

**BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024
WEST HOLLYWOOD PUBLIC MEETING ROOM - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
625 N. SAN VICENTE BOULEVARD
6:00 PM – AJOURNED MEETING**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Eisenberg called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Vulin 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: None

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

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approve the Business License Commission agenda of Tuesday, August 13, 2024.

ACTION: Approve the agenda of Tuesday, August 13, 2024

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Approve the minutes of Tuesday, June 11, 2024.

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

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

None.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. ELECTION OF CHAIR

SUBJECT: The West Hollywood Business License Commission will elect a Chair.

Commissioner Eng nominated Vice Chair Yusupov, seconded by Commissioner Hang.

ACTION: The Business License Commission unanimously elected Vice Chair Yusupov as Chair. **Motion by Commissioner Eng, seconded by Commissioner Hang and unanimously approved.**

B. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

SUBJECT: The West Hollywood Business License Commission will elect a Vice Chair.

Commissioner Barry nominated Commissioner Eng, seconded by Vice Chair Yusupov.

ACTION: The Business License Commission unanimously elected Vice Chair Yusupov as Chair. **Motion by Commissioner Barry, seconded by Vice Chair Yusupov and unanimously approved.**

C. CODE ENFORCEMENT PRESENTATION

SUBJECT: The West Hollywood Business License Commission will receive an overview of the Neighborhood and Business Safety Division.

Code Enforcement Supervisor Yessica Benitez provided a comprehensive overview of the operations of the Neighborhood and Business Safety Division. Her presentation covered reporting methods, the code enforcement program, data on service requests, and details about the licenses and permits issued by the Division.

Neighborhood and Business Safety Manager, Vyto Adomaitis, spoke about the collaboration with the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the West Hollywood Sheriff's Department during Pride and Halloween events. He emphasized that the Division strives to offer 24/7 service to the community, valuing interaction with residents and the business community through in-person, online, and phone communication to ensure quick responses.

The Commission inquired about several topics: the local animal shelter, Animal Care & Control services in dog parks, business license renewal data and processing, the level of division activity related to calls for service or complaints, citation and compliance processes, special event permit fees and procedures, and upcoming changes to lease agreements for vacation rentals.

ACTION: Receive and file.

10. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Neighborhood and Business Safety Manager, Vyto Adomaitis, informed the Commission that the next meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2024, at 6:00 PM. Possible agenda items include a Cannabis Business License and an Extended Hour Business License. He also introduced the new City Clerk's "Get Involved West Hollywood" civic engagement pamphlet and mentioned that staff is preparing for the upcoming 2024 Halloween event.

Code Enforcement Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, shared a message from the City's Long-Range Planning Division, encouraging the public to submit their public comments for the proposed Metro K Line (San Vicente/Fairfax route). She mentioned upcoming meetings on August 13, 2024 (in person) at 6:00 PM at Pan Pacific Park Recreation, 7600 Beverly Blvd., and August 15, 2024 (virtual via Zoom). Residents interested in receiving more information about the Metro K line, can go to the City's webpage at www.weho.org/metro, or may contact Senior Planner, David Fenn, at (323) 848-6336 or via email DFenn@weho.org.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

12. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Barry thanked Commissioner Eisenberg for her service as Chair and congratulated the new Chair and Vice Chair.

Commissioner Cockeram thanked the Code Enforcement staff and acknowledged the great National Night Out event.

Vice Chair Eng praised the National Night Out event and voiced concerns about the number of businesses closing in West Hollywood. She mentioned that she submitted a public records request to the City Clerk's Office to obtain data on business openings and closings since 2020. The records revealed a 3:1 ratio of businesses opening to closing. She also referenced an April 15th staff report on Business Tax Certificates, noting that 2020 was the only year with a loss in fees. Lastly, she informed the Commission that Ciclavia will take place on Sunday, August 18, 2024.

Chair Yusupov also expressed concern about the number and locations of businesses closing in West Hollywood and asked if information about the areas where businesses are struggling could be shared.

Commissioner Hang congratulated the City on a successful National Night Out and thanked the staff for their efforts. He also mentioned the City's Summer of Sounds event, which will take place on August 18, 2024, at 4 PM at Plummer Park.

Commissioner Vulin thanked Commissioner Eisenberg for her service as Chair and congratulated the new Chair and Vice Chair. He expressed his passion for the business community and sustainable businesses but stated that he did not believe it was within the Commission's purview to evaluate the data on business openings and closings within the City. He also shared that when discussing businesses opening and closing it would be beneficial to focus on storefronts versus businesses closing.

Commissioner Eisenberg agreed with Commissioner Vulin that it is not the Business License Commission's purview to consider businesses opening and closing that it was more appropriate for the City Council. She thanked the city and staff for the support during last year, and for this year's National Night Out Event. She congratulated the new Chair and Vice Chair and expressed her gratitude to the Commission for their support during her tenure as Chair.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The West Hollywood Business License Commission adjourned at 6:52 P.M. to its next adjourned meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, 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 10th day of September 2024.

DocuSigned by:
Mark Yusupov
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MARK YUSUPOV, CHAIR

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:
Falyn Kingi
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FALYN KINGI, COMMISSION SECRETARY