

BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION MEETING

*Tuesday, July 2, 2002
City of West Hollywood*

I CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sonnenburg called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

A *ROLL CALL:
PRESENT:*

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

ABSENT: Alexander Ponder

STAFF PRESENT: Wade Davenport, Code Compliance Manager; Lisa Chilton, Business License Officer; Bruce Robertson, Administrative Staff Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

C. *APPROVAL* OF *AGENDA:*

Action: To approve the agenda.

Motion: Morgan

Second. Kazakos

Votes: All Ayes

Motion carried.

II CONSENT CALENDAR

A. *Approval of Minutes of May 28, 2002.*

The minutes were approved by a consensus of the commissioners present.

B. *Approval of Minutes of June 4, 2002*

The minutes were approved by a consensus of the commissioners present.

III. ITEMS FROM CITIZENS

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

V COMMISSION CHAIR'S REPORT

VI. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Thompson asked about the use of the meters along Robertson Blvd , between Santa Monica Blvd., and Melrose Ave., and questioned if valet operators were using these meters with the City's approval?

Mr. Davenport responded that these meters have been purchased by the valet company for their use during certain hours each day as a part of their approved valet operating plan.

Commissioner Guardarrama commented on the traffic congestion in this area of Robertson Blvd., and asked staff if any complaints have been received regarding valet operations in this area?

Mr. Davenport conceded that there is considerable traffic congestion in this area but emphasized that Code Compliance does periodic site visits to this area and confirmed that the valets are operating within their approved operating plan

Commission Zaden requested that staff agendize a commission election at the next regularly scheduled meeting, as is dictated in the newly adopted commission by-laws

Mr. Davenport reminded the Commission that they held an election as recently as last May but added that if it was the desire of the Commission that another election could be agendized and held at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

Commissioner Morgan expressed the opinion that it is important for the Commission to follow the newly prescribed by-laws as they have been adopted by the City Council and supported the need for a commission election

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

- A. *Review of May 2002 Business License Activity Report.*
- B. *Oral Report Concerning Activities at Miyagi's Located at 8225 Sunset Blvd.*

Mr. Davenport gave a brief report of investigations recently made into the operations of Miyagi's stating that Code Compliance has not issued any citations, at this location, during the past 12 months. He continued that they have also investigated the allegation of illegal dancing at this location but stated that they have not found this allegation to be true. He clarified by stating that it is Code Compliance's belief that any dancing that may have occurred in the past has not be condoned or organized by the restaurant and therefore no violation has been found.

C. Oral Report Concerning Activities at Goodbar Located at 9229 Sunset Blvd.

Mr. Davenport reported that there are some issues relating to Goodbar most of which the Sheriffs are working to correct. Mr. Davenport continued that the Sheriff's Sunset Team and SPU (Special Problems Unit) are working with current club management and owners to address the problems at hand.

Mr. Davenport also reported that Code Compliance has been to the site to investigate complaints of noise violations and recently issued a warning citation but that no further citations or complaints have been received.

D. Oral Report Concerning Community Meeting at Hart Park Regarding the Argyle Hotel Located at 8358 Sunset Blvd.

Mr. Davenport reported that a recent meeting was held between White House residents, the Argyle Hotel management and City staff. At this meeting the Hotel reported that they are in the process of installing a newly custom designed sound system which should alleviate any noise which may currently emanate from the Hotel into the neighborhood.

Mr. Davenport continued that since that meeting additional complaints have been received by White House residents regarding a recent wedding held at the Hotel and that city staff continues to work with hotel management to rectify these problems.

E. Update on Recent Changes in the Code Compliance Division by the City

Mr. Davenport informed the Commission of a recent change implemented by the City Manager indicating that the Code Compliance division has been moved from the Community Development Department and placed under the direction of the Public Safety Manager, Richard Odenthal.

Mr. Davenport continued that as a result of this action the regularly scheduled meetings of the Business License Commission for August and September would be canceled.

Commissioner Kazakos asked who made this decision to move the Code Compliance division and why?

Mr. Davenport answered that it is within the City Managers purview to make organizational changes that he feels will benefit the operation of the City and that this decision was made to enhance the work flow within the organization. Mr. Davenport continued that the Code Compliance division works very closely with the Sheriff's department as does Public Safety and that as such it makes sense for them to be a part of Public Safety.

Commissioner Sonnenburg expressed her concern that with this new direction she feels that the future viability of the Business License Commission is in jeopardy

Commissioner Thompson encouraged each of the commissioners to discuss the potential impacts of this decision with each of their appointing councilmembers and to express their concerns and to emphasize, to their councilmembers, the importance of this body to the community.

Commissioner Zaden asked staff how Code Compliance and the Business License Commission is set-up in other cities?

Staff responded that this would vary from city to city and that both Code Compliance and the Business License Commission might operate under any number of departments within the City.

Public Testimony

A Donald DeLuccio, West Hollywood, commented that as an appointee of Councilmember Jeff Prang he knows that Councilmember Prang supports this commission and also encouraged the commissioners to speak with their individual appointing councilmembers regarding this matter

Commissioner Guardarrama expressed frustration that residents with issues currently before this commission must now wait until the Commission reconvenes in October before their concerns can be addressed and considers this move unfair to city residents

Commissioner Thompson also expressed concern that he has frequently offered this body as a sounding board to residents who may have concerns or frustrations in the way a business may be operating and that this will now not be an option for these residents during August and September.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

IX. OLD BUSINESS

X ADJOURNMENT

Action: To adjourn to the next scheduled meeting of the Business License Commission to be held on Tuesday, October 1, 2002, from 6:00 p.m. until completion at West Hollywood Park Auditorium, 647 No. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood.

Motion: Kazakos
Votes. All Ayes

Second: Zaden
Motion carried.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS DAY OF Sept. 10, 2002.

CHAIRPERSON: [Signature]

ATTEST:
BUSINESS LICENSE OFFICER: [Signature]