

**BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2019
WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK PUBLIC MEETING ROOM - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
625 N. SAN VICENTE BOULEVARD**

6:30 P.M. – SPECIAL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Lo called the meeting to order at 6:49 p.m.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Commissioner Shyne led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Copeland
Commissioner Saltzman
Commissioner Shyne
Vice Chair Zaden
Chair Lo

ABSENT: Commissioner Anthony

ALSO PRESENT: Code Compliance Manager, Danny Rivas
Code Compliance Supervisor, Yessica Benitez
Assistant City Attorney, Lauren Langer
Commission Secretary, Falyn Kingi
Community and Legislative Affairs Manager, John Leonard

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

SUBJECT: The Business License Commission is requested to approve the agenda.

ACTION: Approve the Business License Commission Agenda of October 22, 2019. **Motion by Commissioner Zaden to approve the August 13, 2019, agenda, seconded by Commissioner Kalonian and approved.**

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

SUBJECT: The Business License Commission is requested to approve the minutes of prior Business License Commission meetings.

ACTION: Code Compliance Manager Rivas, requested that the word accommodation be replaced with commendation under item 8. Approve the minutes of September 25, 2019. **Motion by Chair Lo to approve the July**

16, 2019, minutes, seconded by Commissioner Saltzman and approved.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

MARV AUERBACH, WEST HOLLYWOOD, expressed concern regarding cannabis dispensaries within the city.

3. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

A. APPLICATION BY AEON WEST HOLLYWOOD, INC FOR CANNABIS BUSINESS LICENSES FOR ADULT-USE RETAIL, MEDICAL-USE DISPENSARY AND CANNABIS CONSUMPTION AREA (SMOKING, VAPING, EDIBLES) FOR THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS AEON BOTANIKA, TO BE LOCATED AT 8448 SANTA MONICA BLVD.

SUBJECT: The West Hollywood Business License Commission shall conduct a public hearing to consider the applications by Aeon West Hollywood, Inc. for Cannabis Business Licenses in the following categories: Adult-Use Retail, Medical-Use Dispensary and Consumption Area (Smoking, Vaping, Edibles) for the business known as Aeon Botanika, to be located at 8448 Santa Monica Blvd.

Commission Secretary Kingi stated that the item was noticed as required by law.

Community and Legislative Affairs Manager Leonard provided background information as provided in the staff report dated October 22, 2019. He provided multiple visuals of the exterior and interior design renderings, floor plans, and discussed the security plan. He discussed the Odor Control Standards, Hours of Operation, Neighborhood Impact Mitigation, License Duration, Requirements for License Issuance, Grounds for Denial of License, and the Staff Recommendation. He then discussed the edit to the consumption lounge conditions (condition 3), which allows product purchases in the consumption area that are not fully consumed to be taken off-site.

The commission discussed the change to condition 3 under the consumption lounge, the driveway/alleyway layout, opening times, parking, possible impacts with opening times, and current investors.

NICOLE FOX, FOUNDER and CEO, introduced herself and provided background information on how and why the company was founded.

VEENA PAREKH, CO-FOUNDER and COO, spoke regarding the business layout, offering valet parking, paid transportation pass for employees, discussed renderings, menus, staff trainings, acoustic music programs, and community classes.

NICOLE FOX went on to discuss how their products will be displayed, and provided details concerning the training program for their staff, education to customers, and non-cannabis menu and wellness center that will be offered.

Commissioner Copeland inquired about the bar-coded packaging in conjunction with the recognition digital screens and online ordering with express pick up.

Commissioner Shyne expressed gratitude for the business model and questioned how the age limit will be monitored.

SCOTT SCHMIDT, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in support of item 3A.

JEFF DANZER, LOS ANGELES, spoke in support of item 3A.

GENEVIEVE MORRILL, LOS ANGELES, spoke in support of item 3A.

LAUREN FOUNTEIN, LOS ANGELES, spoke in support of item 3A.

AARON LEIDER, LOS ANGELES, spoke in support of item 3A.

SOL YAMINI, LOS ANGELES, spoke in support of item 3A.

SUSAN CANCEL, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in opposition of 3A.

NICOLE FOX, FOUNDER and CEO, explained why they are requesting an 8am start time for the consumption lounge and emphasized a need to have an open-door relationship with all neighbors to address noise complaints and have deliveries happen after 10am. She also addressed possible parking issues.

VEENA PAREKH, CO-FOUNDER and COO, spoke regarding their security plan.

Commissioner Shyne asked for clarification on the 10:00 p.m. cut off time in the consumption lounge and the fence being built.

Commissioner Kalonian inquired about security as it pertains to trash form packaging that has been left behind my customers on the sidewalk or lawns.

Commissioner Shyne and Kalonian stated they supported the 8am start time for the consumption lounge.

Commissioner Copeland, Shyne, Kalonian and Chair Lo commended the business on their business model and presentation.

ACTION: Adopt Resolution No. BLC19-0009, "A RESOLUTION OF THE BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD APPROVING CANNABIS ADULT-USE RETAIL BUSINESS LICENSE #CAU-000007, CANNABIS MEDICAL-USE DISPENSARY BUSINESS LICENSE #CMA-000003 AND CANNABIS CONSUMPTION AREA (SMOKING, VAPING, EDIBLES) BUSINESS LICENSE #CCA-000004 with a start time of 8:00 a.m., FOR THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS AEON BOTANIKA, TO BE LOCATED AT 8448 SANTA MONICA BLVD." (Attachment A). **Motion by Commissioner Shyne, seconded by Chair Lo and approved.**

4. SPECIAL ITEMS

None.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

None.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

8. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Kalonian spoke regarding the Census 2020 meeting on December 3, 2019, and asked that staff keep that day in mind when scheduling the next Business License Commission Meeting.

Chair Lo asked staff to be mindful of the upcoming holidays when scheduling the next West Hollywood Business License Commission Meeting.

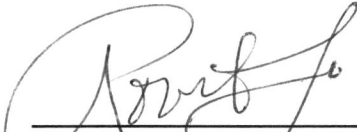
Vice Chair Zaden inquired if there was an update on her request to give commendations to businesses in the community.

Code Compliance Manager Rivas stated that the City Council can recognize businesses within the city. He explained that a request would need to be submitted to him, routed to City Council, and the business would then be invited to a City Council meeting to accept a proclamation.

Commissioner Copeland agreed that it would be a nice gesture to recognize businesses that have stayed in West Hollywood.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:** The Business License Commission adjourned at 8:03 p.m. to the next required meeting of this body, to be determined by the Code Compliance Manager, and be held at West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room - Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Business License Commission of the City of West Hollywood at a special meeting held this 27th day of January 27, 2020.



ROBERT LO, CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:



FALYN KINGI, COMMISSION SECRETARY