



**CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS**

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**Beverly Hills, CA 90210**

**Beverly Hills City Council Liaison / Property Owners Task Force Committee**

**TELEPHONIC VIDEO CONFERENCE SPECIAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

**Thursday, January 28, 2021**

**4:00 PM**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Date / Time: January 28, 2021 / 4:01 PM

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Julian Gold, M.D., Councilmember; Lili Bosse, Councilmember; Gabriella Yap, Deputy City Manager; Laura Biery, Marketing and Economic Sustainability Manager; Garin Hussenjian, Community Outreach Manager; Todd Johnson, Chamber of Commerce; Blair Schlecter, Chamber of Commerce; Dar Mahooby, Property Owner; David Mirharooni, Property Owner; Anna Gorbacheva, Property Owner; Dennis Ferrazzano, Attorney; Mark Tronstein, Property Owner, Bill Wiley, Two Rodeo Drive; Jenny Rogers, Director of Community Services; Matthew Burke, Caller; Richard Frank, Lawry's Prime Rib; Ming Shin, Property Owner; Bradley Adams, Property Owner; Wally Marks, Property Owner; John Bendheim, BH Courier; Lisa Karson, Executive Assistant.

**1) PUBLIC COMMENT**

Members of the public will be given the opportunity to directly address the Committee on any item listed on the agenda.

Speakers/Public comment: None.

**2) Welcome and Introductions**

Members listed in attendance were welcomed, introduced themselves and provided a brief background on their property ownership in Beverly Hills.

**3) Purpose of the Property Owners Taskforce**

The Property Owners Taskforce has been organized in order that property owners, the City and the Chamber can work collaboratively to identify City policies that either support, or act as a barrier, to fill vacant commercial spaces and retain existing commercial tenants.

#### 4) Continued Discussion - Potential Areas of Focus for the Task Force

- Blair Schlecter and Todd Johnson of the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce asked Task Force members what policies they felt the City should keep to attract and retain businesses.
  - a) COVID-19 Recovery – What Types of Businesses Should the City Seek to Attract and Retain and How?
    - Concerns were shared regarding the current permitting process. It was suggested the Community Development Department provide a single point of contact to help facilitate obtaining permits for new tenants. Councilmember Bosse stated it is a priority to implement changes to improve the City's response to businesses' needs.
    - An overview of an expedited virtual permit counter program used by businesses in the City of Santa Monica was shared with the Task Force. Both Councilmembers Bosse and Gold were impressed with this program and agreed staff should explore offering a similar program in Beverly Hills or expand the existing virtual plan check process.
    - Both Councilmembers Bosse and Gold agreed that they would be interested in welcoming health and fitness retailers in the business district, however the current challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic makes this problematic.
    - Community Services Director Jenny Rogers shared a program working with local galleries to bring art to the storefronts of vacant commercial properties to provide vitality to these shuttered businesses and attract visitors to the City. The Chamber will share this information with their members to determine interest.
  - b) Discussion of OpenBH and Future of the Program
    - Councilmember Bosse shared she has only received positive feedback from businesses and residents about the OpenBH program including the expanded outdoor dining options of the program, with many expressing they would love to see it continue after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.
    - Councilmember Gold would like to gather feedback from businesses on how the OpenBH program is affecting their businesses before committing to a long-term, post-COVID, investment in the program.
    - Todd Johnson explained many restaurants may want to continue the OpenBH program, possibly long-term, in order to expand their occupancy in order to facilitate making up for lost revenue incurred during the pandemic.
  - c) Commercial Tenant Eviction Moratorium and Urgency Ordinance
    - \*This agenda item was not discussed.

d) Medical Use Ordinance

- \*This agenda item was not discussed.

e) Metro Subway – Future Planning and Development

- \*This agenda item was not discussed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Date / Time: January 28, 2021 / 5:02 PM