



Las Vegas

Agenda Item No.: **39.**

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: APRIL 1, 2009

DEPARTMENT: FINANCE AND BUSINESS SERVICES

DIRECTOR: CANDACE HALDER, ACTING

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT:

Discussion and possible action regarding Approval of a new Locksmith License, Armor Locksmith, LLC, dba Armor Locksmith, 6490 Vegas Drive, Unit 2162, Yair Refael, Owner, 100% - Ward (Barlow)

Fiscal Impact

☐

No Impact

☐ Augmentation Required

☐

Budget Funds Available

Amount:

Funding Source:

Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

Discussion and possible action regarding Approval of a new Locksmith License.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

None

Motion made by RICKI Y. BARLOW to Deny

Passed For: 7; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

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

Minutes:

JIM DiFIORE, Business Services Manager, noted that the report from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (Metro) contained several areas of concern and SERGEANT LOWE, Metro Special Investigations, was available for questions. He pointed out the high level of trust needed for a locksmith license holder and expressed concern with the applicants trustworthiness. The applicant had stated he had two months of training in the locksmith business in his application, but advertised that he had over ten years of experience on the Internet. His website also included emergency contact numbers in the City of Las Vegas, the City of Henderson and Clark County. No locksmith business licenses had been issued for any of the locations listed and the physical locations were occupied by a Burger King and 7-Eleven. MR. DiFIORE stated he had met with MR. RAFAEL on March 16, 2009, to discuss the report

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and MR. RAFAEL had considered Metros concerns to be irrelevant because he had relied on a marketer to manage the website. Additionally, MR. RAFAEL had listed Complete Locksmith as a business on his website, but Complete Locksmith is not licensed for business in any jurisdiction in Southern Nevada. Due to these numerous concerns and the areas of concern in the Metro report, MR. DiFIORE recommended denial of the locksmith license.

COUNCILMAN ROSS observed that similar concerns had been raised in previous locksmith license applications and wondered if this is a trend in the industry. MR. DiFIORE stated that staff is working on a report of issues occurring throughout the Las Vegas Valley and other municipalities. He would review that report with the City Attorney to determine a potential plan of action for the City. He suggested that the locksmith industry may be more prone to this activity because the initials startup costs are low. This might be a long-term problem as well.

COUNCILMAN ROSS noted that some industries are encouraging entrepreneurs to start their own businesses and avoid licensing fees, withholding taxes and workers compensation insurance. The City is losing revenue due to businesses operating without the required licenses.

YAIR RAFAEL stated that he started the business 10 months ago and paid fees of \$320 to Metro, \$80 to the City and \$90 for fingerprinting. The misleading advertising was a mistake by the marketer and had been removed. He informed the Council that he had received locksmith training with Complete Locksmith, a company located in Tempe, Arizona, where the locksmith industry is not regulated. His training included school and on-the-job training and he had not paid any fees for that training.

MR. RAFAEL suggested that it is not beneficial or cost-effective to have an office or shop when locksmiths operate as a mobile service. COUNCILMAN STEINMAN observed that locksmiths obtain access to homes, vehicles and businesses when they provide services to their customers and expressed concern with the difficulty in finding a mobile service. MR. RAFAEL suggested other industries operate in a similar manner and that his address is listed with the Nevada Secretary of State.

MR. RAFAEL suggested that he was being singled out in an industry where this practice was common. SERGEANT LOWE stated that the website search performed on March 31, 2009, showed that the information provided on MR. RAFAEL'S website had not been corrected and still contained misleading addresses and the assertion of experience. MR. RAFAEL stated he had no control over the information provided on the Internet and pointed out the Internet is not regulated.

COUNCILMAN BARLOW stated he could not support MR. RAFAEL'S application due to the many misrepresentations and misleading information provided.

MR. DiFIORE stated that a locksmith company could hire MR. RAFAEL as an employee, but he would be required to obtain a work card from the City. The work card application would only indicate whether or not MR. RAFAEL has a police record. MAYOR GOODMAN encouraged MR. DiFIORE to closely examine the locksmith industry.