

**M I N U T E S**  
**BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION**

FEBRUARY 16, 1988

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the West Hollywood Business License Commission held on the above date in the City Council Chambers of West Hollywood City Hall, 8615 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA, was called to order at 7:10 p.m., by Commission Chair Lester Hirsch.

A. Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Stribling.

B. Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Ellis, Forbes, Hirsch,  
Smith, Stribling

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Paul Self, Business  
License Officer; Deputy  
Early Lincoln, L.A.  
County Sheriff's  
Licensing Detail;  
Michelle Beal Bagneris,  
Asst. City Attorney

C. Approval of Agenda

**Action:** To approve agenda as prepared by Staff.

(Motion: Smith Second: Stribling)  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes

**Action:** To approve the minutes of the meeting of  
February 2, 1988 as prepared by Staff.

(Motion: Stribling Second: Smith)  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

II. ITEMS FROM CITIZENS

None

III. PUBLIC HEARING

A. BLC-87-025  
Accusation Hearing  
Joseph Valenti dba Venus Picture Arcade  
7768 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood

Renewal of Picture Arcade-Adult license  
(Continued from November 3, 1987.)

Staff Report by Self and Attorney Bagneris.

**Action:** To adopt the written procedures for conduct of the Accusation hearing as prepared by Staff.

(Motion: Stribling Second: Smith)  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Commissioner Hirsch opened the public hearing at 7:20 p.m.

Counsel for the County, Mr. Jan Pluim, presented no opening arguments or preliminary motions.

Counsel for the Respondent, Mr. Norman Atkins made a preliminary motion requesting the subpoena of witnesses, and presented the Commission with an affidavit requesting such. Counsel presented opening arguments objecting to the Sheriff's Department's arrests and reports. City Attorney ruled that if the names of the proposed witnesses could be made available then she would recommend the Commission subpoena the witnesses.

**Action:** To accept the affidavit of the Counsel for the Respondent.

(Motion: Forbes Second: Smith)  
Motion Carried unanimously.

COUNSEL FOR THE COUNTY

Public Testimony:

- a. Deputy Early Lincoln, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Licensing Detail.
- b. Shirley L. Fannin, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services.
- c. Deputy Robert Rangel, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Special Problems Unit.

COUNSEL FOR THE RESPONDENT:

Public Testimony:

- a. Vincent LaVeaga, employee of Venus Picture Arcade

**Action:** To deny request by Counsel for the Respondent to issue a subpoena for further witnesses.

(Motion:

Commissioner Hirsch closed the public hearing at 10:16 p.m.

COMMISSION ACTION

**Action:** That there are sufficient grounds in Count I of the Accusation to justify revocation of the Adult Picture Arcade license of the Licensee.

(Motion: Smith Second: Stribling)  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Action:** That there are sufficient grounds in Count II of the Accusation to justify revocation of the Adult Picture Arcade license of the Licensee.

(Motion: Stribling Second: Ellis)  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Action:** That there are not sufficient grounds in Count III of the Accusation to justify revocation of the Adult Picture Arcade license of the Licensee.

(Motion: Forbes Second: Stribling)

The Counsel for the County moved to strike the words "serious, life threatening" from Counts III and IX.

Commissioner Forbes withdrew the motion.

**Action:** That the allegations in Count III are true and correct and justify revocation of the Adult Picture Arcade license under Section 7.08.140 of the West Hollywood Business License Ordinance.

(Motion: Stribling Second: Smith)  
Motion Carried unanimously.

**Action:** That the allegations in Count IV are true and correct and justify revocation of the Adult Picture Arcade license under Section 7.08.140 of the West Hollywood Business License Ordinance.

(Motion: Smith Second: Ellis)

Ellis: No  
Forbes: No  
Hirsch: Aye  
Smith: Aye  
Stribling: No

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Motion Fails.

**Action:** That the allegations in Count IV are true and correct and may justify revocation of the Adult Picture Arcade license under Section 7.08.140 of the West Hollywood Business License Ordinance.

(Motion: Stribling Second: Smith)  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

(Motion: Forbes Second: Ellis)  
Motion withdrawn.

**Action:** That the allegations in Count IV are true and correct and justify suspension of the Adult Picture Arcade license under Section 7.08.140 of the West Hollywood Business License Ordinance.

(Motion: Ellis Second: Forbes)  
Motion Carried unanimously.

**Action:** That the allegations in Count V are true and correct and justify suspension of the Adult Picture Arcade license under Section 7.08.140 of the West Hollywood Business License Ordinance.

(Motion: Forbes Second: Ellis)  
Motion Carried unanimously.

**Action:** That the allegations in Count VI are true and correct and justify revocation of the Adult Picture Arcade license under Section 7.08.140 of the West Hollywood Business License Ordinance.

(Motion: Stribling Second: Smith)  
Motion Carried unanimously.

**Action:** That the allegations in Count VII are true and correct and justify revocation of the Adult Picture Arcade license under Section 7.08.140 of the West Hollywood Business License Ordinance.

(Motion: Stribling Second: Ellis)  
Motion Carried unanimously.

**Action:** That the allegations in Count VIII are true and correct and justify revocation of the Adult Picture Arcade license under Section 7.08.140 of the West Hollywood Business License Ordinance.

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(Motion: Stribling Second: Ellis)  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Action:** That the allegations in Count IX are true and correct and justify revocation of the Adult Picture Arcade license under Section 7.08.140 of the West Hollywood Business License Ordinance.

(Motion: Stribling Second: Ellis)  
Motion Carried unanimously.

**Action:** That the allegations in Count X are true and correct and justify revocation of the Adult Picture Arcade license under Section 7.08.140 of the West Hollywood Business License Ordinance.

(Motion: Stribling Second: Ellis)  
Motion Carried unanimously.

**Action:** That the allegations in Count XI are true and correct and justify revocation of the Adult Picture Arcade license under Section 7.08.140 of the West Hollywood Business License Ordinance.

(Motions: Smith Second: Stribling)  
Motion Carried unanimously.

**Action:** To reconsider Counts I and II.  
(Motion: Forbes Second: Smith)  
Motion Carried unanimously.

**Action:** That the allegations in Count I are true and correct and justify revocation of the Adult Picture Arcade license under Section 7.08.140 of the West Hollywood Business License Ordinance.

(Motion: Smith Second: Stribling)  
Motion Carried unanimously.

**Action:** That the allegations in Count II are true and correct and justify revocation of the Adult Picture Arcade license under Section 7.08.140 of the West Hollywood Business License Ordinance.

(Motion: Stribling Second: Ellis)  
Motion Carried unanimously.

**Action:** That the outstanding Building and Safety code violations constitute a violation of the West Hollywood Business License Ordinance, pursuant to Section

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7.08.140, and justify grounds for revocation of the Adult Picture Arcade license.

(Motion:

**Action:** To revoke the Adult Picture Arcade license of Venus Picture Arcade to commence at 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, February 23, 1988.

(Motion: Stribling Second: Ellis)  
Motion Carried unanimously.

The Commission directed staff to prepare a resolution incorporating the Commission's action, for the next regular meeting of the Commission.

IV. COMMISSION CHAIR'S REPORT: None

V. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

A. Commissioner Forbes brought up the issue of the safety hazards of metallic balloons being released from business establishments and making contact with surrounding electric and telephone wires. He suggested to the Commission that they prepare a recommendation to the City Council to approve an ordinance prohibiting the use of such balloons. The Commission directed Staff to place this item on a future agenda for action.

B. The Commission directed staff to bring a report on the status of the renewal of business licenses for the Speakeasy to the next meeting of the Commission.

VI. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff reported that the City's business license software package should be installed shortly, that the records management system for licensing has been revised and that work is progressing on the re-write of the Business License Ordinance.

The Commission asked Staff to request that the City Attorney be present at the next Commission meeting.

VII. ITEMS FROM CITIZENS: None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**Action:** To adjourn to the next regular meeting of the Commission on March 1, 1988.

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(Motion: Forbes Second: Stribling)  
Motion Carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:44 p.m.

*Lester Hirsch*

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COMMISSIONER CHAIR

ATTEST:

*Paul Bell*

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION