

**BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023
WEST HOLLYWOOD PUBLIC MEETING ROOM - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
625 N. SAN VICENTE BOULEVARD**

6:00 PM – ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Eisenberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Eng led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Neighborhood & Business Safety Manager, Vyto Adomaitis

ALSO PRESENT: Code Enforcement Supervisor, Yessica Benitez
City Attorney, Lauren Langer
Commission Secretary, Falyn Kingi

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approve the Business License Commission agenda of Tuesday, November 14, 2023.

ACTION: Approve the agenda of Tuesday, November 14, 2023.

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the Minutes of the previous Business License Commission Meeting of Tuesday, October 3, 2023.

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

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

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

A. A VARIANCE REQUEST TO TRANSFER TWENTY PERCENT OWNERSHIP OF THE CANNABIS LEGACY MEDICAL BUSINESS LICENSE #CLM-000004 TO SEVAN DEROHANIAN, RESULTING IN A TOTAL CUMULATIVE TRANSFER OF SEVENTY PERCENT FOR GREEN CROSS SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (A.H.H.S)

SUBJECT: The West Hollywood Business License Commission shall conduct a public hearing to consider a variance request to allow the transfer of twenty percent (20%) ownership in the Cannabis Legacy Medical Business License to Sevan Derohanian.

Commission Secretary, Falyn Kingi, informed the Commission that the public hearing was posted as required by law.

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

Commissioner Eng briefed the Commission on her engagements with the applicant, Jason Beck, at different cannabis events. She also clarified that there were no conflicts that would impact her decision for this evening.

Code Enforcement Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, provided background information as reflected in the staff report dated November 14, 2023.

The Commission sought information regarding the applicants' experience and engagement with Cookies Los Angeles and Dr. Greenthumb Dispensaries. Following that, they engaged in a conversation regarding the distribution of the business percentage earmarked for transfer.

ARAM EKIMYAN, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE APPLICANT, clarified that Sevan Derohanian served as a consultant for cultivation design at Cookies Los Angeles. He further explained Mr. Derohanian's expertise on the Cannabis Industry and the benefits it will bring to the AHHS team.

JASON BECK, APPLICANT, explained that this partnership will be a collaboration between the potential three parties and emphasized Mr. Derohanian's experience.

Commissioner Eng inquired about the need for Mr. Derohanian's cultivation experience, involvement with the Green Cross Society and the current Veteran program currently held at AHHS. JASON BECK and SCOTT LAMBERT, APPLICANTS, responded.

Commissioner Eng inquired about the legacy cannabis license and asked if ownership transfer is treated differently. Code Enforcement Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, responded.

Vice Chair Yusupov inquired about any complaints received within the past year. Code Enforcement Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, responded.

Commissioner Hang indicated support for proceeding with the staff's recommendation.

ACTION: Adopted Resolution No. BLC23-0007, "A RESOLUTION OF THE BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF TWENTY PERCENT OWNERSHIP FOR THE CANNABIS LEGACY MEDICAL BUSINESS LICENSE #CLM-0000S FOR THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS AHHS (ALTERNATIVE HERBAL HEALTH SERVICES) TO SEVAN DEROHANIAN, LOCATED AT 7828 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD". (Attachment A). **Motion by Commissioner Vulin, seconded by Commissioner Hang, and unanimously approved.**

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

None.

10. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Code Enforcement Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, informed the Commission that the Neighborhood & Business Safety Manager Vyto Adomaitis couldn't attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict. She mentioned that the City Clerk's office had conducted Mandatory Code of Conduct training for all elected and appointed officials and asked those unable to attend to contact her. Code Enforcement Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, reported the success of the Halloween Carnival and shared that Neighborhood & Business Safety Manager, Vyto Adomaitis, had recently participated in the CACEO Annual Conference.

Lastly, Code Enforcement Supervisor, Yessica Benitez announced the cancellation of the Business License Commission meeting scheduled for December 5, 2023, with the next meeting set for January 9, 2024. She also provided the Commission with information on appeals submitted to the City Council over the past five years, noting that there were zero appeals submitted.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

12. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Vulin shared with the Commission that the Chamber of Commerce had issued a press release containing details about seventy-five businesses within the City of West Hollywood that closed since the COVID-19 pandemic. He further indicated that it wouldn't be unexpected if additional businesses sought assistance from the Business License Commission in the future.

Chair Eisenberg asked about the request for the City Council to determine the appropriate number of Extended Hour Business Licenses to be issued for the City. Code Enforcement Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, responded.

Commissioner Hang asked about the quantity of Temporary Cannabis Licenses submitted and issued for the Halloween Carnival. Additionally, he inquired about a new business, Somni, located at 9045 Nemo St, Code Enforcement Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, and City Attorney, Lauren Langer, responded.

Commissioner Eng informed the Commission that on November 7th, Ohio became the 24th state to allow adult use cannabis. She continued to provide information on various dispensaries and their cannabis sales.

Commissioner Cockeram thanked staff for their efforts.

Commissioner Barry thanked staff for their efforts and wished all a Happy Holiday.

Chair Eisenberg thanked staff for their efforts.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The West Hollywood Business License Commission adjourned at 6:34 P.M. in honor of Chair Eisenberg's mother, Carol Kossin Cleveland, to its next adjourned meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 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 9th day of January 2024.

DocuSigned by:

Elyse Eisenberg

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ELYSE EISENBERG, CHAIR

ATTEST:

Falyn Kingi

FALYN KINGI, COMMISSION SECRETARY