

## BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION

### MINUTES

Tuesday, March 13, 2001  
The Werle Building  
626 North Robertson Blvd.  
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA

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

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A. ROLL CALL:  
PRESENT: Commissioners – Scott Forbes, Maxine Sonnenburg, and Stanley Stalford.

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa Chilton, Business License Officer; Bruce Robertson, Administrative Staff Assistant.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Sonnenburg led A pledge of allegiance.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

**Action: To approve the Agenda.**

Motion: Forbes                      Second: Sonnenburg

Votes: All Ayes                      Motion carried.

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II. CONSENT CALENDAR

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**Action: To make grammatical changes to the minutes of January 9, 2001 and February 6, 2001 as recommended by Commissioner Sonnenburg and to approve the Consent Calendar as amended.**

Motion: Forbes                      Second: Stalford

Votes: All Ayes                      Motion carried.

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III. ITEMS FROM CITIZENS

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A. **Dan Silver, West Hollywood**, asked the Commission to assist residents in protecting the quality of life in the City's neighborhoods. Mr. Silver commented that the businesses on the Sunset strip are negatively impacting the neighborhoods in this area.

- B. **Brian Chin, Los Angeles**, representing The Trocadero restaurant spoke in support of The Trocadero and commented on steps that the business has recently taken to be a good neighbor.

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IV. PUBLIC HEARING

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V. COMMISSION CHAIR'S REPORT

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Chair Forbes announced that consideration is being made by the City to extend the operating hours of meters on the Sunset strip until 1:00 A.M.

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VI. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

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**Stalford**

- Asked for an update on Noura Café.

Staff responded that Noura Café has been given the go ahead to operate the front end of their business as was granted under their original CUP. The owners of Noura Café are working with City officials to correct the safety violations that have been noted in an effort to reopen the entire restaurant as soon as possible. Noura café is also currently in the process a reapplying for a new CUP.

**Sonnenburg**

- Expressed concern that the public was not notified of the reopening of Noura Café, after their business license denial had been upheld by the City Council and asked if public notification would be possible in the future. Commissioner Sonnenburg also requested that commissioners be individually notified of these situations.
- Commissioner Sonnenburg also recommended that the City's Public Information Office (PIO) be notified of future restaurant/club closings and subsequent re-openings in order that the public be notified of these events, possibly through a newspaper publication, and in order to eliminate calls from the public to the commission.

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VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

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- A. Discuss and review letter and petition received from Dr. Daniel Silver requesting revocation of a regulatory Business License with the Business License Commission for direction.

Staff asked the Commission for its direction on this matter suggesting the following options.

1. Direct staff to do a study of the situation and return with a report of its findings.

2. To agendaize this item and bring it back to the Commission in the form of a public hearing for a possible modification, suspension or revocation of its current public eating license.
3. To have Code Compliance do site inspections over the next three (3) months to evaluate the business's compliance to the city's municipal code and current CUP.

#### Commission Discussion

##### **Sonnenburg**

- Asked if the Trocadero has received complaints or citations other than those brought before the Commission by Dr. Silver.
- Asked that gross receipts be examined for the time period of February 1, 2001 – March 1, 2001 in order to establish if the business is operating as a restaurant or a nightclub.

##### **Stalford**

- Asked if the City considers The Trocadero to be a restaurant or nightclub.
- Suggested that a historical report be compiled reviewing complaints made under the management of the former owners vs. complaints made under the management of the new owners.
- Examine the gross sales receipts to compare food sales vs. alcohol sales.
- Questioned whether the noise and/or complaints generated by the Trocadero greater than the other businesses on the Sunset strip.

##### **Forbes**

- Suggested that at least two (2) site inspections be made by Code Compliance before the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the BLC in order that the Commission can make a decision regarding this matter.

The Commission directed Staff to do the following:

1. Compile a staff report including historical and current complaint data and violations which will concentrate on the time period from September 2000 to the present and including any violations related to the new club ownership.
2. At least two (2) On site inspections to be made by Code Compliance before the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
3. Gross food and alcohol receipts to be examined to determine if The Trocadero is operating as a restaurant or a nightclub.

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VIII. NEW BUSINESS

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IX. OLD BUSINESS

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The Business License Commission shall reconsider modifying suspending, or revoking Public Eating Business License REG000384 and Valet Parking Business License REG001154 for Le Colonial Restaurant at 8783 Bonner Drive. Pursuant to Resolution #BL2000-03 conditions of approval, section #4, paragraph 13. Issuance of citation during six (6) month review period thereby triggering reconsideration.

Lisa Chilton presented the staff report and recommended that the Commission direct Staff to schedule a public hearing for possible modification, suspension, or revocation of Le Colonial's public eating license.

At the request of the Commission, item #3 (Items from Citizens) was reopened to allow for public comment on this issue.

Public Comment

A. Alain Bally, Los Angeles, Contended with miscellaneous points presented in the staff report and spoke on behalf of the Trocadero.

**Forbes**

- Visited Le Colonial on Saturday, March 10, 2001 and witnessed patrons on the second balcony after 10:00 p.m. which is a violation of their conditions of operation as set forth in Resolution BL 2000-03.

**Action: To agendize a public hearing to reconsider the modification, suspension, or revocation of regulatory business licenses held by Le Colonial restaurant at the April 3<sup>rd</sup> BLC meeting.**

Motion: Sonnenburg

Second: Stalford

Votes: All Ayes

Motion carried.

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X. PUBLIC COMMENT

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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 April 3, 2001 from 6:00 p.m. until completion at West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard in the Community Conference Room.**

Motion: Forbes

Second: Sonnenburg

Votes: All Ayes

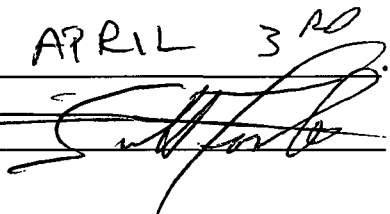
Motion carried.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS DAY OF

APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup>

CHAIRPERSON:

SCOTT FORBES



**ATTEST:**

**BUSINESS LICENSE OFFICER:**

*Lisa A. Chilton*

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