

**BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023
WEST HOLLYWOOD PUBLIC MEETING ROOM - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
625 N. SAN VICENTE BOULEVARD**

6:00 PM – REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Eisenberg called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Eng led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Pro Tempore Erickson administered the Oath of Office to Kevin Barry.

4. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioner Barry
Commissioner Cockeram
Commissioner Eng
Commissioner Hang
Commissioner Vulin
Vice Chair Yusupov
Chair Eisenberg

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Neighborhood & Business Safety Manager, Vyto Adomaitis
Code Enforcement Supervisor, Yessica Benitez
Commission Secretary, Falyn Kingi

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approve the Business License Commission agenda of Tuesday, October 3, 2023.

ACTION: Approve the agenda of Tuesday, October 3, 2023.

Motion by Commissioner Eng, seconded by Commissioner Hang, and approved.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the Minutes of the previous Business License Commission Meeting of Tuesday, August 8, 2023.

ACTION: Approve the minutes of Tuesday, August 8, 2023.

Motion by Vice Chair Yusupov, seconded by Commissioner Vulin, and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

8. PUBLIC HEARING

None.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. AN UPDATE REGARDING THE ANNUAL CANNABIS CONSUMPTION AREA (EDIBLES) BUSINESS LICENSE #CCA-000003 AND CANNABIS DELIVERY BUSINESS LICENSE #CDW-000005 FOR J & P CONSULTING, LLC DBA “THE WOODS”, LOCATED AT 8271 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD

SUBJECT: The West Hollywood Business License Commission will receive an update on the annual Cannabis Consumption Area Business License #CCA-000003 and Cannabis Delivery Business License #CDW-000005 renewals for The Woods, located at 8271 Santa Monica Boulevard.

Code Enforcement Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, provided background information as reflected in the staff report dated October 3, 2023.

Vice Chair Yusupov asked about the procedures and penalties related to fines and citations for repeated business violations. Code Enforcement Supervisor, Yessica Benitez responded.

ACTION: Receive and file.

B. UPDATE ON ACTIVE CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENTS

SUBJECT: The West Hollywood Business License Commission will receive an update regarding complaints and the City’s Code Enforcement efforts to monitor neighborhood security patrols required of cannabis establishments operating within the City.

Code Enforcement Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, provided background information as reflected in the staff report dated October 3, 2023.

Commissioner Eng sought clarification regarding the count of storefronts and inquired about the status of the cannabis waitlist. She also brought up the topic of LAPCG’s name change to 420 Market. Finally, she asked if the collaboration with High Times and Lucy’s Scientific would have any implications for the café and whether this matter would be presented for consideration by the Commission.

Code Enforcement Supervisor, Yessica Benitez confirmed that there are currently 10 cannabis storefronts. She mentioned that she would investigate the details of the waitlist and provide a response later. She then informed the Commission that the Neighborhood & Business Safety Division is currently working with LAPCG. Finally, she stated that she was unaware of the High Times partnership.

ACTION: Receive and file.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. CANNABIS BUSINESS LICENSES STATUS

SUBJECT: The West Hollywood Business License Commission will receive an update on the status of the City’s Cannabis Business licenses.

Code Enforcement Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, provided detailed background information as reflected in the staff report dated October 3, 2023.

Commissioner Eng raised a question regarding the use of the term "Edible Only" when it no longer accurately represents the type of business. Code Enforcement Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, provided an explanation for why this license classification is still in use.

Commissioner Hang asked about any upcoming temporary cannabis events. Code Enforcement Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, informed the Commission that the first Special Event application involving cannabis is presently undergoing processing for Halloween. Further details will be shared via email once it is approved.

ACTION: Receive and file.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

The Neighborhood and Business Safety Manager, Vyto Adomaitis, congratulated Commissioner Kevin A. Barry on his recent appointment. He proceeded to update the Commission about the preparations of the Code Enforcement team for the City's Halloween event, emphasizing the importance of safety. He mentioned that the deadline for Halloween Special Event Permit Applications is on October 16th. Additionally, he noted that the second week of October is designated as Code Enforcement Appreciation Week and expressed his gratitude to the staff for their dedicated daily efforts. He concluded by announcing that the next meeting is scheduled for November 14th and that a Cannabis-related item will be presented before the Commission at that time.

Code Enforcement Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, provided the information requested by the Commission about appeals submitted over the past five years. She informed the Commission that there had been just one appeal to the Business License Commission in December 2022, which pertained to a massage parlor.

Chair Eisenberg then made a request for staff to provide a report to the Commission detailing the number of appeals that have been submitted to both the City Council and the Planning Division and how many were successful. Neighborhood and Business Safety Manager, Vyto Adomaitis, responded.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

13. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Cockeram acknowledged Code Enforcement Appreciation Week and thanked the Code Enforcement Officers.

Commissioner Eng welcomed the newly appointed Business License Commissioner Barry. She proceeded to ask whether Code Enforcement Officer Torres had been assigned to her area and expressed her gratitude for his service during Code Enforcement Week. Lastly, she brought to everyone's attention several bills related to cannabis that are currently under consideration by the Governor: SB58, SB700, AB374, and AB1207.

Vice Chair Yusupov thanked the Code Enforcement staff in light of Code Enforcement Appreciation Week and congratulated Commissioner Barry.

Commissioner Hang extended a warm welcome to Commissioner Barry. He then shared with the Commission that October has been designated as Disabilities Awareness Month. He went on to mention that the City of West Hollywood, along with its Disability Advisory Board, is organizing a Community Health & Wellness Fair at Plummer Park on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Additionally, he informed the Commission about the upcoming Disability Service Awards ceremony, which will take place in the Council Chambers on Wednesday, October 18, 2023. These awards will honor individuals for their outstanding service and activism within the disabled community. Lastly, Commissioner Hang mentioned his attendance at the LA BizFed Freshmen Policy Makers Reception, where Councilmember Byers was recognized for their contributions.

Commissioner Vulin welcomed Commissioner Barry. He inquired about the upcoming Mandatory Code of Conduct Training hosted by the City Clerk’s Office next week. Neighborhood and Business Safety Manager, Vyto Adomaitis, responded that he would verify and inform the Commission if attendance was indeed mandatory.

Commissioner Barry thanked everyone for the warm welcome and expressed his interest in working with everyone.

Chair Eisenberg welcomed newly appointed Commissioner Barry.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The West Hollywood Business License Commission adjourned at 6:40 P.M. in honor of the late Senator Diane Feinstein and Philadelphia Journalist, Josh Kruger to its next adjourned meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. at West Hollywood Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Business License Commission of the City of West Hollywood at a meeting held this 14th day of November 2023.

DocuSigned by:
Elyse Eisenberg
ELYSE EISENBERG, CHAIR

ATTEST:

Falyn Kingi
FALYN KINGI, COMMISSION SECRETARY