

**ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION**

2017

500 West Temple Street, Room B-50
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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APPOINTED MEMBERS

First District Appointee
PRISCILLA CHENG



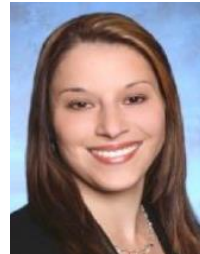
Second District Appointee
RENÉE CAMPBELL, Chairperson



Third District Appointee
GENEVIEVE MORRILL, Secretary



Fourth District Appointee
ROCHELLE A. GONZALEZ



Fifth District Appointee
SARA VASQUEZ, Vice President



MISSION STATEMENT

To determine whether to grant, deny, modify, suspend or revoke licenses, including charitable solicitation information cards within Los Angeles County.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Commission is governed by Title 7 of the Los Angeles County Code - Business License with authority in all unincorporated areas of the County, and also provides business licensing for Los Angeles County contract cities such as Malibu, Santa Clarita and Westlake Village. Responsibilities include investigating and taking action on matters connected with the public health, safety and welfare of County residents. Licensing matters for a hearing are referred to the Commission by the Board of Supervisors or other County Departments. Business licenses requiring Commission action include, but are not limited to: taxicab franchises, taxi cab licenses, adult entertainment licenses, dance licenses, bookstores, billiard rooms, medical marijuana dispensaries, restaurants, salvage dealers, recycling centers, bingo operators, exhibitions, carnivals, circuses, health spas, massage parlors/technician, pictures arcades, rifle ranges, and private schools.

The Commission also encourages the formation of new and private charities to meet the needs of the public, and licenses and regulates all worthy enterprises of philanthropic nature.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Board of Supervisors formed the Commission in 1942 to determine whether to grant, deny, modify, suspend or revoke licenses and monitor charitable organizations that solicit within the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. The Commission holds its hearing on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. in Room 374-A, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.

FOCUS IN THE PAST YEAR

In 2017, a total of 52 business license applications were reviewed, denied and/or approved by the Commission as shown below:

- 14 Annual Dance and Entertainment with Dance
- 2 Billiard Rooms
- 2 Bingo Managers
- 1 Bookstore
- 1 Marijuana Dispensary
- 23 Massage Parlors
- 1 Private School
- 7 Water Taxi Operators
- 1 Massage Parlor (denied)

Additionally, the Commission reviewed the submissions of Notice of Intention to Solicit applications from local, state and nationwide Non-Profit Organizations and granted 103 Information Cards that describe the types of fundraisers and how long they will be soliciting within the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.

- 74 Information Cards to established Non-Profit Organizations
- 29 Information Cards to new Non-Profit Organizations

DEPARTMENTAL COLLABORATION

The increase in the submission of business licenses within Los Angeles County has made it necessary for the Commission to review its role and limitations regarding the approval, denial and appeal of licenses in addition to the process and possible governance of marijuana dispensaries (Measure “M”). The Commission is currently working with TTC, the Chief Executive Office, Departments of Beaches and Harbors and Public Works, Sheriff’s Department, and County Counsel to revise the Los Angeles County, CA Code of Ordinance - Title 7. The continued collaborated efforts of each Department with the Commission has allowed for a greater understanding of the requirements of the Commission and applicants including needed changes to Title 7 to be recommended by TTC to the Board of Supervisors.

TRANSLATORS

The Commission reviews business license applications that may require applicants bring with them an interpreter to translate between the Commission and the applicant. As more and more applicants come with an interpreter, it had become apparent to the Commission, that most of the interpreters were not skilled enough to properly translate the questions and answers to all parties.

On December 13, 2017, the Commission discussed the expertise of some the translators. TTC, addressed the Commission on the measures taken by their office when applicants make the initial business license request and noted, if the applicant is unable to provide an adequate translator to answer questions regarding their business at the time of filing, the application is not accepted and the applicant is requested to return with a translator that can accurately interpret all the information.

Jennifer Baronoff, County Counsel, advised the Commission that if they recognize the translator's inaccuracy, the Commissioner may re-state the question to ensure clarity and if necessary, has the right to reschedule the hearing and request the applicant return with a better translator/interpreter.

The Commission has taken TTC’s lead and as advised by County Counsel implemented processes to ensure applicants provide adequate translators/interpreters at their hearing.

CONCLUSION

The Commission's scope of work continues to be a challenge as the types and increase of business licenses change. The Commission has taken preliminary steps to ensure licenses and Notice of Intention to Solicit requests that come before the Commission is fair and satisfactory to all parties involved. The Commission looks forward to the possible charge to govern Cannabis establishments and the amendments taking place to revise Title 7, that may allow for additional clarity to continue its charge to review, approve, deny and revoke licenses in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and continue to serve the Board of Supervisors and the citizens of Los Angeles County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Renée L. Campbell".

Renée Campbell, President
Business License Commission

c: Board of Supervisors