

**Minutes of the Huntington Park Planning Commission meeting held on August 20, 2008.**

Chairman Benitez called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Present: Commissioner Andy Molina, Vice Chair Marial Sanders, Commissioner Veronica Lopez, and Chairman Eddie Benitez; Absent: Commissioner Rosa Perez (reported to Chairman Benitez that she would be late to the meeting). City staff members present were Planning Manager Eric Garcia, Assistant Planner Gabriela Silva, and Recording Secretary Genny Ochoa.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Vice Chair Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Molina, to approve the minutes of the meeting held August 6, 2008. Motion carried as follows: Ayes: Vice Chair Sanders, Commissioner Molina, Chairman Benitez; Noes: None; Absent: Commissioners Perez; Abstain: Commissioner Lopez.

**Public Appearances**

None.

**Continued Public Hearings**

None.

**Public Hearings**

A. CASE NO. 1883-ZOA: Consideration of a resolution recommending to the City Council adoption of an Ordinance amending Title 9, Chapter 4, Article 2 regarding standards for check cashing, currency exchange, money advance and money transfer uses within the City.

Planning Manager Eric Garcia presented the Administrative Report for Case No. 1883-ZOA. Mr. Garcia stated that the City has received requests from businesses wishing to extend the hours of operation beyond what is currently allowed by the Municipal Code. Mr. Garcia further stated that the proposed zoning ordinance amendment would extend the hours of operation to 12:00 a.m. (midnight), seven days a week. In addition, the proposed ordinance amendment would require an armed, licensed security guard at all times, as well as video cameras covering the interior and exterior of those establishments who wish to remain open beyond 7:00 p.m.

(Commissioner Perez arrived to the meeting and took her seat at 6:37 p.m.)

After reviewing the proposed ordinance amendment, Mr. Garcia stated that Community Development staff recommended that the Planning Commission approve and adopt a resolution recommending to the City Council the adoption of a proposed ordinance amending the standards for check cashing, currency exchange, money advance and money transfer uses.

Chairman Benitez declared the public hearing open and called for those wishing to speak in favor of or against Case No. 1883-ZOA. Ms. Elizabeth Contreras (PLS Check Cashiers, 3217 Florence Ave., Huntington Park), Store Manager, came forward to speak in favor of Case No. 1883-ZOA. Ms. Contreras stated that the current hours of operation, as allowed by Code, do not allow PLS Check Cashiers to provide adequate customer service, as they are forced to turn away customers at the time of closing. Ms. Contreras requested that the Commission approve the proposed zoning amendment, which would enhance the needed services that PLS Check Cashiers and other check cashing establishments provide to the community.

Ms. Esperanza Valencia (3157¼ Liberty, South Gate, CA), came forward to speak in favor of the proposed ordinance amendment. Ms. Valencia stated that the proposed amendment to the hours of operation of check cashing establishments would greatly benefit her (and others in the community) due to her work schedule, and requested that the Commission approve Case No. 1883-ZOA.

Mr. Jeff Ryan, Director of Operations for PLS Check Cashiers, came forward and spoke in favor of Case No. 1883-ZOA. Mr. Ryan stated the proposed amendment would benefit the community by offering additional service hours.

With no one else coming forward to speak in favor of or against Case No. 1883-ZOA, Chairman Benitez declared the public hearing closed.

After a discussion, Chairman Benitez re-opened the public hearing . Mr. Quin Chandler (PLS Financial Services 300 N. Elizabeth, Chicago, IL), Vice President of Operations, came forward to speak in favor of the proposed ordinance amendments. Mr. Chandler reported that PLS Financial Services is a highly reputable national business with a proactive approach in providing a safe and secure environment to its customers, and called for the approval of Case No. 1883-ZOA.

Chairman Benitez closed the public hearing. A motion was made by Commissioner Molina, seconded by Commissioner Perez, to APPROVE AND ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 1883, recommending to the City Council the adoption of an ordinance amending Title 9, Chapter 4, Article 2 regarding standards for check cashing, currency exchange, money advance and money transfer uses within the City. The motion carried as follows: Ayes: Commissioners Molina, Perez, Sanders, Lopez and Chairman Benitez; Noes: None; Absent: None.

### **New Business**

None.

### **Information Items**

A. Planning Manager Garcia presented and reviewed the Status Report of current Community Development projects dated August 14, 2008.

Commissioner Lopez requested to be excused from the regular meeting of September 17, 2008. Chairman Benitez declared Commissioner Lopez's absence at said meeting excused as requested.

**Subjects Presented by the Planning Commission**

None.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chairman Benitez declared the meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

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Chairman

ATTEST:

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Secretary