

MINUTES
CITY OF CARSON
PLANNING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CARSON, CALIFORNIA 90745

JUNE 24, 2008 – 6:30 P.M.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Faletogo called the meeting to order at 6:36 P.M.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Commissioner Graber led the Salute to the Flag.
3. **ROLL CALL**
Planning Commissioners Present: Cannon, Faletogo, Graber, Saenz, Verrett

Planning Commissioners Absent: None

Planning Staff Present: Planning Manager Repp, Assistant City Attorney Galante, Senior Planner Signo, Associate Planner Song, Recording Secretary Bothe
4. **AGENDA POSTING CERTIFICATION** Recording Secretary Bothe indicated that all posting requirements have been met.
5. **AGENDA APPROVAL** Commissioner Saenz moved, seconded by Commissioner Verrett, to approve the Agenda as submitted. Motion unanimously carried.
6. **INSTRUCTIONS TO WITNESSES** Chairman Faletogo requested that all persons wishing to provide testimony stand for the oath, complete the general information card at the podium, and submit it to the secretary for recordation.
7. **SWEARING OF WITNESSES** Assistant City Attorney Galante
8. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** For items **NOT** on the agenda. Speakers are limited to three minutes. None.
9. **CONSENT CALENDAR**
A) **Minutes:** June 10, 2008

MOTION: Commissioner Cannon moved, seconded by Commissioner Saenz, to approve the June 10, 2008, Minutes as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

10. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING None.

11. PUBLIC HEARING

A) Medical Marijuana Dispensaries Ordinance

Applicant's Request:

The applicant, city of Carson, is requesting an Ordinance Amendment prohibiting the establishment or use of an existing business for the distribution or sale of medical marijuana within the city of Carson. The property involved is citywide.

Staff Report and Recommendation:

Associate Planner Song presented staff report and the recommendation to WAIVE further reading and RECOMMEND APPROVAL of Resolution No. 08-2215, entitled, "A Resolution of the Planning Commission of the city of Carson recommending to City Council the approval of an ordinance adding Carson Municipal Code Section 9191.391.5 defining and prohibiting the establishment or use of any business that distributes or sells medical marijuana within the city of Carson."

Staff fielded questions regarding the preemption of federal law versus state law concerning the possession and use of marijuana for medicinal purposes.

Chairman Faletogo opened the public hearing. There being no one in the audience, Chairman Faletogo closed the public hearing.

Planning Commission Decision:

Commissioner Cannon moved, seconded by Commissioner Graber, to concur with staff's recommendation, thus adopting Resolution No. 08-2215. Motion unanimously carried.

12. NEW BUSINESS DISCUSSION

A) Workshop to discuss potential land use regulations for check cashing facilities within the city

Applicant's Request:

The applicant, city of Carson – Planning Division, is requesting the Commission direct staff to conduct further research on an ordinance amendment addressing check cashing facilities within the city or to receive and file. The properties involved would be citywide.

Staff Report and Recommendation:

Associate Planner Song presented staff report and the recommendation to consider and discuss the information provided for the workshop; to direct staff to conduct further research and prepare a draft Ordinance amendment; or to receive and file the report.

Commissioner Cannon expressed his concern with the predatory nature of the pay day loan activities; and questioned if any cities have taken steps to rid their cities of these establishments.

Staff addressed a typical amortization period for legal, nonconforming businesses of this type, typically taking one to five years for the process.

Chairman Faletogo expressed his belief that check cashing businesses are necessary, but added that the pay day loan charges are excessive and predatory.

Commissioner Saenz noted his concern these establishments create a poor image for a city and stated they should be banned; and concurred that these businesses charge excessive fees.

Commissioner Cannon questioned if the City could separately regulate the pay day loan and check cashing activities.

Planning Manager Repp stated that if the Commission desired, staff could research the statistics on blighted conditions and crime statistics near/around these establishments and possibly require these establishments to offer money management workshops or educational materials on budgeting.

The Commission noted its support for money management educational requirements; stated they'd like to see closer scrutiny of the excessive fees these businesses charge; noted they would like staff to do further research into the possibility of amortizing existing pay day loan businesses, issuance of conditional use permits, and consideration of location standards.

Chairman Faletogo opened the public hearing. There being no one in the audience, Chairman Faletogo closed the public hearing.

Planning Commission Decision:

It was the consensus of the Planning Commission to direct staff to conduct further research regarding adopting regulations that limit the predatory nature of pay day loan activities; for staff to address financial workshop requirements to better assist customers with money management; to address amortization issues for established pay day loan businesses in Carson; to address the issuance of conditional use permits and development of regulations; and to address location standards.

13. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS None.

14. MANAGER'S REPORT

Planning Manager Repp advised that there will be a community meeting regarding the new high school on Tuesday, July 22nd, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Dominguez Elementary School auditorium.

15. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Verrett stated the City Clerk's Office mailed a letter to her indicating the necessity for all Commissioners to participate in ethics training, asking if this City is providing the service online.

Planning Manager Repp stated that Recording Secretary Bothe will clarify what, if anything, the Clerk's office is offering in the way of training.

Commissioner Graber commended new Associate Planner Song for her two presentations before the Planning Commission this evening.

Chairman Faletogo thanked the Commissioners for being present for this evening's meeting, highlighting the desire to see the long-standing quorum issue resolved.

16. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:03 P.M. the meeting was formally adjourned to Tuesday, July 8, 2008, 6:30 P.M., City Council Chambers.

Chairperson

Attest By:

Secretary