



**BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 6, 2015**

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Zaden called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

a. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Lo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

b. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Chair Zaden
Vice-Chair Charity
Commissioner Bridle
Commissioner Kay
Commissioner Kazakos
Commissioner King
Commissioner Lo

ALSO PRESENT: Code Compliance Manager Jeffery Aubel, Business License Officer Jeff Strong, Staff Liaison, Anne Van Valkenburgh, Staff Attorney Jonathan Holub, City Attorney Shahiedah Coates.

c. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

ACTION: Approve the Business License Commission Public Hearing Agenda of Tuesday, October 6, 2015. **Moved by Commissioner Kazakos, seconded by Commissioner Lo and unanimously passes.**

d. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

ACTION: Approve the Business License Commission Minutes of Tuesday, September 1, 2015. **Moved by Commissioner Bridle, seconded by Vice-Chair Charity and unanimously passes.**

e. Public Comment: None.

2. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. The Business License Commission shall conduct a public hearing to consider modifying, suspending, or revoking Pawn Broker License #004678 for the business know as Mr. G's Pawn Shop, located at 7775 Santa Monica Blvd, West Hollywood, CA 90046.

Business: Mr. G's Pawn Shop
Business Owner: Alma Popok
License: Pawn Broker License # 004678
Location: 7775 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069

RECOMMENDATION: Recommendation: Adopt Resolution No. BL 15-001, "A RESOLUTION OF THE BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD, SUSPENDING FOR 60 DAYS, PLACING CONDITIONS AND IMPLEMENTING A 12 MONTH PROBATIONARY PERIOD ON PAWNBROKER LICENSE #004678 FOR THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS MR. G'S PAWN SHOP LOCATED AT 7775 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, WEST HOLLYWOOD."

Jeffery Aubel, Code Compliance Manager, provided background information as outlined in the staff report dated October 6, 2015. The staff report is available to the public on the City's website. This item was noticed as required by law.

Chair Zaden asked staff to clarify operating policies for a pawn shop license.

Commissioner King stated that there are State laws that prohibit the buying and selling of stolen goods. He clarified that the Business License Commission was not meeting about this issue.

Vice-Chair Charity inquired as to the reason the deputies did not confiscate the stolen bike as contraband from the pawn shop. Staff did not have an answer. Chair Zaden opened the public hearing and the following speakers came forward:

BARRY FISCHER, BEVERLY HILLS, spoke in opposition to staff's recommendation. Mr. Fischer, Attorney at Law, represented Alma Popok, owner of Mr. G's Pawn Shop. Mr. Fischer stated when the pawn shop was notified that there were some problems in the way the pawn shop was being operated; he looked into what the correct procedures for operating the pawn shop. He has put these procedures in place. He stated he has even improved the procedures with photographs of items being pawned or purchased. He stated there will be a new computer system installed at the shop and electronic & paper files of items the pawn shop purchases and sells will be on file.

Mr. Fischer stated that the staff recommendation of a 60 day suspension would force the pawn shop to close because of the financial burden it would cause. He stated this was the first time the pawn shop has had a problem. He would like the Commission to take this into consideration.

ROB BERGSTEIN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, had concerns regarding the number of pawn shops on the eastside of West Hollywood.

ALMA POPOK, RIVERSIDE, CA spoke in opposition to staff's recommendation.

EUGENE POPOK, RIVERSIDE, CA spoke in opposition to staff's recommendation.

Chair Zaden closed the public comments.

Vice-Chair Charity motioned to amend the Staff recommendation of Resolution No. 15-001 by suspending the operation of business for 30 Days instead of 60 days and adding a 18 month probation, require a reporting period with intervals at 3, 6, and 12 month after the 30 day suspension period, and keeping the original conditions that staff recommended.

Commissioner Kazakos seconded the motion.

Commissioner Lo made a substitute motion to keep the staff recommendation of 60 day suspension and conditions, but amend the probation period to an 18 month probation, keep the reporting period of 3, 6, and 12 month period after the 60 day suspension is over.

There was a discussion amongst the Commissioners about which motion would best suit the violation, a first time violation.

Chair Zaden called a roll call vote on the substitute motion. There were 7 Noes and the substitute motion failed to pass.

Chair Zaden called a roll call vote on the original motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Adopt Resolution No. 15-001 "A RESOLUTION OF THE BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD, SUSPENDING FOR 30 DAYS, PLACING CONDITONS, AND IMPLEMENTING AN 18 MONTH PROBATIONARY PERIOD ON PAWNBROKER LICENSE #004678 FOR THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS MR. G'S PAWN SHOP LOCATED AT 7775 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, WEST HOLLYWOOD".

CONDITIONS:

- THAT THE LICENSEE, ALMA POPOK, OR A LICENSED MANAGER SHALL BE ONSITE DURING ALL HOURS OF OPERATION EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND FOR 18 MONTHS FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THE SUSPENSION PERIOD.
- REQUIRE REPORTING PERIODS AT THREE, SIX AND TWELVE MONTHS AFTER REOPENING.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Business License Commission of the City of West Hollywood at a regular meeting the 6th day of October 2015 by the following vote:

AYES: Zaden, Charity, Kazakos, King, Kay, Bridle, Lo

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

3. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.
4. **NEW BUSINESS:** None
5. **EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR:** None.
6. **ITEMS FROM STAFF:** Commissioners received information about the upcoming Annual Congress on Wednesday, October 14, 2015.
7. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
8. **ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS/BOARD MEMBERS:** Commissioner Zaden inquired if the City Manager had made a decision to meet with the Chairs of all the West Hollywood Commissions and Boards. Jeff Aibel reassured Chair Zaden that he had forwarded her email to the City Manager's office. Commissioner King inquired if the City Council will get an update on what the Business License Commission decided tonight. Jeff Aibel stated he will send a report on what actions were adopted at the meeting to the City Council.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

The Business License Commission adjourned at 8:36 PM. The Business License Commission will adjourn to the next required meeting of this body, to be determined by the Director, and to be held at West Hollywood City Hall at 7:00 p.m., 8300 Santa Monica, West Hollywood, CA 90069

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION ON
THIS DAY, 3RD OF MAY, 2016.



SIBYL ZADEN, CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:



JESSICA BENITEZ, BUSINESS LICENSE OFFICER