

**BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**Tuesday, December 5, 2000  
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM  
WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL  
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, Rodney Scott, Terry Morgan and Stanley Stalford.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Wade Davenport, Code Compliance Manager; Gloria Buitrago, Code Compliance Officer; Sue Schumacher, Code Compliance Officer Bruce Robertson, Administrative Staff Assistant.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Deputy Sabatine

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

C. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Action: To approve the Agenda.**

Motion: Forbes                      Second: R. Scott  
Votes: All Ayes                      Motion carried.

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II. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

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A. Approval of Minutes from November 14, 2000

**Action: To approve the consent calendar**

Motion: Sonnenburg                      Second: Morgan  
Votes: All Ayes                      Motion carried.

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III. **ITEMS FROM CITIZENS - None**

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IV. **PUBLIC HEARING**

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- A. The Business License Commission shall continue the public hearing to consider modifying, suspending, or revoking Public Eating Business License, Extended Hours, Coin-op Games & Managers Business License REG000090, REG000091, REG000092, REG000716, and REG000895 for Club 7702 located at 7702 Santa Monica Boulevard.

Gloria Buitrago presented the staff report.

Public Testimony

- a. **Michael Hencin, Beverly Hills**, spoke on behalf of Club 7702 and commented that the Club's owner, Vince Gioelli, is very conscientious about running a strict and efficient club.
- b. **Rick Featherlin, West Hollywood**, spoke on behalf of Club 7702 and stated that he has not encountered any problems with patrons while working at the club.
- c. **Chris Chapman, West Hollywood**, commented that Club 7702 is a neighborhood bar that is sternly operated and should be allowed to continue its operation, as it is an asset to the community.
- d. **Blaine Winterman, West Hollywood**, feels that Club 7702 is unfairly being \_\_\_\_\_ out especially given that there are other similar businesses in the area the operate the same as Club 7702.
- e. **Andreas Birgel, Jr., Encino**, attorney for Club 7702 commented that the list of calls for service from the Sheriffs station indicate a variety of calls made that may or may not be attributable to this establishment. Mr. Birgel also asked the Commission that if after reviewing the testimony they find that the club has been negligent, to reprimand the Club but not revoke the regulatory business license.
- f. **Vince Gioelli, Los Angeles**, feels that he runs a clean club and asked the Commission not to revoke his business license.
- g. **Jim Hale, West Hollywood**, feels that Club 7702 is being unfairly targeted and that a club should not be held accountable for the actions of its patrons.
- h. **Jeffrey Hersch, West Hollywood**, commented on the integrity of club owner Vince Gioelli and spoke against those who are trying to harass the club.
- i. **Chris Uszler, Los Angeles**, feels that he has been harassed by the Sheriff's Department while patronizing the Club and that this harassment is unwarranted.
- j. **Janell McKane, Northridge**, supports Club 7702.
- k. **Gene McBride, West Hollywood**, concurs with the other speakers in support of Club 7702 and believes that this club is being unfairly targeted.
- l. **Chris Ladny, West Hollywood**, spoke in support of the Club and its owner and commented that he feels welcome at Club 7702.
- m. **Erik Hundrieser, West Hollywood**, commented on the City's intent to close down establishments that serve alcohol on the eastside.

Chair Forbes disclosed that, in the past, he employed one of the current employees of Club 7702.

Deputy Ron Sabatine stated for the record that the Sheriffs department is not in the business of opening or closing clubs but to merely provide information as has been requested by Code Compliance.

Deputy Sabatine gave a brief summary and history of the police reports that were supplied by staff to the commission in relation to the arrests and how and where they took place.

Deputy Sabatine also stated that it is common knowledge that Meth Amphetamines and the drug Ecstasy can be easily purchased at club 7702.

Commissioner Sonnenburg asked Deputy Sabatine if similar incidents occur at both Club 7702 and the Spike?

Deputy Sabatine responded that it is his opinion that the Spike club might be responsible for some of the calls to service made by the Sheriffs department and that are listed on the log that he is referring to.

#### Commission Discussion

##### **Stalford**

- Suggested that a time restriction be put into place for the operation of Club 7702.
- Recommended that a security guard be placed on premise to monitor the activities of the Club.
- Recommended that a security guard also be placed at the front door.
- Supports a 90-day review of the Clubs activities.

##### **R. Scott**

- Training with the Sheriffs department should be mandated.
- Installation of additional outside lighting in front and back
- Suggests posting additional security personnel in and around the premises of the club.
- Supports a review process in three (3) months.

##### **Morgan**

- Recommended that uniformed security be placed in the club.
- Supports the voluntary closing at 2:00 a.m. Monday – Thursday
- Signage to be placed in the club indicating that drugs will not be tolerated.
- Additional lighting to be installed in the back area of the Club.

### **Sonnenburg**

- Suggested that the Club voluntarily close at 2:00 a.m. every night of the week for a period of six (6) months in order to determine if illegal activity is coming from other clubs in the area.

### **Forbes**

- Does not support revoking the business license or the Extended Hours license.
- Supports security both inside and outside the club from 11:00 p.m. to closing.
- Additional lighting in the rear of the club to be on at all times.
- All bar personnel to work with the Sheriffs department in training that would help them to recognize potential problems at the club.
- Incident report log to be kept by the club which would be made available to staff upon request.

Staff recommended to the Commission that a six (6) month review be set to allow Club 7702 time to implement the changes that have been mandated by this body.

**Action: To direct staff to draft a resolution that will be approved, by this commission, outlining the following conditions as have been set forth for the continued operation of Club 7702.**

Motion: Morgan

Second: Sonnenburg

### Conditions of Approval

1. Work with staff to improve exterior lighting in the rear of the establishment.
2. There will be one identifiable roving security person to wander the inside and outside of the establishment every night after 11:00 P.M.
3. In addition to the roving security person nightly, on nights when the club is open past 2:00 A.M, there will also be an additional security person at the front door from 11:00 P.M. until 6:00 A.M.
4. An incident log will be kept and made available to staff upon request.
5. All club personnel, including the Club's owner will participate in Narcotics Recognition training that will be given by the West Hollywood Sheriff's Department.
6. The Commission will review compliance to these conditions of approval at a noticed public hearing six (6) months from this hearing date at the regularly scheduled Business License Commission meeting.

Votes: All Ayes

Motion carried.

- B. The Business License Commission shall conduct a public hearing to hear the appeal of denied Public Eating Business License REG001161 for Noura Café located at 8479 Melrose Avenue.

Gloria Buitrago presented the staff report.

#### Public Testimony

- a. **Usama Fadli, Los Angeles**, spoke on behalf of Noura Café and asked the commission to give him the opportunity to correct the violations of the past rather than revoke his Public Eating License.
- b. **Barbara Babbin, Los Angeles**, commented on noise coming from Noura Café disturbing the peace of the neighborhood.
- c. **Mriayel Iseayelyan, Los Angeles**, commented on amplified music coming from Noura's Café.
- d. **Leslie Glick, Los Angeles**, spoke on behalf of Noura Café and asked for the Commission's leniency in this matter.
- e. **Donna Feinstein, Los Angeles**, commented on the noise coming from the restaurant.
- f. **Ellen Shore, Los Angeles**, commented on the noise coming from Noura Café.
- g. **Ellie Glick, Los Angeles**, asked the commission to give Noura Café a second chance.

#### Commission Discussion

**Morgan**, Commented that business owners must accept responsibility for the actions of their employees and patrons and be prepared to accept the responsibilities that come with business ownership. Commissioner Morgan also commented that language barriers or lack of knowledge of city codes are not excuses for a poorly managed business.

**Stalford**, Chastised Noura Café for the egregious code violations that have occurred in the past and for the blatant disregard for the City and its building and safety standards.

#### **Sonnenburg**

- Recommended that the Glick's (landlords) work in conjunction with the business owner and Code Compliance to correct the existing problems at Noura Café and to uphold Staff's denial of Public Eating license.

**R. Scott**, Stated that the noncompliance of Noura café has placed its patrons at risk and that the City has tried to work with the restaurant during the past three (3) years but that the restaurant has not responded to any of the City's requests or persuasions.

#### **Forbes**

- Recommended upholding staffs recommendation of the denial of business license.

**Action: To move Staff's recommendation of denial of Public Eating license REG001161 with prejudice.**

Motion: Morgan  
Votes: All Ayes

Second: Stalford  
Motion carried.

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V. COMMISSION CHAIR'S REPORT - None

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VI. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

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**Sonnenburg**

- Congratulated Wade on his presentation of the proposed Work Plan to the City Council.

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VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

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**Wade Davenport**

- Announced that at last night's meeting the City Council adopted option #1 of the Proposed Work Plan. He also stated that he would be bringing back to the Commission a proposed Draft Ordinance amending the current Business License Ordinance and establishing the adopted procedures for final adoption by the City Council.
- Commented that he will be working with the City attorney to set up a refresher course of procedural matters including Roberts Rules of Order and correct noticing procedures, for the Commission.

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VIII. NEW BUSINESS - None

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IX. OLD BUSINESS - None

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X. PUBLIC COMMENT

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- a. **Dan Silver, West Hollywood**, Commented on restaurants that are becoming nightclubs.

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XI. ADJOURNMENT

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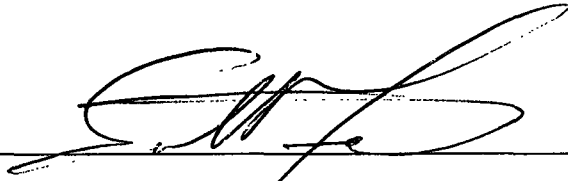
**Action: To adjourn to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Business License Commission to be held on January 2, 2000 from 6:00 p.m. until completion at the City of West Hollywood, Community Conference Room, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard.**

Motion: Morgan  
Votes: All Ayes

Second: R. Scott  
Motion carried.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_.**

**CHAIRPERSON:** \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. J. ...', written over a horizontal line.

**ATTEST:**

**BUSINESS LICENSE OFFICER:** \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. ...', written over a horizontal line.