



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY BUSINESS LICENSE
COMMISSION**

**KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 374-A
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://blc.bos.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

9:00 AM

AUDIO FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (18-2393)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance. (18-1748)

**Secretary Genevieve Morrill called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.
followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Priscilla Cheng.**

President Renée Campbell joined the meeting at 9:04 a.m.

Present: President Renée Campbell, Secretary Genevieve Morrill,
Commissioner Priscilla Cheng and Commissioner Rochelle A.
Gonzalez

Absent: Vice President Sara Vasquez

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of Minutes from the meeting of April 25, 2018. (18-1749)

**On motion of Commissioner Priscilla Cheng, seconded by Secretary
Genevieve Morrill, the Minutes of April 25, 2018 were approved with the
following vote:**

Ayes: 2 - Secretary Genevieve Morrill and Commissioner
Priscilla Cheng

Abstentions: 1 - Commissioner Rochelle A. Gonzalez

Absent: 2 - President Renée Campbell and Vice President Sara
Vasquez

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS

2. Hearing on application for Water Taxi Operator, Business License ID# 145402, to Jose Martinez for California Dream Tours LLC, located at 1628 East Palm Avenue, #1, El Segundo, CA 90245 in the Fourth District. (18-1688)

Nicole Love, Treasurer and Tax Collector's Office (TTC), reported on the application for Water Taxi Operator, to issue a new license to Jose Martinez for California Dream Tours LLC and noted the applicant has obtained all necessary County approvals. TTC had no objection to the issuance of a new license.

Jose Martinez, owner of the business, responded to questions posed by the Commission. He is a licensed Master Captain of a 25-foot long boat carrying only six passengers each trip. Passengers may bring their own food and drinks on board, as the business does not serve food and alcohol. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and during the hours of sunset for 2-hour tours. He advertised his business on the website at www.californiadreamtours.com using Facebook. He provided the Commission pictures of the boat through his cell phone and will email a copy of a picture of the boat and brochure with pricing as requested by the Commission.

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Rochelle Gonzalez, seconded by Secretary Genevieve Morrill, and unanimously carried, this item was approved with the following vote:

Ayes: 4 - President Renée Campbell, Secretary Genevieve Morrill, Commissioner Priscilla Cheng and Commissioner Rochelle A. Gonzalez

Absent: 1 - Vice President Sara Vasquez

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

3. Hearing on application to deny a Taxicab Driver Business License ID# 145299 to Onofre R. Distefano of Metro Cab, located at 17800 South Main Street, #101, Gardena, CA 90248, in the Second District. (18-1738)

Veronica Vargas, Sheriff's Department Investigator, provided the Commission a copy of Investigator Michelle Hauser's report on her recommendation to deny Onofre R. Distefano's license due to an active traffic warrant issued to the applicant. Mr. Distefano responded that he had no knowledge of the warrant. He has tried to contact Investigator Hauser to try and resolve the issue; without response.

After discussion, on motion of President Renée Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Priscilla Cheng, and unanimously carried, this item was continued to June 13, 2018 to allow Mr. Distefano an opportunity to clear his warrant by the following vote:

Ayes: 4 - President Renée Campbell, Secretary Genevieve Morrill, Commissioner Priscilla Cheng and Commissioner Rochelle A. Gonzalez

Absent: 1 - Vice President Sara Vasquez

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT_SHERIFF RECOMMENDATION](#)
[SUPPORTING DOCUMENT_REQUEST FOR HEARING](#)

4. Hearing on application to deny a Taxicab Driver Business License ID# 145226 to Rafael S. Almanza of Metro Cab, located at 17800 South Main Street, #101, Gardena, CA 90248, in the Second District. (18-1739)

Veronica Vargas, Sheriff's Department Investigator, provided the Commission a Sheriff's Department report on her recommendation to deny Rafael S. Almanza's license due to an outstanding warrant issued to the applicant since 2010. She noted that his Business License was also denied in 2012 due to an outstanding warrant. Mr. Almanza responded that he has no knowledge of an outstanding warrant. Mr. Almanza has been operating without a license and therefore President Campbell stated that he must come back to the commission to show that the warrant has been taken care of before resuming operations.

After discussion, on motion of President Renée Campbell, seconded by Secretary Genevieve Morrill, and unanimously carried, the Item was continued to June 13, 2018 to allow Mr. Almanza an opportunity to clear his warrant by the following vote:

Ayes: 4 - President Renée Campbell, Secretary Genevieve Morrill, Commissioner Priscilla Cheng and Commissioner Rochelle A. Gonzalez

Absent: 1 - Vice President Sara Vasquez

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT_SHERIFF RECOMMENDATION](#)
[SUPPORTING DOCUMENT_REQUEST FOR HEARING](#)

5. Hearing on recommendation to deny Massage Parlor-General License ID #144729 for Wenlin Qi of Rainbow Massage, located at 3150 Colima Road, #E, Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 in the Fourth District. (18-1578)

Prior to hearing testimony from Veronica Vargas of the Sheriff's Department noted the following Exhibits that were provided for review:

- **Sheriff's Exhibit – A – Rubmaps Customer Review during Applicant's**

Ownership of Business

- **Sheriff's Exhibit – B – Sexually Suggestive Advertisements Posted Online during Applicant's Ownership of Business**
- **Sheriff's Exhibit – C – Applicant's Background Investigation – Missing and/or Incomplete and/or False Information**
- **Sheriff's Exhibit – D – LASD Inspection-Employee Log**
- **Sheriff's Exhibit – E – Requests for Additional Supplemental Information/Correspondence**
- **Sheriff's Exhibit – F – Google Business Address Search-Suite Number and Phone Number Re-directed to Separate Unlicensed Massage Parlor- Located 200 Yards East of Original Business**
- **Sheriff's Exhibit – G – Google Business Address Search of Redirected Phone Number**

During discussion, Jennifer Baronoff, County Counsel, noted the following Exhibits and added BLC Exhibit C as submitted by the Sheriff's Department.

- **BLC Exhibit – A – Business License Application Referral from Building & Safety and a Summary Sheet**
- **BLC Exhibit – B – Notice of Denial from Treasurer Tax Collector and Handwritten Letter from Applicant Requesting an Hearing**
- **BLC Exhibit – C – Business License Application of Rainbow Massage**

Veronica Vargas, and Richard Luskleet, Major Crimes Bureau - Licensing Unit, testified on behalf of the Sheriff's Department and responded to questions posed by the Commission.

Florence Lee, interpreted for Wenlin Qi, who responded to questions posed by the Commission.

Wenlin Qi was asked to respond to Commissioner Rochelle A. Gonzalez cited the following grounds for denial:

1. **Unfit to be trusted with the privileges granted by such license;**
2. **Unable to determine the real party of interest;**
3. **Failure to submit additional information;**
4. **Underreporting employees to the Employment Development Department;**
5. **Admitted that on July 18 and November 13, 2017 there were no managers on the premises as required by the County Code;**
6. **On April 9, 2018 an unlicensed technician working on the premises and**
7. **Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Building and Safety Division recommended denial due to the failure to complete the**

inspection of your establishment.

Based on those grounds, on motion of Commissioner Rochelle A. Gonzalez, seconded by Secretary Genevieve Morrill, and unanimously carried, the Commission denied Massage Parlor-General Business License ID#144729 of Wenlin Qi for Rainbow Massage, pursuant to the Los Angeles Municipal County Code Title 7.08.080 (C); Title 7.080.020, and Title 7.06.100 by the following vote:

Ayes: 4 - President Renée Campbell, Secretary Genevieve Morrill, Commissioner Priscilla Cheng and Commissioner Rochelle A. Gonzalez

Absent: 1 - Vice President Sara Vasquez

President Renée Campbell informed Mr. Qi that his business license has been denied which he can no longer operate at the facility located at 3150 Colima Road, Unit E, Hacienda Heights, CA. She further stated Mr. Qi must cease and desist any operation of that business. He may appeal or reapply in one year but at this time his license has been denied. Mr. Qi was also informed that if he continued to operate, the Sheriff's Department will have to investigate.

Jennifer Baronoff, County Counsel, advised the owner that he has 15 days of which he can appeal the Business License Commission decision with the Chief Executive Office.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS DEPARTMENTAL SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)
[SUPPORTING DOCUMENT BLC EXHIBIT C](#)
[SUPPORTING DOCUMENT SHERIFF'S EXHIBITS](#)

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Public Comment

- 6.** Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (18-1751)
No members of the public addressed the Commission.
- 7.** Commissioner Comments and Hearing Calendar for review. (18-1752)

Emma De Jesus, staff, provided an overview of the remaining hearings for May 2018. She also noted that, at the advisement of County Counsel, the Accusation Hearing for Nikki Massage scheduled for May 30, 2018 will still need to be held to fully revoke their license, even though staff has been advised by the Sheriff's Department that the business owner has vacated the location. Lastly, Ms. De Jesus noted, staff will be scheduling the two

continued Taxi Driver License Denials from today's meeting to June 13, 2018.

Secretary Morrill stated she will not be available on May 23, 2018.

Adjournment

- 8.** Adjournment for the meeting of May 9, 2018. (18-1753)

On motion of Commissioner Priscilla Cheng and by Common Consent, and there being no objection, the meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.