

BELMONT SHORE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
PO Box 30327, Long Beach, CA 90853

December 14, 2012

Long Beach City Council
333 West Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Entertainment Permit Ordinance, Item 13 on the City Council meeting agenda, December 18, 2012

The Belmont Shore Residents Association (BSRA) held its regular monthly Board of Directors meeting yesterday, December 13. One topic of discussion at this meeting was the item on next week's City Council agenda, proposed changes to the Entertainment Permit ordinance. After consideration, BSRA board members approved a motion to request the Long Beach City Council to limit the length of time of Entertainment Permits to one year, and require existing licenses to be considered annually for renewal.

The residents of Belmont Shore are affected directly by businesses which abuse the privileges granted them by such a permit. Often, residents have found the quiet enjoyment of their homes and their lives disrupted and plagued by loud music and noise, inebriated, noisy, and unruly customers, littered yards, and uncooperative management. Problems such as these are also a burden on the already overtaxed Police Department and Business Licensing/Code Enforcement.

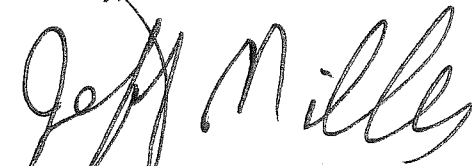
Currently, neighbors of the bar Panama Joe's suffer regularly from the bad behavior of patrons of this business, which abuses the privilege of its entertainment permit, and which was recently granted a renewal of its one-year permit, despite the objections of the LBPD.

Previously, the bar known as Belmont Station, DBA Evo Lounge, was another example of a problem establishment. Reports of the many problems at Evo Lounge (and Belmont Station before that) were reported publicly to the BSRA Board members and attendees at monthly BSRA meetings and in emails and phone calls for approximately three years before that business ceased operation. Many problems and police calls for service were also reported and discussed with former Long Beach Police Commander Cynthia Renaud, Lt. Rosenthal, and other LBPD representatives at BSRA meetings.

During those three years, neighbors repeatedly met with Entertainment Permit holder Gary Roth and repeatedly asked him to abide by all the conditions of his permit and especially adhere to the condition that noise from his establishment not be heard 50 feet or further from that location. But those meetings with Mr. Roth and requests by neighboring residents were ignored. Conditions of the entertainment permit were not followed or enforced, as demonstrated by ongoing nuisance and noise complaints and police calls for service. This problem could have been stopped sooner if annual renewal of the permit had been required.

The BSRA's mission is to "maintain and improve the Belmont Shore residential community..." and "assist the Belmont Shore residential community in protection of personal rights and property interests." We make this request for limiting Entertainment Permits to one year terms pursuant to that mission.

Sincerely,



Jeff Miller, Secretary

copy:

Bob Foster, Mayor

Pat West, City Manager

Amy Webber, Deputy City Attorney

Erik Sund, Business Relations Manager, Department of Financial Management

Larry Herrera, City Clerk

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