

**BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION  
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2021  
SPECIAL TELECONFERENCE MEETING**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**– Chair Saltzman called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**– Chair Saltzman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Commissioner Alden  
Commissioner Eisenberg  
Commissioner Lo  
Commissioner Vulin  
Commissioner Yusupov  
Vice Chair Matos  
Chair Saltzman

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Director of Public Works, Jackie Rocco  
Code Compliance Manager, Danny Rivas  
Code Compliance Supervisor, Yessica Benitez  
Commission Secretary, Falyn Kingi  
Community and Legislative Affairs Manager, John Leonard  
City Clerk, Melissa Crowder  
Deputy City Attorney, John Natalizio

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Code Compliance Manager, Danny Rivas, requested that item 7B be heard before item 7A.

**ACTION:** Approve the agenda for Wednesday, August 18, 2021. **Motion by Vice Chair Matos, seconded by Commissioner Lo and approved as amended.**

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*SUBJECT:* The West Hollywood Business License Commission is requested to approve the Minutes of the previous Business License Commission Meeting on Tuesday, June 28, 2021.

Commissioner Eisenberg requested that the verbiage be changed on page 7, to include “no changes to the windows or physical structure of the building.”

**ACTION:** Approve the minutes of Tuesday, June 28, 2021. **Motion by Vice Chair Matos, seconded by Commissioner Vulin and approved as amended.**

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

ADAM DARVISH, WEST HOLLYWOOD RESIDENT, thanked the Commission for their service and voiced concern over unruly business patron's and residents' safety.

**7. PUBLIC HEARING**

**A. A VARIANCE REQUEST TO TRANSFER EIGHTY-FIVE PERCENT OWNERSHIP FOR THE CANNABIS ADULT-USE RETAIL AND CANNABIS DELIVERY BUSINESS LICENSES FOR THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS CALMA LOCATED AT 1155 LA BREA AVENUE**

*SUBJECT:* The West Hollywood Business License Commission shall conduct a public hearing to consider a variance request from CALMA WeHo, LLC to allow the transfer of a total of eighty-five percent ownership in the Cannabis Adult-Use Retail and Cannabis Delivery Business Licenses to the Parent Company (The Parent Company Holding Corporation), a publicly traded company.

Chair Saltzman reminded the Commission of the purpose and importance of Commissioner disclosures and Commissioner comments. No disclosures were made.

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

Code Compliance Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, and Community and Legislative Affairs Manager, John Leonard, presented the staff report dated August 18, 2021.

Commissioner Eisenberg requested to know the provision on background checks. Community and Legislative Affairs Manager, John Leonard, responded.

Vice Chair Matos requested confirmation that the conditions of approval include having a successful background check of all the corporation's officers and executives of the Parent Company. Community and Legislative Affairs Manager, John Leonard, confirmed.

Commissioner Yusupov requested to know the process of background checks. Community and Legislative Affairs Manager, John Leonard, responded.

Commissioner Eisenberg inquired about the timeframe it takes to obtain the results of the background check and requested the Commission be provided with the results upon receipt. Community and Legislative Affairs Manager, John Leonard, agreed that the Commission be provided with the background results.

JAKE STEVENS, APPLICANT, provided an overview of CALMA's history, media publicity, community involvement, and partnership. He spoke about The Parent Company's history, the structure of their company, shared that the Chief

Executive Officer, Steve Allan, had completed his background check and furthermore, requested no conditional variance.

STEVE ALLAN, APPLICANT, spoke on behalf of The Parent Company and shared his excitement of expanding the business and stated that he was available for any questions.

Vice Chair Matos requested clarification regarding the applicants concern with background checks. JAKE STEVENS, APPLICANT, responded.

Commissioner Eisenberg requested to see the list of Board of Directors and asked that bios be provided. Code Compliance Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, provided the list of Board of Directors. HIRSH JAIN, APPLICANT, and STEVE ALLAN, APPLICANT, provided a brief bio on each corporate officer.

STEVE MARTING, spoke in support of item 7B.

GENEVIEVE MORRILL, spoke in support of item 7B.

JAKE STEVENS, APPLICANT, thanked the Public Speakers and Commission for their time.

Commissioner Eisenberg requested to know if Staff had obtained information regarding the applicant's businesses operations in other cities. Code Compliance Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, and Code Compliance Manager, Danny Rivas, responded.

Commissioner Alden requested to know if, prior to operating in other cities, the applicant was required to go through background checks. She further inquired on the concerns the applicant had regarding the background checks. This led to a detailed discussion between Commissioners, HIRSH JAIN, APPLICANT, staff, and Deputy City Attorney, John Natalizio.

After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Vulin motioned to adopt the staff recommendation.

**ACTION:** Adopt Resolution No. BLC21-0015, "A RESOLUTION OF THE BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD APPROVING THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE LICENSE IN THE TOTAL OF EIGHTY-FIVE PERCENT FOR THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS CALMA" (Attachment A). **Motion by Commissioner Vulin, seconded by Commissioner Lo and approved.**

**B. APPLICATION BY G & M OIL COMPANY FOR AN EXTENDED HOUR BUSINESS LICENSE LOCATED AT 7960 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD**

*SUBJECT:* The West Hollywood Business License Commission shall conduct a public hearing to consider the application for an extended hour business license for a business known as G & M Oil Company, located at 7960 Santa Monica.

Chair Saltzman reminded the Commission of the purpose and importance of Commissioner disclosures and comments. No disclosures were made.

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

Code Compliance Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, presented the staff report dated August 18, 2021.

Commissioner Alden requested clarification on the need to have an on-site security guard during extended business hours of operations. Code Compliance Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, responded.

MIKE HEGLUND, APPLICANT, provided a brief history on the business and informed the Commission why they should not be required to have an on-site security guard. He then explained that a security company, CEP, could be hired to rove the location in addition to other businesses in West Hollywood.

Chair Saltzman requested the applicant provide a list of other locations that have roving security guards. MIKE HEGLUND, APPLICANT, responded with a list of all operating locations.

Vice Chair Matos requested clarification on the municipal code requirements to have on-site security guards and roving security guards for Cannabis Businesses. Code Compliance Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, and Code Compliance Manager, Danny Rivas, responded.

Chair Saltzman and Commissioner Yusupov inquired about a business that was previously approved to have a shared security guard. Code Compliance Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, and Code Compliance Manager, Danny Rivas, responded.

Vice Chair Matos requested to know if there are limitations to who can serve as a security guard. Code Compliance Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, informed the Commission that businesses can have employees obtain the required State certificate to have an employee act as their security guard.

After discussion between Commissioners, staff, and the Applicant; Commissioner Vulin made a motion to approve staff's recommendation. Commissioner Lo seconded the motion.

**ACTION:** Adopt Resolution No. BLC21-0013, Adopt Resolution No. BLC21-0013, "A RESOLUTION OF THE BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD APPROVING EXTENDED HOUR BUSINESS LICENSE NO. EXT-004732 FOR THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS G & M OIL COMPANY, LOCATED AT 7960 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD" (Attachment A). **Motion by Commissioner Vulin, seconded by Commissioner Lo and approved.**

**8. SPECIAL ITEMS**

**A. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

*City Clerk, Melissa Crowder, called the nomination for Chair.*

**ACTION:** Chair Saltzman accepted and was re-elected to serve as Chair by a unanimous vote.

**B. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

*City Clerk, Melissa Crowder, called the nomination for Vice Chair.*

**ACTION:** Vice Chair Matos accepted and was re-elected to serve as Vice Chair by a unanimous vote.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. UPDATE ON THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY HEALTH ORDER AND THE CONTINUED EFFORTS TAKEN BY THE CITY TO SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES AFFECTED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

*SUBJECT:* The West Hollywood Business License Commission will receive an update regarding the Los Angeles County Health Order and the City's efforts to support local business affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Code Compliance Manager, Danny Rivas, provided background information as provided in the staff report dated August 18, 2021, and informed the Commission that Los Angeles County has reported a total of three-thousand-one-hundred-forty-seven (3,147) positive COVID-19 cases and thirty-nine (39) deaths in West Hollywood due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commissioner Eisenberg requested to know if information is provided on the number of West Hollywood residents hospitalized due to COVID-19. Code Compliance Manager, Danny Rivas, responded by indicating that information would be researched and provided at the next meeting if it is found.

**ACTION:** Receive and file.

**11. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Code Compliance Manager, Danny Rivas, provided the Commission with an updated list of scheduled Business License Commission Meeting dates.

Commissioner Yusupov inquired about how to modify the municipal code, in particular security guard requirements. Code Compliance Manager, Danny Rivas, answered accordingly. Commissioner Yusupov requested that an item is brought back with findings on his request.

Commissioner Eisenberg requested that staff assists new applicants with lease agreements. Code Compliance Manager, Danny Rivas, will further discuss with the City Attorney.

Commissioner Matos requested that the Commission Secretary elaborate on how the public hearing notices are posted and distributed. City Clerk, Melissa Crowder, stated that she will develop standard language and distribute to Commission secretaries. Commissioner Matos inquired about complaints filed against businesses. Code Compliance Manager, Danny Rivas, responded accordingly.

**12. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

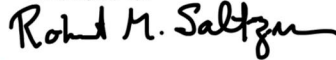
**13. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Chair Saltzman thanked the Commission for their support.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Eisenberg requested to adjourn in memory of the Afghan women. The West Hollywood Business License Commission adjourned at 8:24 p.m. to its next meeting, which will be on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., and to be held via teleconference.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Business License Commission of the City of West Hollywood at a meeting held this 14th day of September, 2021.

DocuSigned by:  


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ROBERT SALTZMAN, CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:  


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YESSICA BENITEZ, CODE COMPLIANCE SUPERVISOR