

**MINUTES
BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION**

November 20, 1990

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the West Hollywood Business License Commission held on the above date in the City Council Chambers in the Werle Building, 626 N. Robertson Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA, was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Commission Chair Carole Ellis.

A. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rachelle Sommers-Smith.

B. Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Elliott, Ellis, Maggio, Sonnenburg

Commissioners Absent: Forbes

Staff Present: John Jackupcak, Planner
Corey Roskin, Code Enforcement Officer;
Derek Widdiss, Staff Assistant

C. Approval of Agenda:

Action: To approve agenda as prepared by staff.

(Motion: Ellis Second: Elliott)
Motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes:

Action: To approve the minutes of October 2, 1990, with amendments requested by Commissioner Sonnenburg.

(Motion: Maggio Second: Elliott)
Motion carried unanimously.

II. ITEMS FROM CITIZENS:

Jeanne Dobrin, West Hollywood - spoke regarding the use of Commission liaisons and asked that the Commission address issue of liaisons.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

A. BLC 90-990
Fleetwood's L.A. Blues
dba Fleetwood's
8290 Santa Monica Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069

Application for a Dance Business License.

Staff Report given by Corey Roskin.

Recommendation:

Approve Dance Business License BLC 90-990 subject
to conditions in Resolution BL 90-09.

Commissioner Comments:

Chairperson Ellis asked for clarification of valet parking hours of operation and location of parking areas for use by restaurant and types of security systems that will be used by restaurant.

Commissioner Elliott mentioned that he would need to know the about all contractual agreements made with lessee and lessors of the subject property (82690 Santa Monica Blvd.).

Staff Comments:

John Jackupcak responded to question of when the restaurant will be operating (actual times of operations). Mentioned that restaurant was previously given permission to open early on Sunday for brunches.

Corey Roskin indicated that brunches are currently allowed for the location (8290 Santa Monica Blvd.).

Applicant Comments:

Mark Lehman, a representative for the applicant, spoke on behalf of his clients.

Commissioners mentioned a number of concerns they had in regards to both the application and resolution.

Public Comments:

James Starsky, West Hollywood - spoke against approving Dance License. Cited examples of problems with previous restaurant.

Rick Swan, West Hollywood - asked that conditions be imposed on approval of Dance License to alleviate any potential noise problems along with traffic mitigation on Sweetzer.

Rachelle Sommers-Smith, West Hollywood - spoke against issuing a Dance License for a restaurant. Cited problems

with previous operation and intensification of use that occurred when entertainment occurred at the site.

Gene Dozer, West Hollywood - spoke against issuance of Dance License. Asked that commission allow a restaurant use only for the location (8290 Santa Monica Blvd.).

Jim Kasacas, West Hollywood - spoke against issuance of Dance License for Fleetwood's. Cited examples of parking/towing problems that occurred when Palette was operating.

Costas Aracopolos, West Hollywood - spoke against issuance of Dance License for new restaurant. Cited previous example of problems that occurred at Palette.

Terence Young, West Hollywood - spoke against issuance of Dance License. Cited problems with noise (car alarms).

Florence Delberian, West Hollywood - spoke against issuance of Dance License. Mentioned problems with traffic being blocked on Sweetzer because of valet parking arrangement.

Melony Hepburn, West Hollywood - spoke against issuance of Dance License. Too many noise problems exist already.

Tom Lawrence, West Hollywood - spoke against issuance of Dance License. Cited noise problems, valet problems, etc.

David Behr, West Hollywood - asked about set up of interior (tables, dance floor), entrance and exits. Asked to have Dance License application tabled until restaurant has been operating for a period of time.

Jeanne Dobrin, West Hollywood - spoke against issuance of Dance License. Cited previous problems that occurred with Palette and its owners, Gary Gorin and Michael Meisel.

Gary Gorin, West Hollywood - requested a postponement of hearing until December. Business relationship with new owners have yet to be worked out completely.

Commission Comments:

Commissioners mentioned a number of concerns and asked for clarification of ownership, lease agreement, business arrangements, etc.

Applicant Rebuttal:

Mark Lehman responded to Commissioners concerns stating that he was not representing either party in the lease negotiations. He stated that problems with the business arrangement between Mr. Gorin and the applicant would be settled before the continued hearing came before the Commission (December 4, 1990).

Peter Lepore, applicant, Los Angeles resident - indicated that he (and his partners) will be the master lessee of the

property within four to five days after the hearing. He stated that the new operation will be a jazz/blues oriented type of restaurant (supper club). Indicated that there will be no disco operating at the site. Stated that he is interested in working with community in a responsible manner.

Action: To continue public hearing open to December 4, 1990 and to notice persons who spoke at November 20th meeting.

(Motion: Elliott Second: Maggio)
Motion carried unanimously.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Consider request of Van Ness Recovery House to waive mailed notice requirements for a request for a Bingo Business License for events to occur at St. Ambrose Church, 1261 N. Fairfax Avenue.

Staff report presented by Corey Roskin.

Commissioners asked about mapping services currently being used by City and the possibility of waiving fees for Van Ness Recovery House.

Public Comments:

Jeanne Dobrin, West Hollywood - spoke regarding Anne Browning (Planning Manager for W. Hollywood) speaking at a meeting in regards to particular types of business uses operating in the City. Mentioned that a Bingo operation could be the type of business that would draw criminal activity to itself. Also spoke regarding the problems with the noticing residents.

V. COMMISSION CHAIR'S REPORT:

Chairperson Ellis brought up the issue of business license reviews. She asked staff for a status update.

Commissioners discussed issue of reviewing businesses based on the types of usage.

Chairperson Ellis asked staff to bring back information from City Attorney's office that would address the all of the issues relating to the review of business licenses. Also requested that staff gather information for Commissioners for educational seminars that are sponsored by the City.

VI. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Elliott brought up the issue of T.U.P.'s for restaurants/club. Asked if process for issuing of T.U.P.'s could be streamlined.

Staff explains how T.U.P.'s are currently processed by the City and indicated that approvals are given over-the-counter.

Commissioner Elliott brought up an issue of misrepresentation at the Johnston Tow Yard. The business has a policy that states both cash and credit card payments may be used for payment on vehicles towed in. Staff is directed to inform Johnston's Tow Yard to give out this information over the phone and to persons who arrive in-person to pay for the release of their towed vehicles (post notices on-site, etc.).

VII. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Corey Roskin gave a staff report update for Peanuts Disco and indicated a number of on-going problems with the business.

Commissioners request that the residents neighboring Peanuts Disco be adequately noticed for upcoming public hearings relating to the club (Peanuts).

VIII ITEMS FROM CITIZENS

Jeanne Dobrin, West Hollywood - spoke regarding proper noticing for public hearings and asked staff to put color separators between agenda items.

Rachelle Sommers-Smith, West Hollywood - commended Commission for remembering to ask for inclusion of public hearings for Entertainment/Dance licenses.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Ellis adjourned to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission on December 4, 1990, to be held in the Werle Building at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

COMMISSION CHAIR

STAFF LIAISON TO THE COMMISSION