

# BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION MEETING

*Tuesday, December 11, 2001*

*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, Stanley Stalford, James Kazakos, Eric Thompson, Sibyl Zaden, Alexander Ponder and Terry Morgan.

*STAFF PRESENT:*

Mark Persico, Community Development Director; Wade Davenport, Code Compliance Manager; Lisa Chilton, Business License Officer; Bruce Robertson, Administrative Staff Assistant.

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

C. *APPROVAL OF AGENDA:*

**Action: To approve the agenda.**

Motion: Stalford

Second: Thompson

Votes: All Ayes

Motion carried.

## II. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. *Approval of Minutes for November 6, 2001.*

**Action: To approve the Minutes of November 6th.**

Motion: Thompson

Second: Stalford

Votes: All Ayes

Motion carried.

B. *Oath of Office for New Commission Members*

Councilmember John Duran administered the oath of office to Sibyl Zaden, Terry Morgan and Alexander Ponder and welcomed them as new members of the Business License Commission.

III. ITEMS FROM CITIZENS

- A. **Richard Maggio**, West Hollywood, chair of the Rent Stabilization Commission welcomed the new commissioners to the Business License Commission and congratulated them on their appointments.
- B. **Hillary Selvin**, Los Angeles, Executive Director of the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce welcomed the new commissioners and extended her hand of assistance anytime that they feel the Chamber could be helpful in resolving issues that are before the Commission.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING - None

V. COMMISSION CHAIR'S REPORT - None

VI. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS - None

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

- A. *Staff update of Club 7969's appeal to the City Council of Resolution BL 2001-04, business located at 7969 Santa Monica Blvd.*

Code Compliance Manager Wade Davenport updated the Commission on the appeal of Club 7969 to the City Council. He confirmed that a timely appeal was filed and that the scheduled hearing date before the City Council would be January 22, 2002. He continued that the 30 day noticing as is required by the code has been completed and that staff is now waiting for any public comment that might be submitted on this issue. The deadline for submitting public comment is January 8, 2002.

Commissioner Thompson asked Mr. Davenport about the rumor of a new owner of the club coming forward.

Mr. Davenport replied that the Club does not have a new owner but that this person, Alice Schiller, has been the owner for approximately the past 40 years but that the City was unaware of this.

Commissioner Thompson proceeded by commenting that Mr. Goldberg represented himself as the owner of the club and asked his true affiliation with the Club

Mr. Davenport replied that Mr. Goldberg is and has been the general manager of the Club. He further stated that the niece of Alice Schiller, Carol Feld is and has been the president of Alhar Enterprises, the parent company of Club 7969.

Commissioner Sonnenburg asked if the Felds have been the owners on record of Alhar Enterprises for the past 20 years or more?

Mr. Davenport responded in the affirmative clarifying that the Feld's mailing address is in Washington D.C., but that this information was never revealed on any official business license documentation submitted, to the City, by Club 7969.

Chair Sonnenburg urged the members of the Commission who were present at the November hearings to attend the public hearing before the City Council on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Chair also asked the commissioners to consider speaking on this matter should they have information that they feel might be insightful for the City Councilmembers in making their decision regarding this issue.

*B. Staff updates of The Trocadero's compliance actions and to reagendaize a public hearing to January 8, 2002 for this business located at 8289 Sunset Blvd.*

Community Development Director, Mark Persico provided the Commission with a summary of the Director's hearing that was held earlier that evening regarding The Trocadero and their request to amend their current MCUP. Mr. Persico confirmed that he approved the amendment to their MCUP revising the approved floor plan of the restaurant. It was concluded that the floor plan as approved in 1994 was unachievable. Mr. Persico also stated that with the newly approved MCUP there were additional conditions of approval set with which The Trocadero must now comply. The most significant of the added conditions is the requirement that alcohol must be incidental to food service.

Mr. Davenport added that should the Director's decision not be appealed staff would take the necessary steps in order for the Business License Commission to hold a public hearing for The Trocadero at the regularly scheduled meeting in January 2002. Mr. Davenport reminded the Commission that the purpose of the public hearing would be to determine whether or not The Trocadero is abiding by the conditions imposed, by the Director at their MCUP hearing. He continued that at that time the Commission must decide if additional modification of their business licenses is required or if all conditions imposed by the Commission should be lifted due to compliance with previously set conditions.

Commissioner Sonnenburg asked if having a public hearing in January would give adequate time for the restaurant and the neighbors to determine whether reasonable compliance has been achieved or not.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

Chair invited Councilmember John Duran to address the Commission at this time.

Councilmember Duran congratulated the new members of the Business License Commission on their appointments. He explained to the Commission that he felt it was important to expand the Business License Commission from five (5) to seven (7) members because he feels that this commission is one of the most important commissions in the city due of its sensitive dealings between businesses and residents. Councilmember Duran clarified by saying that issues between businesses and residents often become politically hot in nature and therefore felt it was important to expand the commission size. He also stated that he feels it would be important to periodically televise Business License Commission meetings so that the City's residents can watch the Commission operate and can know that the Commission is handling sensitive issues brought to the City by both residents and business owners alike.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Action: To adjourn to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Business License Commission to be held on Tuesday, January 8, 2002, from 6:00 p.m. until completion at West Hollywood Park Auditorium, 647 North San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood.**

Motion: Zaden

Second: Morgan

Votes: All Ayes

Motion carried.

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

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

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