture Arcade-Adult business license for Venus Picture Arcade.

Staff report presented by Self.

Action: To adopt Resolution 88-01 revoking the Picture Arcade-Adult business license for Venus Picture Arcade.

(Motion: Smith, Second: Stribling)
Motion Carried unanimously.

V. PUBLIC HEARING:

A. BLC-88-002
Alhar Enterprises, Inc. dba Peanuts Disco
7969 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood

Application for renewal of Entertainment - Adult,
Public Eating and Dance business licenses
(Continued from February 2, 1988 - Re-opened public
hearing.)

To discuss whether Commission should renew the Adult,
Public Eating and Dance business licenses for Peanuts
Disco with the conditions indicated in the Staff
Report.

Staff report presented by Self.

Public Hearing Opened at 7:35 p.m.
Public Hearing Closed at 10:38 p.m.

Sheriff's report presented by Deputy Early Lincoln,
Captain Mark Squires and Lt. Maynard Davis.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

APPLICANT TESTIMONY:

1. Arlen Andelson, Attorney for the licensee.
2. Josh Feld, Principal Owner

TESTIMONY FOR:

1. Marla Miller, Los Angeles
2. Peter Kallen, West Hollywood
3. Reece Dollarhide, West Hollywood
4. Nicole Runkel, Hollywood
5. Howard Gottlieb, West Hollywood
6. George Heisserinan, West Hollywood
7. Barrett McInerney, West Hollywood
8. Jessie Lichauco, Los Angeles
9. Robert Mundy, Los Angeles
10. Travis Lehman, West Hollywood
11. Rona Heifetz, West Hollywood
12. Aaron Dolgin, Los Angeles
13. David Lopez, West Hollywood
14. Sammy Laksman, West Hollywood
15. Herbert Steidle, Los Angeles
16. Caradoc Ehrenhalt, Bel Air
17. John Hecker, Los Angeles
18. Garth Evans, West Hollywood
19. Gary Cooper, West Hollywood
20. Irwin Stroll, Los Angeles
21. Jonathan Rosenthal, Los Angeles
22. David Klass, West Hollywood
23. Leo Fenn, West Hollywood

TESTIMONY AGAINST:

1. Diane Alarcon, West Hollywood
2. Ralph Pina, West Hollywood
3. Toya Brown, West Hollywood

4. Harry Williams, West Hollywood
5. Renee Williams, West Hollywood
6. Ron Kinsey, West Hollywood
7. Mark Javitz, West Hollywood
8. Troy Parker, Santa Monica
9. Tina Vacarro, West Hollywood
10. Martin Hough, West Hollywood
11. Amiram Zigner, West Hollywood
12. Bernice Levin, West Hollywood
13. Jeff Green, West Hollywood
14. Jeanne Dobrin, West Hollywood
15. Jay Weston, West Hollywood
16. Ruth Gustafson, West Hollywood

--Meeting recessed at 9:35 p.m.--
--Meeting reconvened at 9:47 p.m.--

TESTIMONY FOR:

24. Sergio Arguello, Los Angeles
25. Kenn Bernard, West Hollywood
26. Kim Rucker, Beverly Hills
27. Michael Ponte, North Hollywood
28. Renee Bessone, Los Angeles
29. Sara Costa, Los Angeles
30. Steve Michael, West Hollywood
31. Therese Kahlam, Los Angeles
32. Michelle Levy, West Los Angeles
33. Paul Engdahl, Los Angeles
34. Mel Monsher, Beverly Hills
35. Carlos Arguello, Los Angeles
36. Suzanne Sasson, West Hollywood
37. Catherine Hope, Los Angeles
38. Janelle Shawver, West Hollywood

TESTIMONY AGAINST:

17. Jon Sargent, West Hollywood
18. Reza Niroozfar, West Hollywood

Chairman Hirsch closed the audience phase portion of the hearing at 10:20 p.m.

The Chair closed the public hearing at 10:38 p.m.

Action: To renew the Entertainment-Adult, Public Eating and Dance business licenses with the following conditions:

1. Comply with and enforce the "No In and Out" provision of the City's Business License Ordinance pursuant to Section 7.30.490;
2. Hire a licensed, uniform security guard assigned to the establishment's parking lot or to the parking lots that accommodate the patrons;

3. Prohibit patrons under 21 years of age from entering the establishment those nights when the licensee is conducting adult entertainment.
4. Receive an approved business license subject to a six-month review either by the Commission or by City staff.

(Motion: Stribling, Second: Forbes)

Motion amended by Stribling and accepted by Forbes to allow applicant to get security staff licensed within one month.

Ellis: No
Forbes: Yes
Hirsch: No
Smith: No
Stribling: Yes

Motion Fails.

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1. Comply with and enforce the "No In and Out" provision of the City's Business License Ordinance pursuant to Section 7.30.490;
2. Hire a licensed, uniform security guard assigned to the establishment's parking lot or to the parking lots that accommodate the patrons;
3. Prohibit patrons under 21 years of age from entering the establishment;
4. Receive an approved business license subject to a six-month review either by the Commission or by City staff.

(Motion: Ellis, Second: Smith)

Motion amended by Ellis and accepted by Smith to require the security guard to remain in the parking until 2:30 a.m. on the days when the establishment conducts business.

Ellis: Yes
Forbes: No
Hirsch: Yes
Smith: Yes
Stribling: No

Motion Carried.

--Meeting Recessed at 10:50 p.m.--

--Meeting Reconvened at 10:53 p.m.--

VI. COMMISSION CHAIR'S REPORT

Attended monthly Commission Chair's meeting and discussed:

1. Cable contract renegotiation;
2. Park hours will not be changed until homeless shelters are available;
3. Commented on errors on dates in noticing; need more accurate dating.

VII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Smith commented that the Commission has been doing outreach into the neighborhood watch programs.

Commissioner Ellis asked when Pizza Pomodoro will be coming up before the Commission.

Commission discussed effective noticing procedures.

Commissioner Forbes commented that the building behind 9201 Sunset Blvd., West Hollywood, is considering expansion. This building, which is in L. A., may have heavy impact on Sunset Blvd. Public meeting tomorrow at 9201 Sunset Blvd. at 7:00 p.m. to discuss issue.

VIII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Self updated Commission on action on Beverly Hills Massage Parlor. Also, stated that Venus Picture Arcade is to go before City Council, Monday, March 7, 1988, to determine how the appeal hearing will be conducted. Hearing is scheduled for the March 22nd meeting.

IX. ITEMS FROM CITIZENS

1. Jeanne Dobrin, West Hollywood

X. ADJOURNMENT

Action: To adjourn to an adjourned meeting of the Commission on March 15, 1988, 7:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers.

(Motion: Smith, Second: Forbes)
Motion Carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 p.m.

Lester Hunsch

CHAIR

Paul Self

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT