

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2022  
REGULAR TELECONFERENCE MEETING**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Saltzman called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Saltzman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Alden  
Commissioner Lo  
Commissioner Vulin  
Commissioner Yusupov  
Vice-Chair Matos  
Chair Saltzman

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Eisenberg

**ALSO PRESENT:** Acting Director of Public Works, Danny Rivas  
Code Compliance Supervisor, Yessica Benitez  
Commission Secretary, Falyn Kingi  
Code Compliance Specialist, Ana Hernandez  
Director of Economic Development, John Leonard  
City Attorney, Lauren Langer  
Deputy City Manager, Jackie Rocco

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Approve the Business License Commission agenda of Tuesday, February 1, 2022.

**ACTION:** Approve the agenda of Tuesday, February 1, 2022.

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

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approve the Minutes of the previous Business License Commission Meeting of Tuesday, January 11, 2022.

**ACTION:** Approve the minutes of January 11, 2022.

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

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**7. PUBLIC HEARING**

**A. APPLICATION BY TAT SPA, LLC FOR A CANNABIS BUSINESS LICENSE FOR CONSUMPTION AREA (SMOKING, VAPING AND EDIBLES) FOR THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS THE ARTIST TREE, TO BE LOCATED AT 7700 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD**

*SUBJECT:* The West Hollywood Business License Commission shall conduct a public hearing to consider the application by TAT SPA, LLC for a Cannabis Business Consumption Area (Smoking, Vaping and Edibles), for the business known as The Artist Tree, to be located at 7700 Santa Monica Boulevard.

**ACTION:** The applicant has requested their application be withdrawn due to change of location.

**B. APPLICATION BY TAT SPA, LLC FOR A CANNABIS BUSINESS LICENSE FOR CONSUMPTION AREA (SMOKING, VAPING AND EDIBLES) FOR THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS THE ARTIST TREE, TO BE LOCATED AT 8289 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD**

*SUBJECT:* The West Hollywood Business License Commission shall conduct a public hearing to consider the application by TAT SPA, LLC for a Cannabis Business Consumption Area (Smoking, Vaping and Edibles), for the business known as The Artist Tree, to be located at 8289 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 February 1, 2022.

Commissioner Yusupov, requested to know who the current occupant of the business location was and the existing hours of operations. He then inquired about any past noise complaints received for this location. Code Compliance Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, responded.

APPLICANTS, LAUREN FONTEIN, AVID KAHAN, MITCHEL KAHAN, ALEX GANJIAN, provided an overview presentation regarding their business plan and proposed operations.

Commissioner Lo, raised concern with the number of letters of opposition received from the public and requested to know how the applicant planned to address the public concerns. APPLICANT, AVID KAHAN, responded.

Vice-Chair Matos, inquired about the traffic control plan and requested to know if the applicant was willing to do community outreach. APPLICANT, AVID KAHAN, responded.

Commissioner Yusupov, requested clarification on the security measures taken to ensure cannabis products remain on-site. He then inquired about the business operations for consumption, odor control, and business layout. APPLICANT, AVID KAHAN AND LAUREN FONTEIN, and Director of Economic Development, John Leonard, responded. Commissioner Yusupov, then proposed a fence be installed around the location and asked staff what the height limit is for

commercial establishment adjacent to residential areas. Associate Planner, Dereck Purificacion, responded.

DAVID GLASSNER, spoke in support of item 7B.

COOPER WILSON, spoke in support of item 7B.

SIMON NEWMAN, spoke in support of item 7B.

CHRISTIAN PEREZ, spoke in support of item 7B.

GENEVIEVE MORRILL, spoke in support of item 7B.

JULIANA TUCKER, spoke in support of item 7B.

BONNIE TRIMBLE, spoke in support of item 7B.

HIRSH JAIN, spoke in support of item 7B.

JAKE STEVENS, spoke in support of item 7B.

DON DUNCAN, spoke in support of item 7B.

ERIC TURK & TOMAS NEWSOM, expressed concern with item 7B.

SHERRI FRANKLIN, spoke in support of item 7B.

SOL YAMINI, spoke in support of item 7B.

HOMA ADLER, spoke in opposition of item 7B.

JULIE, spoke in opposition of item 7B.

ALEX, spoke in opposition of item 7B.

AJ, spoke in opposition of item 7B.

APPLICANT, LAUREN FONTEIN, responded to concerns raised during public comment.

Vice-Chair Matos, thanked all the public speakers for their time. He suggested that the license be approved with a condition that the applicant return before the Business License Commission, for the next two renewal cycles, to ensure the business is in good standing. He then provided additional recommendations as conditions.

Commissioner Vulin, raised concern with the number of opposition letters received from the public. Vice-Chair Matos, responded.

Commissioner Lo, addressed staff and requested to know if the applicant had finalized their lease for the business location. Director of Economic Development, John Leonard, responded.

Commissioner Yusupov, requested to know the number of complaints received for the business location and asked for clarification on the cannabis application process. Director of Economic Development, John Leonard, and Code Compliance Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, responded. Commissioner Yusupov, then agreed with the conditions suggested by Vice-Chair Matos.

Chair Saltzman, agreed with the conditions suggested by Vice-Chair Matos and acknowledged the concerns expressed by Commissioner Vulin.

Vice-Chair Matos, motioned to approve staff's recommendation with added stipulations. Commissioner Yusupov seconded the motion with the condition there be no live music. Director of Economic Development, John Leonard, touched upon the added conditions that would be established on the resolution.

**ACTION:** Adopt Resolution No. BLC22-0006, "A RESOLUTION OF THE BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD APPROVING CANNABIS CONSUMPTION AREA (SMOKING, VAPING AND EDIBLES) BUSINESS LICENSE #CCA-000008 FOR THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS THE ARTIST TREE, TO BE LOCATED AT 8289 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD."

**Motion by Vice-Chair Matos, seconded by Commissioner Yusupov and approved as amended**

**C. APPLICATION BY THE ANTIDOTE RESTAURANT FOR A CANNABIS BUSINESS LICENSE FOR CONSUMPTION AREA (EDIBLES) FOR THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS THE ANTIDOTE RESTAURANT, TO BE LOCATED AT 9091 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD**

*SUBJECT:* The West Hollywood Business License Commission shall conduct a public hearing to consider the application by The Antidote Restaurant, for a Cannabis Business License for a Consumption Area (Edibles), for the business known as PureBar, to be located at 9091 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 February 1, 2022.

Chair Saltzman, addressed staff and expressed concern with the ride share location and traffic it may create. Commissioner Alden, echoed Chair Saltzman's concern. Director of Economic Development, John Leonard, addressed the concerns.

Commissioner Yusupov, requested to know the proximity of the business location to the residential area. Code Compliance Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, presented an aerial view of the business location and its proximity to residential areas.

Vice-Chair Matos, inquired about the proposed location for the smoking area. Code Compliance Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, clarified the location where the smoking would be allowed.

APPLICANTS, KIRK CARTOZIAN, CHANDRA COX, EDGAR KHALATIAN, RICHARD LICHTENSTEIN, ADRIAN AMOSA, provided a detailed presentation regarding their business plan and proposed operations.

Commissioner Yusupov, requested to know how the applicant planned to address the parking and traffic concerns. APPLICANT, KIRK CARTOZIAN, responded. This opened a discussion between the Commissioners and the APPLICANT, KIRK CORTOZIAN, regarding traffic control, ride sharing services, and potential valet services.

Chair Saltzman, requested to know the cannabis delivery location. APPLICANT, KIRK CARTOZIAN, responded.

JACKIE SUBECK, spoke in support of item 7C.

KEIKO LIND, spoke in opposition of item 7C.

UNKNOWN, spoke in opposition of item 7C.

GENEVIEVE MORRILL, spoke in support of item 7C.

SHERRI FRANKLIN, spoke in support of item 7C.

MARK EGERMAN, pointed to an error listed on the staff report and stated the applicant was approved to have three, not two, security guards on-site. He then spoke in opposition of item 7C.

APPLICANT, KIRK CARTOZIAN, responded to concerns raised during public comment.

Commissioner Vulin, motioned to approve staff's recommendation and Commissioner Alden seconded the motion.

Commissioner Yusupov, expressed concern with the ride sharing location, traffic impact, and the number of security guards monitoring the location. Director of Economic Development, John Leonard, acknowledged the correction pointed by the member of the public and stated condition 11 should be changed to "three security guards". APPLICANT, KIRK CARTOZIAN, addressed the concerns.

Acting Director of Public Works, Danny Rivas, and Deputy City Manager, Jackie Rocco, proposed potential solutions that would address traffic concerns.

**ACTION:** Adopt Resolution No. BLC22-0002, "A RESOLUTION OF THE BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD APPROVING CANNABIS CONSUMPTION AREA (EDIBLES) BUSINESS LICENSE #CCE-000005 FOR THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS THE ANTIDOTE RESTAURANT, TO BE LOCATED AT 9091 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD."

**Motion by Commissioner Vulin, seconded by Commissioner Alden and approved as amended.**

*\*\*The Business License Commission took a recess at 8:20 p.m. and returned at 8:31 p.m.\*\**

**D. APPLICATION BY ASHE SOCIETY LLC, FOR A CANNABIS BUSINESS LICENSE FOR CONSUMPTION AREA (EDIBLES), TO BE LOCATED AT 7740 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD**

*SUBJECT:* The West Hollywood Business License Commission shall conduct a public hearing to consider the application by ASHE Society LLC, for a Cannabis Business License for a Consumption Area (Edibles), to be located at 7740 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 February 1, 2022.

APPLICANT, ELAINE LU, provided a brief history of the business, and shared their business plan and proposed operations.

Vice-Chair Matos, requested to know more about the odor mitigation control. APPLICANT, ELAINE LU, responded.

Commissioner Yusupov, requested to know if the existing business plan coincided with their Orange County operations and requested to know what type of food would be served. APPLICANT, ELAINE LU, responded.

Vice-Chair Matos, inquired about the security operations plan. APPLICANT, ELAINE LU, informed the Commission there will be twenty-four hour revolving security in addition to twenty-four seven surveillance cameras.

GENEVIEVE MORRILL, spoke in support of item 7D.

SHERRI FRANKLIN, spoke in support of item 7D.

JACKIE SUBECK, spoke in support of item 7D.

APPLICANT, ELAINE LU, thanked staff and the Commission for their time.

**ACTION:** Adopt Resolution No. BLC22-0004, "A RESOLUTION OF THE BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD APPROVING CANNABIS CONSUMPTION AREA (EDIBLES) BUSINESS LICENSE #CCE-000007 FOR THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS ASHE SOCIETY LLC, TO BE LOCATED AT 7740 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD."

**Motion by Commissioner Alden, seconded by Commissioner Vulin and approved.**

**E. APPLICATION BY VANGUARD CONCEPTS LLC., FOR A CANNABIS BUSINESS LICENSE FOR CONSUMPTION AREA (SMOKING, VAPING AND EDIBLES) FOR THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS CHROMA LOUNGE, TO BE LOCATED AT 8533 SUNSET BOULEVARD.**

*SUBJECT:* The West Hollywood Business License Commission shall conduct a public hearing to consider the application by Vanguard Concepts LLC., for a Cannabis Business Consumption Area (Smoking, Vaping and Edibles), for the business known as Chroma Lounge, to be located at 8533 Sunset 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 February 1, 2022.

Chair Saltzman, inquired about the rooftop layout. Director of Economic Development, John Leonard responded.

APPLICANT, TRENT DOUCET, provided a presentation detailing the business overview, noise mitigation, security operations, and odor control.

Vice-Chair Matos, requested to know if smoking would be allowed on the rooftop and if live entertainment would be taking place. APPLICANT, TRENT DOUCET, responded.

Commissioner Yusupov, inquired about the rooftop's odor control, amplified music, and the proposed barrier. APPLICANT, TRENT DOUCET, responded.

Vice-Chair Matos, requested clarification on the hours of operation for the rooftop. APPLICANT, TRENT DOUCET, responded.

JACKIE SUBECK, spoke in support of item 7E.

JONATHAN WATTERS, spoke in support of item 7E.

ALEX KARDOS, spoke in support of item 7E.

GENEVIEVE MORRILL, spoke in support of item 7E.

SHERRI FRANKLIN, spoke in support of item 7E.

Vice-Chair Matos, requested to know the distance between the business location and the nearest residential area. Director of Economic Development, John Leonard, responded. Vice-Chair Matos, then suggested the resolution be amended to have the applicant return before the Business License Commission in a year.

**ACTION:** Adopt Resolution No. BLC22-0005, "A RESOLUTION OF THE BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD APPROVING CANNABIS CONSUMPTION AREA (SMOKING, VAPING AND EDIBLES) BUSINESS LICENSE #CCA-000009 FOR THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS CHROMA LOUNGE, TO BE LOCATED AT 8533 SUNSET BOULEVARD."

**Motion by Vice-Chair Matos, seconded by Commissioner Yusupov and approved as amended.**

**F. APPLICATION BY OVEST LLC, FOR A CANNABIS BUSINESS LICENSE FOR CONSUMPTION AREA (EDIBLES) FOR THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS LOS ANGELES PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS GROUP, LOCATED AT 7213 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD**

*SUBJECT:* The West Hollywood Business License Commission shall conduct a public hearing to consider the application by Ovest LLC, for a Cannabis Business License for a Consumption Area (Edibles), for the business known as Los Angeles Patients and Caregivers Group, located at 7213 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 February 1, 2022.

APPLICANT, DON DUNCAN, provided a presentation regarding their business plan and proposed operation.

GENEVIEVE MORRILL, spoke in support of item 7F.

SARAH ARMSTRONG, spoke in support of item 7F.

SHERRI FRANKLIN, spoke in support of item 7F.

JACKIE SUBECK, spoke in support of item 7F.

CHELSEA LUCICH, spoke in support of item 7F.

APPLICANT, DON DUNCAN, thanked all public speakers for their time and comments.

**ACTION:** Adopt Resolution No. BLC22-0003, "A RESOLUTION OF THE BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD APPROVING CANNABIS CONSUMPTION AREA (EDIBLES) BUSINESS LICENSE #CCE-000006 FOR THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS OVEST LLC, LOCATED AT 7213 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD."

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

**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.

**ACTION:** Receive and file.

**11. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

None.

**12. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**13. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Lo, welcomed Commission Secretary, Falyn Kingi, back.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The West Hollywood Business License Commission adjourned at 9:55 p.m., to its next Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, 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 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022.

DocuSigned by:  
  
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ROBERT SALTZMAN, CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

  
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FALYN KINGI, COMMISSION SECRETARY