

MINUTES

BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION

APRIL 7, 1998

I. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the West Hollywood Business License Commission held on the above date at City Hall, located at 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, was called to order at 6:15 P.M. by Commission Chairperson Forbes.

A. Roll Call:

Commission Members Present: Forbes, Seif,
Sonnenburg

Commission Members Absent: Cacy, Bonbright

Staff Members Present: Ray Reynolds, Director CDD;
Tim Foy, Associate Planner;
Lisa Chilton, Business
License Officer

A. The pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Sonnenburg.

B. Approval of Agenda:

Action: To approve the agenda.

(Motion: Sonnenburg Second: Seif)
Motion carried unanimously.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of minutes for April 7, 1998.

Action: To approve the minutes as amended.
(Motion: Sonnenburg Second: Seif)
Motion carried unanimously.

III. ITEMS FROM CITIZENS

Lyle Palaski of 924 Hancock Avenue, West Hollywood, California 90069, spoke about problems he is experiencing related to a valet parking operation for the new "Numbers Restaurant" located at 8741 Santa Monica Boulevard in West Hollywood. Mr. Palaski spoke for a little better than three minutes giving a broad overview of complaints he has related to the valet operation being conducted on Hancock Avenue. His testimony was supplemented with a letter of complaint addressed to each commissioner.

IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

V. COMMISSION CHAIR'S REPORT

None.

VI. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

None.

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

A. Ray Reynolds with support from Tim Foy, led discussion and gave detailed explanations of specific items related to proposed changes in purview of the Business License Commission. The specific items discussed were Minor/Major Conditional Use Permits (specific to the extended hours licensing category), definition of Land Use impacts (noise, parking, traffic, light and glare etc.) their various ties to existing regulatory business licenses and the possible conflict with and duplication of Planning Commission purview. Also discussed were Taxi Cab Licensing, likely reasons why (viewed as part in parcel of overall transport and integrated with buses and shuttles) currently under the purview of the Transportation Commission. Commission Chair Forbes questioned the reasoning, stating that at one time this function was under purview of the business license commission and in studies he's done on other cities, Taxi Cabs have traditionally been a Licensing function. Temporary Event Permits (third item discussed), in general, are issued on short notice (two or three days in advance) even though applicants are urged to apply sooner, creating a timing issue and making it almost impossible to schedule public hearings in advance. Reoccurring special events like CSW, Halloween, Madi Grai, and West Week are heard and granted by the City Council. Commissioner Forbes added that at one time this commission heard these types of events yearly. Commissioner Seif stated that City Council of Los Angeles often does same thing, noting large fee waivers and fostering

business friendly image as part of reasons why special events would/should be purview of City Council. Commissioner Sonnenburg stated concern for possible need of a hearing body to hear complaints of citizens regarding events of this nature. Director Reynolds recapped items discussed and told commission he would check with City Attorney as to legalities concerning adding items discussed to Business License Commission's purview, and identifying and defining this commissions role. Commissioner Sonnenburg stated that this commission could "go away" but, planning commission would be burdened and the public would lack sufficient opportunity to vent, complain, have public hearings, and perhaps influence how things are done. Commissioner Forbes added, that since West Hollywood does not have a police commission coexisting with a business license commission (as most cities do) we should stay with the business license commission. He also stated, if we had a police commission we would not need the business license commission, but since we don't, this commission is of value to the Community. Commissioner Forbes questioned status of former "Adult Business" category of the Business License Ordinance, and Tim Foy gave answered. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Forbes questioned what body would hold hearings on business license related items if this commission did not exist. Staff member Lisa Chilton responded with explanation, and answered that the City Council would make that determination based on varying factors. She also responded to Commissioners Seif questions on code compliance with a detailed explanation. General discussion of purview and topic at hand continued.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

The Commission has directed staff to research and report back at next regular meeting the complaints registered by Lyle Palaski during "Items from Citizens".

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Action: To adjourn to the regular meeting of the Business License Commission, to be held Tuesday **May 5, 1998** at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Conference Room at West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, California.

(Motion: Forbes Second: Sonnenburg)
Motion carried unanimously

BOARD CHAIR

STAFF LIAISON