



Agenda Item No.: 60.

DEPARTMENT: FINANCE AND BUSINESS SERVICES

DIRECTOR: CANDACE HALDER, ACTING

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT:

Discussion and possible action regarding a review of a Temporary Locksmith License, 360 Locksmith, LLC dba 360 Lock & Key, 2597 Gibbon Avenue, Ronen Benkel, Pres, 100% - Ward 6 (Ross)

Fiscal Impact

☐

No Impact

☐ Augmentation Required

☐

Budget Funds Available

Amount:

Funding Source:

Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

Discussion and possible action regarding a Review of a Temporary Locksmith License.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to be provided following the discussion of this item at the City Council Meeting.

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

None

Motion made by STEVEN D. ROSS to Deny

Passed For: 6; Against: 1; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

RICKI Y. BARLOW, LOIS TARKANIAN, OSCAR B. GOODMAN, GARY REESE, STEVEN D. ROSS, DAVID W. STEINMAN; (Against-STEVE WOLFSON); (Abstain-None); (Did Not Vote-None); (Excused-None)

Minutes:

JIM DiFIORE, Business Services Manager, stated the Council would be considering approval for a permanent license for 360 Lock & Key. He indicated that LAURA ANDERSON, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (Metro), had compiled the report provided to the Council and was available for any questions.

MR. DiFIORE noted the concerns outlined in the report. He observed that a current trend in the locksmith industry was for locksmiths to advertise in the telephone book and on the Internet as having several locations, but the business is not physically located at that site and is not licensed to do business at that location. This trend was a primary concern in this case, as the applicant, RONEN BENKEL, had listed Safe Key, Inc., as a business on his application which had the same address as 360 Lock & Key. There is no business or locksmith license issued for Safe Key, Inc.

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MR. DiFIORE stated he had gone over the report in detail with MR. BENKEL, who had submitted evidence that the websites had been corrected to reflect the 9557 Gibbon Avenue address. MR. BENKEL had also stated that he was only an employee of Safe Key, but MR. DiFIORE pointed out the Nevada Secretary of States website indicates the company has existed since 2005 and lists MR. BENKEL as the president, treasurer, director and resident agent. Due to MR. BENKEL'S inconsistencies on his application and in his statements to staff and Metro, MR. DiFIORE recommended denial of the permanent license.

ATTORNEY BARRY LEVINSON, 3810 South Rainbow Boulevard, appeared with MR. BENKEL who was also present. He explained that MR. BENKEL had clearly indicated his home address as his business location on several applications and pointed out MR. BENKEL had been approved for his business license in the City of Henderson. He suggested the Council grant MR. BENKEL another temporary license with a review.

MR. BENKEL explained that he formed Safe Key, Inc. under the advice of his accountant for tax reasons. Regarding the incorrect information listed on the internet, MR. BENKEL apologized and stated that he had worked to make sure the correct address of his business was listed. He pointed out that he had served over 600 customers without any complaints under the temporary license.

MR. DiFIORE explained that the Council will review MR. BENKEL'S second temporary license and, by Code, the Council has to take action on the permanent license today, as another temporary license is not an option. MR. BENKEL'S first temporary license had been administratively approved while Metro completes their investigation. Metro's report was dated February 11, 2009, and MR. BENKEL'S hearing was then scheduled for this Council meeting.

MR. DiFIORE confirmed for COUNCILMAN WOLFSON that the Council could take revocation action if MR. BENKEL were granted a permanent license and confirmed that no complaints received during the two previous review periods. COUNCILMAN WOLFSON also noted that Metro's report did not raise any additional concerns not already noted by MR. DiFIORE.

COUNCILMAN ROSS read from the Metro report and expressed his concern with MR. BENKEL'S inconsistencies in his application and his remarks.