

# BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION MEETING

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

*City of West Hollywood*

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:10 P.M.

A. *ROLL CALL:*

*PRESENT:*

Commissioners – Joseph Guardarrama, Alexander Ponder, Maxine Sonnenburg, James Kazakos, Terry Morgan, Eric Thompson, and Sibyl Zaden.

*STAFF PRESENT:*

Tom Benedetti, Acting Code Compliance Manager; Lisa Chilton, Business License Officer.

*OTHERS PRESENT:*

B. *THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:* Commissioner Ponder led the pledge.

C. Approval of Minutes for January 7, 2003.

**Action: To Approve the Minutes.**

Motion: Sonnenburg

Second: Kazakos

Votes: All Ayes

Motion carried.

## II. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of the Agenda.

**Action: To approve the agenda.**

Motion: Zaden

Second: Guardarrama

Votes: All Ayes

Motion carried.

## III. PUBLIC COMMENTS- None

- A. **Hillary Selvin, Los Angeles**, suggested that all interested parties be invited to attend and participate in the Task Force's discussion and meeting recommendations concerning valet parking operations.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING - None

V. NEW BUSINESS

*Proposed revisions to Article 2, specified businesses regulated, Section 5.120 of the City of West Hollywood's municipal code relating to valet parking.*

Tom Benedetti presented the staff report.

Mr. Benedetti outlined changes proposed by Staff to the Ordinance and noted that many of these proposed changes are already being utilized on a regular basis and further stated that these proposed changes should be codified to make them official.

Chair Thompson reported that some commissioners have suggested forming a task force that would look into this matter further and report back to the Commission on their discussion and recommendations.

The Chair suggested that a straw vote be taken on the suggestion of forming a task force, to review Staff's report on valet issues and to postpone the public hearing, on this matter, until after the committee has reported back to the Commission with their recommendations.

The vote carried.

Commissioner Zaden questioned the term *public right-of-way*, as listed in the staff report and wanted further clarification on its definition.

Commissioner Ponder suggested that the Code should be written with a variance for differing violations, depending upon the severity of the violation or public impact that the violation might have.

Commissioner Guardarrama agreed with Commissioner Ponder and further commented that valet operators should be held accountable for violating conditions of their operating requirements.

Commissioner Sonnenburg mentioned that a few of Staff's recommendations failed to find a resolution in the document and considered some of the solutions to be somewhat vague. She continued that she would like to see a clarification of this in the final proposal.

Staff clarified that some of the matters in the report are the responsibility of various State and other agencies and are not necessarily the responsibility of the City.

**Motion: To create a task force which would include the Commission's Chair and two other commissioners to meet, review and make recommendations on how to improve the City's valet operations and to report back to the full Commission with their recommendations.**

Motion: Sonnenburg  
Votes: All Ayes

Second: Kazakos  
Motion carried.

The Commission decided that Commissioners Zaden, Guardarrama and Chair Thompson would make up the task force.

Mr. Benedetti suggested that members of the business community be invited to attend the task force meeting to give input and recommendations on this matter.

Chair Thompson gave direction to the Task Force to report back to the Commission at the April meeting with their recommendations on the valet parking matter.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

VI. ITEMS FROM STAFF

A. *Proposed change in meeting start time for the Business License Commission.*

**Motion: To change the commencement time for Business License Commission to be 6:30 p.m. beginning at the April 2003 meeting.**

Motion: Kazakos  
Votes: All Ayes

Second: Sonnenburg  
Motion carried.

B. *Annual filing of Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) for 2002-2003 year.*

Staff made a brief comment that this form needs to be filled out and filed with the City Clerk for the upcoming 2002/2003 year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS /ITEMS FROM CITIZENS

VII. COMMISSION CHAIRS REPORT/ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Zaden asked about seminars or other meetings that commissioners could attend that would give them additional training or information about being business license commissioners?

Commissioner Sonnenburg asked that staff report back to the Commission on the new restaurant, Santa Coyote. She commented that she has heard that this restaurant ceases operating as a restaurant at 8:00 p.m. and becomes a margarita bar, at that time.

Commissioner Sonnenburg also asked for an update on the selling and development status of Senioritas, on Sunset as well as Goodbar.

Staff gave a brief update on Santa Coyote, previously called Kass Bah and stated that there is currently an open Code Compliance case on this location.

Mr. Benedetti also stated that we currently don't have current information on Senioritas.

As for former Goodbar there is a Sushi restaurant that is working with the City's Planning division in hopes of opening sometime in April.

Commissioner Sonnenburg mentioned the recent news events regarding club safety around the country and that the City of Los Angeles is currently taking steps to ensure club safety throughout their city and asked what West Hollywood is doing to ensure safety in our local clubs?

She also asked for an update at the April meeting as to specific steps that are being taken within the City.

Staff responded that the City is working with LA County Fire, Health and Safety departments and have been looking into the safety of clubs throughout the city by doing safety inspections even prior to the recent devastating fires that have taken place at clubs nation wide. Mr. Benedetti continued that they are looking specifically at some of the higher impact clubs in the City and have made recommendations to certain clubs where they (city officials) feel that safety improvements could be made.

Commissioner Kazakos congratulated recently elected city councilmembers Guarriello, Heilman and Land.

Chair Thompson noted that he would continue his contact with the City Manager and other City officials regarding the continued viability of the Business License Commission.

The Chair also congratulated Mayor Guarriello, Councilmember Heilman and newly elected councilmember Abbe Land on their victories at the recent city election.

XI. ADJOURNMENT
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**Action: To adjourn to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Business License Commission to be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2003, from**

**6:30 p.m. until completion at West Hollywood Park Auditorium, 647 No. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood.**

*as amended*

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_.**

**CHAIRPERSON:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTEST:**  
**BUSINESS LICENSE OFFICER:** \_\_\_\_\_