

**BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022
TELECONFERENCE MEETING**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Saltzman called the meeting to order at 6:01 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: Acting Director of Public Works, Danny Rivas
City Attorney, Lauren Langer
Code Compliance Supervisor, Yessica Benitez
Code Compliance Specialist, Ana Hernandez
Commission Secretary, Falyn Kingi
Director of Economic Development, John Leonard

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approve the Business License Commission agenda of Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

ACTION: Approve the agenda of Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

Motion by Commissioner Alden, seconded by Vice-Chair Matos and approved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the Minutes of the previous Business License Commission Meeting of Tuesday, February 1, 2022.

ACTION: Approve the minutes of February 1, 2022.

Motion by Vice-Chair Matos, seconded by Commissioner Vulin and approved.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

A. APPLICATION BY ZEN HEALING COLLECTIVE CORPORATION FOR AN ADULT-USE RETAIL CANNABIS BUSINESS LICENSE FOR THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS ZEN HEALING, LOCATED AT 8464 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD

SUBJECT: The West Hollywood Business License Commission shall conduct a public hearing to consider the application by Zen Healing Collective Corporation

for an Adult-Use Retail Cannabis Business License for the business known as Zen Healing, located at 8464 Santa Monica Boulevard.

Chair Saltzman opened the public hearing and asked for the Commission's disclosures.

Business License Commission Secretary, Falyn Kingi, informed the Commission that all notices were posted at the City's three legally required posting locations and mailed to occupants within a 500-foot radius of the business.

Code Compliance Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, presented the staff report dated March 15, 2022.

Vice-Chair Matos, requested to know if the past contingencies would be modified due to the results of the background check. Code Compliance Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, responded.

Chair Saltzman, inquired about the number of complaints received for the business. Code Compliance Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, and Director of Economic Development, John Leonard, responded.

Vice-Chair Matos, requested to know if the condition to have the applicant return before the Business License Commission would be removed due to no violations being reported or observed by the Code Compliance Division. Director of Economic Development, John Leonard, responded.

ARTHUR HODGE, APPLICANT ATTORNEY, thanked the Commission and staff for their time and requested that conditions be revised to remove the need for a third security guard and not be required to return to the Commission in June.

Commissioner Yusupov, stated that the business was required to install a sign at the rear parking lot to remind customers of potential noise concerns and requested to know if the sign was installed. He then inquired about the placement of security guards at the property. ARTHUR HODGE, APPLICANT ATTORNEY, responded. This opened a discussion between the Commissioners and applicant regarding the security operations plans and requirements. ARTHUR HODGE, APPLICANT ATTORNEY, AMY PAGEL, APPLICANT, and Director of Economic Development, John Leonard, addressed all concerns raised by the Commission.

Vice-Chair Matos, suggested that a stipulation be added to require the business license to be reviewed by the Commission during their annual renewal. Director of Economic Development, John Leonard, agreed.

Commissioner Yusupov, motioned to approve staff's recommendation with added conditions and the reduction of security guards from three (3) to two (2) during all hours of operation. Vice-Chair Matos seconded the motion. Director of Economic Development, John Leonard, touched upon the added conditions that would be established on the resolution.

Acting Director of Public Works, Danny Rivas, requested that the resolution include verbiage requiring security patrol be done every hour on the hour in the neighborhood. Director of Economic Development, John Leonard, provided language on the added conditions.

Commissioner Eisenberg, expressed concern for the safety of the business with having a set patrol time. Acting Director of Public Works, Danny Rivas, and Director of Economic Development, John Leonard, responded.

Commissioner Lo, requested clarification on the suggested changes to the resolution. Director of Economic Development, John Leonard, responded.

Commissioner Alden, inquired about the established security patrol schedule and its privacy. Vice-Chair Matos suggested that the applicant be required to privately share their patrol times with City staff. Director of Economic Development, John Leonard, provided language on the added conditions. City Attorney, Lauren Langer, suggested that a patrol log be maintained and checked by City staff.

Acting Director of Public Works, Danny Rivas, stated that the log could be used as a point of reference.

Commissioner Yusupov, motioned to approve staff's recommendation with the added amendments. Vice-Chair Matos seconded the motion.

ACTION: Adopt Resolution No. BLC22-0008, "A RESOLUTION OF THE BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD APPROVING ADULT-USE RETAIL CANNABIS BUSINESS LICENSE #CAU-000011 FOR THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS ZEN HEALING LOCATED AT 8464 SANTA MONICA BLVD." **Motion by Commissioner Yusupov, seconded by Vice-Chair Matos and approved as amended.**

8. SPECIAL ITEMS

None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

None.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. UPDATE ON THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND CITY EXECUTIVE ORDERS AND ITEMS RELATED TO BUSINESSES.

SUBJECT: The West Hollywood Business License Commission will receive an update regarding the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and City Executive Orders and items related to businesses.

Code Compliance Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, reported on the monthly Health Officer Order updates and provided background information as provided in the staff report dated March 15, 2022.

Chair Saltzman, requested clarification on the status of the City's executive order and inquired about the update that will be given to the City Council. City Attorney, Lauren Langer, responded.

Vice-Chair Matos, inquired on the future ability for the Commission to meet in person. City Attorney, Lauren Langer, and Acting Director of Public Works, Danny Rivas, responded.

Commissioner Lo inquired about the number of businesses that have closed and requested that staff present and compare current data from two to three years prior to COVID-19. Code Compliance Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, and Acting Director of Public Works, Danny Rivas, agreed to present this data.

ACTION: Receive and file.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Acting Director of Public Works, Danny Rivas, informed the Commission that once the Commission begins to meet in person, the Granicus software will be used, and training will soon be scheduled. He also shared that he would like to make it a standard for all cannabis businesses to privately communicate their patrol schedule with City Staff.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

13. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

None.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The West Hollywood Business License Commission adjourned at 7:01 p.m., to its next regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., 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 5th day of April, 2022.

DocuSigned by:

Robert M. Saltzman

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ROBERT SALTZMAN, CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

Falyn Kingi

FALYN KINGI, COMMISSION SECRETARY