

**BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**Tuesday August 7, 2001  
City of West Hollywood  
Community Conference Room  
8300 Santa Monica Blvd.  
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA**

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I. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Sonnenburg called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

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A. ROLL CALL:  
PRESENT: Commissioners – Maxine Sonnenburg, Eric Thompson and James Kazakos.

STAFF PRESENT: Wade Davenport, Code Compliance Manager; Lisa Chilton, Business License Officer; Jeff Abel, Code Compliance Officer.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Thompson.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

**Action: To approve the Agenda.**

Motion: Kazakos                      Second: Thompson  
Votes: All Ayes                      Motion carried.

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II. CONSENT CALENDAR

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III. ITEMS FROM CITIZENS

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IV. PUBLIC HEARING

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The Business License Commission shall conduct a public hearing to review the effectiveness of the modified conditions requiring an 11:00 P.M. closing regarding Public Eating license REG000384 and Valet Parking license REG1154 for Le Colonial restaurant, located at 8783 Bonner Drive.

Wade Davenport presented the Staff Report.

### Public Comment

- A. **Anthony Punnett, West Hollywood**, co-owner of Le Colonial feels that the restaurant has been sufficiently punished for past violations and would like to reopen. Mr. Punnett noted changes that have been recently implemented, by the restaurant, such as the closing of Bonner Drive, neighborhood friendly signage being posted in/around the restaurant, and the valet flow has also been redirected in an effort to mitigate noise to the neighborhood.
- B. **John Camacho, West Hollywood**, asked the Commission to reconsider the conditions imposed on Le Colonial and allow the restaurant to reopen.
- C. **Todd Grinnell, Los Angeles**, former bar manager at Le Colonial gave several examples of how Le Colonial has complied with the City's conditions/restrictions.
- D. **Elizabeth York, Los Angeles**, employee of Le Colonial spoke in support of the restaurant and feels that they should be allowed to reopen.
- E. **Victoria Jourdan, West Hollywood**, spoke in support of Le Colonial and commented that the restaurant brings people into the City who also patronize other businesses in the City. She also commented that the recent improvements made, by Le Colonial, will help to keep the noise levels down.
- F. **Katie Guman, West Hollywood**, concurred with the comments made by Todd Grinnell and stated that the 11:00 P.M. closing time imposed, by the Commission, has been detrimental to the Restaurant's business.
- G. **Rollenda McCown, West Hollywood**, controller for Le Colonial, stated that adhering to the required 11:00 closing time would have cost the restaurant \$300,000 in revenues and that closing to do renovations has resulted in a net loss of \$150,000.
- H. **Olivio Negron, Burbank**, stated that the Restaurant has been misrepresented by the neighbors and supports the Restaurant's reopening.
- I. **DeLaune Michel, Los Angeles**, the producer of "Spoken Interludes" stated that this form of entertainment is very quiet and unintrusive to the neighborhood and feels that it should be allowed by the City.
- J. **Courtney Stuart, West Hollywood**, spoke in support of the reading series "Spoken Interludes" that was held by Le Colonial and commented that readings of this nature are not noisy like other forms of entertainment.

### **Commission Discussion**

**Commissioner Thompson** disclosed that one of the public speakers was a former boyfriend of one of his childhood girlfriends.

**Commissioner Kazakos** asked Anthony Punnett what he felt a reasonable hour of operation for the Restaurant would be?

Mr. Punnett responded that he feels that 2:00 A.M. would be a reasonable closing time for the restaurant. Mr. Punnett continued that Le Colonial is the only nice restaurant in the area that serves fine cuisine late at night and commented on the importance of this type of service for people who enjoy eating late.

**Action: To receive and file the staff report.**

Motion: Thompson

Second: Kazakos

Votes: All Ayes

Motion carried.

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C. COMMISSION CHAIR'S REPORT

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D. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

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**Sonnenburg**

❖ Asked for an update regarding current happenings with the restaurant formerly known as Scandia and Legacy.

❖ Requested an update on the re-issuance of licenses for Le Colonial at the September 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Thompson**

❖ Asked Staff about the issuance of official parking passes and obtaining commissioner business cards.

❖ Requested a summary of valet operations at Moomba's and Miyagi's.

**Kazakos**

❖ Requested an informational item on Rome located at 9000 Sunset Blvd.

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E. ITEMS FROM STAFF

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A Update the Commission on the proposed increase in the number of seats to be held by the Business License Commission from five (5) to seven (7) which will be discussed at the upcoming August 20<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

Wade Davenport gave the Commission a brief report of the council proposed change in the number of seats to be held by the Business License Commission. Councilmember Duran has asked that the number of seats be increased from five (5) to seven (7). This matter will be heard, by the Council at the August 20<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

B. Upcoming discussion at September 4<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting concerning review of working draft of the proposed amendments to the Business License Ordinance.

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F. NEW BUSINESS

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G. OLD BUSINESS

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Three (3) month review of Resolution #BL2001-02, conditions of approval for the Trocadero restaurant located at 8280 Sunset Blvd.

Jeff Aubel presented the Staff Report.

Public Testimony

A. **Milton Zampelli, West Hollywood**, owner of The Trocadero spoke regarding the current seating plan that is on file and stated that it is impossible to comply with. Mr. Zampelli also stated that most of the noise is coming from the rear parking lot and not from inside the Trocadero.

It was the desire of the Commission to receive and file Staff's report and to set a six (6) month review to be heard by this body 90 days from this date.

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XI. ADJOURNMENT

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**Action:** To adjourn to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Business License Commission to be held on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001 from 6:00 p.m. until completion at West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard in the Community Conference Room.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS DAY OF Oct. 2, 2001.

CHAIRPERSON: 

ATTEST:  
BUSINESS LICENSE OFFICER: 