

**JOINT MEETING OF THE WEST HOLLYWOOD
CITY COUNCIL AND THE
BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION**

**MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 21, 1999
WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Heilman and Commission Chair Forbes called the meeting to order at 6:08 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Councilmembers - Guarriello, Martin, Prang, Mayor Heilman.
Councilmember Koretz arrived at 6:20 P.M.
Commissioners - Griffin, Mackler, Morgan, Sonnenburg, Forbes.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Ray Reynolds, Director of Community Development, Assistant City Attorney Terrance Boga, City Clerk Thompson and Deputy Clerk Jennifer Diaz.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. GENERAL ROLE OF THE BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION AND THE CITY COUNCIL'S LIST OF PRIORITIES FOR THE BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION:

Ray Reynolds, Director of Community Development, provided background information as outlined in the staff report dated June 21, 1999.

Commission Chair Forbes provided background information about the Business License Commission.

Commissioner Sonnenburg stated most of the duties of the Commission have been moved to other Commissions. She suggested that the Business License take on additional duties such as special event permits, not limited to carnivals along with extended hour permits.

Commissioner Griffin stated he does not want to create work to have the Business License Commission, but thought that perhaps the Commission could take on the responsibilities of Taxi Operations.

Commissioner Mackler stated his agreement with Commissioner Griffin regarding creating work. However he recommended that the Commission look at marketing new businesses or perhaps a liaison to businesses during for the major development projects such as Santa Monica Boulevard Rehabilitation Project and other business mitigation matters.

Commissioner Morgan stated that perhaps some duties could be spread out to include all those in the community who wish to remain involved.

Commission Chair Forbes stated that in most cities similar to West Hollywood the Business License Commission would handle the issuance of Taxi Licenses.

Councilmember Guarriello stated the last accomplishment the Business License Commission achieved was the closing of Oki Dog as a public nuisance, and stated it would be a shame to lose that expertise.

Mayor Heilman and Councilmember Koretz provided background information about the streamlining of the permit process which transferred some of the duties of the Business License Commission to the Planning Commission.

Mayor Heilman indicated his interest in assigning the Business License Commission duties to include business retention and economic development issues, promotion of the City and development of a business attraction policy. He added however that some duties of the Commission may need to be enhanced such as dealing with problems at the 24-hour Fitness Gym.

Councilmember Martin indicated his interest in making the Business License Commission a temporary Task Force to develop a Special Events Policy and permitting of Special Events. He suggested that the Business License Commission be phased out in one-year.

Mayor Pro Tempore Prang stated that there are issues from citizens that need to be addressed by some form of public hearings by the Business License Commission or another Commission. He suggested that the Business License Commission have some authority over businesses that need to be monitored that have a high risk of the spreading of HIV/AIDS and the distribution of condoms in these businesses.

Councilmember Koretz stated that the Business License Commission is more than capable of handling taxi issues and revocation of business licenses. He also stated that there should be a task force formed in the near future for the soliciting of new businesses. He recommends to keep the Commission with the functions that they have and to give them additional projects.

Councilmember Martin asked what the Business License Commission would handle besides taxi and revocation issues. He stated that the Commission should not be kept solely on the couple of issues it currently handles. He suggested a disband date of June 30, 2000 and recommended a Task Force to handle other issues, including a debriefing of the Christopher Street West event.

Mayor Heilman stated he was in agreement with a phasing out of the Commission but would like the Commission to look at business attention/attraction, special events, debriefing of CSW, and promotion of the City.

ACTION: 1) Direct staff to prepare an Ordinance phasing-out the Business License Commission as of June 30, 2000 and prepare recommendations for the transfer of existing duties, such as extended hour licenses and appeals, to either the Public Safety Commission or the Planning Commission; 2) Direct the Business License Commission to meet with Planning and Human Services staff in terms of the Commission regulating and promoting Special Events, and make recommendations to the City Council if Commission oversight is needed or some other type of body or remain with staff; 3) Direct the Business License Commission to review economic development, in general, to determine if there is a role to assist in promotion of the City and promotion of the businesses and targeting economic development; 4) Direct the Business License Commission to debrief the Christopher Street West Gay and Lesbian Pride Celebration Event; and 5) Direct the Business License Commission to work with staff regarding the condom distribution program.
By consensus of the City Council.

IV. CITIZEN COMMENTS: None.

V. COUNCILMEMBER AND COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: None.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: The City Council and Business License Commission adjourned at 6:58 p.m. The City Council adjourned to a Closed Session followed by their Regular Meeting.