



AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: NOVEMBER 18, 2009

DEPARTMENT: FINANCE AND BUSINESS SERVICES

DIRECTOR: MARK R. VICE

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT:

Discussion and possible action regarding a new Psychic Arts and Science License, Nana Adams, dba Psychic Arts of Las Vegas, 1620 South Decatur Boulevard, Suite E, Nana Adams, Owner, 100% - Ward 1 (Tasmanian)

Fiscal Impact

☐

No Impact

☐

Augmentation Required

☐

Budget Funds Available

Amount:

Funding Source:

Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

Discussion and possible action regarding a new Psychic Arts and Science License.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

Map

Motion made by LOIS TARKANIAN 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, STAVROS S. ANTHONY; (Against-None); (Abstain-None); (Did Not Vote-None); (Excused-None)

Minutes:

JIM DiFIORE, Manager Business Services, stated he met with NANA ADAMS, provided her with a copy of the police report and was advised that the City Council would be made aware of the area of concern.

TIMMY JACKSON stated that MS. ADAMS has been struggling to get her business license, and she is partner with him in several businesses. MS. ADAMS received a ticket at the San Gennaro's Feast for not having a license at her psychic booth. However, MS. ADAMS stated

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that she had paid ANTHONY PALMISANO \$2,500 to cover for a business license and sales tax license for the psychic booth.

COUNCILMAN WOLFSON verified with MR. DiFIORE that he has reviewed the documents referred to by MR. JACKSON. It appears that the document contains a provision for a business license. However, he is aware there was an amended document from one year of San Gennaro Feast to another year, where that provision was removed, which makes them responsible for their own business license. COUNCILMAN WOLFSON pointed out they reasonably believed that MR. PALMISANO agreed to obtain the license for them.

COUNCILWOMAN TARKENTIA verified that as the contract changed from year to year that MR. PALMISANO would not be responsible to obtain a business license. Therefore, it falls upon the applicant to obtain that business license. MR. DiFIORE added that MS. ADAMS has a pending court date where she could contend as to whether they are guilty or not.

MAYOR GOODMAN pointed out the gravamen of the report appears to focus on this incident and not on the incident involving the driving away with the two other ladies. MR. DiFIORE replied that it covers both. The fact is that a person has been charged with doing business without a license and a person has been convicted of offenses that involve the abuse of the elderly. On March 27, 2005, MS. ADAMS was charged with a gross misdemeanor, and was advised by her attorney to plead guilty. She was placed on probation for three years, has satisfied her probation and was honorably discharged.

MR. JACKSON stated that MS. ADAMS has been paying rent at 1620 South Decatur Boulevard since last year, and is asking for the license so she can operate the business legally.

COUNCILMAN ANTHONY verified that on May 9, 2009, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (Metro) issued a citation to MS. ADAMS for doing business without a license and then on April 16, a Senior License Officer found her doing business without a license at a swapmeet. MR. DiFIORE responded that was in 2003 and explained that at the Rancho Indoor Swapmeet, MS. ADAMS set up a booth and the license officer went to do a site check and found that the booth was operating without a business license. MS. ADAMS was not present and her daughter was told that MS. ADAMS needed to come forward and apply for a business license. However, she never came forward, and it seems it took MS. ADAMS this amount of time to locate in Las Vegas before she obtained a business license.

MR. DiFIORE stated that MS. ADAMS pleaded guilty to burglary of a victim over 65 years of age. When someone operates a psychic business, people are putting their trust in them.

MAYOR GOODMAN wanted to know the exact conviction.

COUNCILMAN BARLOW asked for clarification on the report that MS. ADAMS was not present at the swapmeet. MR. DiFIORE clarified that when MS. ADAMS arrived, she was advised that the Boulder City business license did not apply for the City of Las Vegas and was given a warning notice. However, she did not immediately come forward and apply for a

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business license in the City of Las Vegas.

SERGEANT JOSE MONTOYA, Metro, informed the Mayor that MS. ADAMS pled guilty and was convicted of burglary, which is a felony.

COUNCILMAN WOLFSON stated that the report is unclear as to MS. ADAMS criminal history but he does not know what she was convicted of. He did not feel comfortable voting on the item without clearly understanding her conviction. MAYOR GOODMAN asked for a copy of her scope and decided to trail the item until that information was provided. COUNCILMAN WOLFSON asked that court records be retrieved from Blackstone as well.

COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN remarked that psychics tend to draw elderly individuals and she was concerned with the alleged bags of money found in the car and asked if that information would be included in the scope. She indicated that the court system often reaches an agreement with the appellant and it is far less than the original conviction. She asked for more specific facts. SERGEANT MONTOYA indicated that the information referencing the money was included in the arrest report.

The item was recalled and CITY ATTORNEY BRAD JACKSON explained that MS. ADAMS' charge was reduced to attempted theft, which is a gross misdemeanor, and that is what the applicant pled to. Beyond that there are no felonies against the applicant.

SERGEANT GLEN LOVE, Metro Special Investigation, remarked that Metro's report is a civil investigation and they cannot provide information regarding the criminal case, other than the person was convicted of a specific crime. MAYOR GOODMAN pointed out that there was a representation that MS. ADAMS pled guilty to a felony, and the City Council relies on Metro's report. The report needs to be very clear as to the criminal record of an applicant.

COUNCILMAN WOLFSON requested meeting with MR. DiFIORE and CITY ATTORNEY JERBIC to explore a better way to obtain accurate information, because, even though this is civil in nature, the City Council relies on the accuracy of the report. Although this is a civil case, there is representation of a criminal matter and criminal conviction.

COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN expressed concern about the allegation of abuse of the elderly, and utilizing rouses involving such abuse. She did not believe someone with this type of allegation should receive a psychic license. MR. JACKSON explained that MS. ADAMS drove the two ladies to the house and then was asked for help to show how the medical device they were selling worked. MS. ADAMS called the police because she was being followed, but she has never been arrested for abusing the elderly.

COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN understood that the device is very needy but MS. ADAMS pled guilty to other allegations. She had a great concern because it makes for a dangerous situation.

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MR. JACKSON stated that MS. ADAMS has four other businesses and has never had a problem with her clients. She sold her business in Boulder City thinking she was able to open a business in the City of Las Vegas.

MR. DiFIORE clarified for COUNCILMAN ANTHONY that his recommendation is to deny the request because the applicant was asked to explain the circumstances. She told him that she drove the ladies to the house, waited in the car for 15 minutes, went to the door and was unaware of what was going on. He relied on the applicant to provide a true and accurate account of what happened. The voluntary statement provided by the victim is contrary to what she told him. Therefore, the only recommendation he could provide is for denial.

