

BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, November 4th, 2003

City of West Hollywood

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Kazakos called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

A. *ROLL CALL:*
PRESENT:

Commissioners James Kazakos, Neill Murchison, Pat Rogers, and Sibyl Zaden.

STAFF PRESENT:

Tom Benedetti, Acting Code Compliance Manager; Bruce Robertson, Administrative Staff Assistant.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mayor Pro Tem John Duran

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

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A. Approval of the Agenda.

Action: To table item 6A to the next meeting of the Business License Commission.

Motion: Rogers
Votes: All Ayes

Second: Zaden
Motion carried.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS- None

V. PUBLIC HEARING – None

A. The Business License Commission will conduct a public hearing to consider the modification, suspension or revocation of Extended Hours

Business License, #001827, Jerry's Famous Deli, located at 8701 Beverly Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90048.

Tom Benedetti presented the staff report.

Mr. Benedetti announced, to the Commission, that city officials have been working closely with representatives of Jerry's Deli to resolve the recent nuisances and/or violations that have reportedly occurred in the area.

As such the City has recommended that conditions be imposed on the restaurant. Jerry's representatives have met these conditions with openness. The conditions are listed below:

1. No seating of patrons after 2:00 A.M., and no patrons to be on site after 2:30 A.M.
2. Jerry's to notice and conduct a neighborhood meeting within 60 days, of this meeting, to address residents' concerns.
3. Security plan to be developed and presented for approval by the Public Safety Administrator and to hire a private security company to oversee security at site.
4. Progress of conditions and general operating procedures to be reviewed by the Business License Commission six (6) months from the date of this hearing.

Public Testimony

- A. **Lauren Meister, West Hollywood**, as president of West Hollywood West Resident's Association, Ms. Meister reported having received several complaints from neighbors regarding disturbances and nuisances by Jerry's patrons. Residents in the area feel that their safety is being compromised and asked the City and representatives of Jerry's Deli to address this problem.
- B. **Heather Lieberman, West Hollywood**, lives close to the restaurant and is concerned about her personal safety, due to recent occurrences at the restaurant.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Zaden recommended that the suggested six- (6) month review be reduced to a three- (3) month review.

Commissioner Roger asked staff how they determined that patrons of Jerry's Deli were responsible for recent occurrences, not doubting that they were, rather than some other business in the area.

Commissioner Murchison concurred with residents' concerns regarding safety and added that private security might be beneficial in making the area safer and alleviating residents' safety concerns.

Commissioner Kazakos asked how many patrons would commonly visit Jerry's between the hours of 2:00 A.M. and 4:00 A.M.

Mr. Starkman, restaurant owner, Jerry's Deli, responded that it would not be uncommon for Jerry's to serve 700-800 meals on a Friday or Saturday night, during this time.

Mr. Starkman also stated that Jerry's security routinely closes Sherbourne Drive on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, at approximately 10:00 P.M. This is done in order to eliminate restaurant patrons or others persons from creating a disturbance in this residential area on Sherbourne & Bonner Drives. Additionally, Jerry's private security also routinely patrols nearby residential streets in an effort to reduce/eliminate nuisances from restaurant patrons.

Action: To approve the staff report.

Motion: Rogers

Second: Zaden

Votes: All Ayes

Motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

VI. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff referred the Commission to a flyer that was distributed to each commissioner regarding the upcoming community meeting outlining the City's Vision 20/20 plan. Staff suggested that the City Council would appreciate participation from appointed commissioners, on this matter, and encouraged all commissioners to attend if they are available.

PUBLIC COMMENTS /ITEMS FROM CITIZENS

VII. COMMISSION CHAIRS REPORT/ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Murchison thanked John Duran and the City Council for his appointment to the Business License Commission.

Commissioner Kazakos announced that the commission chairs recently attended a meeting with city manager Paul Arevalo. At this meeting the commission chairs reported to the City Manager recent activities of their respective commissions.

He also announced that he would be meeting with Tom Benedetti and Richard Odenthal to discuss the future role of the Business License Commission. At this meeting it is the City's goal to articulate the purviews of various commissions and specifically the Business License Commission.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Action: To adjourn to a date uncertain, to be determined by the City's Public Safety Administrator, to be held from 6:30 until completion at West Hollywood Park Auditorium, 647 No. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS DAY OF 2/4/04.

CHAIRPERSON: James Kazakos

ATTEST:
BUSINESS LICENSE OFFICER: Mr. Benedetti