

**BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION  
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD**

**MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025**

**WEST HOLLYWOOD PUBLIC MEETING ROOM - COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
625 N. SAN VICENTE BOULEVARD**

**6:00 PM – SPECIAL MEETING**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Yusupov called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Vulin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. OATH OF OFFICE**

Councilmember Erickson administered the oath of office to Joshua Christian, appointing him to the Business License Commission, while Councilmember Hang did the same for Colin LaBran-Boyd.

**4. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Commissioner Christian  
Commissioner Cockeram  
Commissioner Eisenberg  
Commissioner Labran-Boyd  
Commissioner Vulin  
Chair Yusupov

ABSENT: Commissioner Barry

ALSO PRESENT: Neighborhood & Business Safety Manager, Vyto Adomaitis  
Code Enforcement Supervisor, Yessica Benitez  
Commission Secretary, Falyn Kingi  
Deputy City Attorney, Scott Shapses  
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Acting Sgt. Mejia

**5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Approve the Business License Commission agenda of Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

**ACTION:** Approve the agenda for Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

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

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Approve the minutes of Wednesday, March 19, 2025.

**Motion by Commissioner Eisenberg, seconded by Commissioner Cockeram, and approved.**

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

COUNCILMEMBER HANG, WEST HOLLYWOOD, welcomed and congratulated newly appointed Commissioners LaBran-Boyd and Christian on their appointments to the Business License Commission. He further praised the Commission.

GENEVIEVE MORRILL, WEST HOLLYWOOD, welcomed and congratulated Commissioners Christian and LaBran-Boyd, highlighting the importance of their role. She also announced the upcoming *State of the City* luncheon on June 26, 2025, and *Spinning Sunset* event on August 16, 2025, and concluded with well wishes for a happy Pride.

**8. PUBLIC HEARING**

**A. AN APPLICATION BY ERIC KINNEY OF EJK INDUSTRIES LLC FOR A CANNABIS CONSUMPTION AREA (SMOKING, VAPING AND EDIBLES) BUSINESS LICENSE, TO BE LOCATED AT 8464 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD**

*SUBJECT:* The West Hollywood License Commission shall conduct a public hearing to consider the application submitted by Eric Kinney for a Cannabis Consumption Area (Smoking, Vaping and Edibles) Business License, on behalf of a business known as EJK Industries LLC, to be located at 8464 Santa Monica Boulevard.

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

Code Enforcement Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, provided background information as reflected in the staff report dated May 20, 2025.

The Commission held a thorough discussion regarding the cannabis business license application. Topics included the HVAC system, associated inspection requirements, the business operation timeline, business plan, location, and procedures for ensuring ongoing compliance with required security staffing. City Staff provided clarification.

AMY PAGEL and ERIC KINNEY, APPLICANTS, provided a presentation on behalf of EJK Industries regarding their proposed cannabis consumption lounge. She further emphasized on their 20 years of cannabis experience in West Hollywood, compliance history, community-focused approach, and business plan.

Commissioners engaged with the applicant to gain clarification on various aspects of the proposed cannabis consumption lounge and their past cannabis operation. AMY PAGEL, APPLICANT, responded and provided clarification.

GENEVIEVE MORRILL, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in favor of item 8A.

RICHARD MAGGIO, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in favor of item 8A.

ERIC PELKA, LOS ANGELES, spoke in favor of item 8A.

EVELYN ESPINOZA, LOS ANGELES, spoke in favor of item 8A.

Commissioner Vulin expressed support for staff's recommendation to approve the license, stating that the application was straightforward and met all requirements. He found no reason to oppose the issuance of the license.

Commissioner Eisenberg also indicated support for the applicant, noting their long-standing history in the city and the absence of violations. She raised a question regarding concerns about parking lot lighting, referencing a comment made by RICHARD MAGGIO.

RICHARD MAGGIO, WEST HOLLYWOOD, was asked to address the Commission, elaborating on his concern regarding the lighting at the rear parking lot. He provided his recommendation and voiced overall support for the business.

AMY PAGEL, APPLICANT, responded and spoke about their current lighting plan.

Commissioner Eisenberg reaffirmed her support for the applicant, stating that the lighting issue appears adequately addressed and commending the applicant's cooperation.

Commissioner Cockeram expressed support for the application, agreeing with other commissioners. He emphasized that denying the license would not reduce the number of cannabis lounges, as it would likely be issued to another operator, and highlighted the economic benefit of retaining such businesses through tax revenue.

Commissioner Christian also voiced full support, describing the application as straightforward. He acknowledged public comments praising the applicant's positive relationships with former employees, viewing them as a reflection of integrity and alignment with city values.

**ACTION:** Adopt Resolution No. BLC25-0005, "A RESOLUTION OF THE BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD APPROVING CANNABIS CONSUMPTION AREA (SMOKING, VAPING AND EDIBLES) BUSINESS LICENSE #CANN-000095-2025, FOR THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS EJK INDUSTRIES LLC, TO BE LOCATED AT 8464 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD."

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

- B. AN APPLICATION BY MYSON ENTERPRISES INC., DBA MCDONALD'S #1411, LOCATED AT 1133 LA BREA AVENUE, FOR AN EXTENDED HOUR BUSINESS LICENSE TO OPERATE BETWEEN 2:00 AM AND 6:00 AM, DAILY**  
*SUBJECT:* The West Hollywood Business License Commission shall conduct a public hearing to consider the application for an Extended Hour Business License to operate from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m., daily, for an existing restaurant known as McDonalds#1411, located at 1133 La Brea Avenue.

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

Code Enforcement Supervisor, Yessica Benitez, provided background information as reflected in the staff report dated May 20, 2025.

The Commission and City staff reviewed the Extended Hours Business License process, focusing on calls for service and related conditions. LASD Acting Sgt. Mejia reported that from August 2024 to March 2025, only two calls for service occurred between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. with one for a traffic collision on the property and another for disturbance in the drive-thru. This led to an in-depth discussion on security requirements, service calls, property maintenance, and comparisons with a similar grandfathered business. Code Enforcement Supervisor Yessica Benitez, Deputy City Attorney Scott Shapses, and Acting Sgt. Mejia provided responses throughout the discussion.

DEBRA PERKINS, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, highlighted recent renovations, 24-hour security, improved lighting, surveillance, and trash maintenance, requesting approval to continue the longstanding 24-hour drive-thru operation.

The Commission deliberated on requiring one versus two overnight security guards, enforcement of conditions, and trash management. Staff clarified that conditions would be enforceable through the license and subject to review.

RICARD MAGGIO, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in opposition to item 8B.

GENEVIEVE MORRILL, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in favor of item 8B.

BEN BRUSKIN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in favor of item 8B.

CLAIRE WOODS, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in opposition to item 8B.

JUSTIN MORGAN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in opposition to item 8B until adequate security staffing is confirmed.

BRANDON BLAU, WEST HOLLYWOOD, noted that denial of the Extended Hour Business License for McDonald's could eliminate the security guard requirement, potentially leading to increased negative impacts on the neighborhood.

DEBRA PERKINS, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, acknowledged public concerns and the establishment's committed to ongoing improvements

Public comments and APPLICANT'S response opened a detailed discussion between the APPLICANT, DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY, City Staff, and the Commission.

Commissioner Eisenberg agreed with Staff's recommendation to approve the business license and suggested adding a condition to require the business to return for a six-month review to ensure compliance.

Commissioner Vulin echoed Commission Eisenberg's recommendation.

Commissioner Labron-Boyd clarified that Mr. Blau spoke as a member of the public, not the Public Safety Commission. He noted the importance of approving the business license to ensure 24-hour security.

Commissioner Christian addressed the public speakers and thanked them for presence. He then noted the business has been operating since 1999. He agreed with Staff's recommendation to approve the application with a follow-up review in six-months.

Commission directed Staff to provide a compliance report in six-months.

**ACTION:** Adopt Resolution No. BLC25-0004 A RESOLUTION OF THE BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD APPROVING EXTENDED HOUR BUSINESS LICENSE NO. EXT-000070-2025 TO ALLOW HOURS OF OPERATION OF A RESTAURANT BETWEEN 2:00 AM AND 6:00 AM, DAILY, FOR THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS MCDONALD'S #1411, LOCATED AT 1133 LA BREA AVENUE."

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

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**11. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Neighborhood and Business Safety Manager, Vyto Adomaitis, announced that the next Commission meeting will be tentatively, Tuesday, June 10, 2025, and informed the Commission about preparations for this year's Pride Event and congratulated the newly appointed Commissioners Christian and LaBran-Boyd.

**12. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**13. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioners Vulin and Eisenberg welcomed the new Commissioners.

Commissioner Cockeram welcomed the new Commissioners and shared information about the City’s Weho Luvs Locals and pilot gift card program.

Commissioner LaBran-Boyd expressed appreciation to Councilmember Hang for the appointment and thanked fellow Commissioners for their warm welcome.

Commissioner Christian thanked fellow Commissioners for their warm welcome and expressed appreciation to Councilmember Erickson for the appointment to the Commission.

Chair Yusupov also welcomed the new Commissioners.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The West Hollywood Business License Commission adjourned at 8:21 P.M. to its next adjourned meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, 2025, 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 on this 12th day of November 2025.

DocuSigned by:

*Mark Yusupov*

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MARK YUSUPOV, CHAIR

ATTEST:

*Falyn Kingi*

FALYN KINGI, COMMISSION SECRETARY