



City of Richmond

Report to Council

To: Richmond City Council

Date: March 17, 2004

From: Jim Bruce
General Manager, Finance and Corporate
Services

File: 8060-20-7048

Re: Suspension of Business Licence for Net Arena Enterprises Inc

Staff Recommendation

That Council suspend the business licence of Net Arena Enterprises Inc doing business as Net Arena for a period of 30 days commencing March 29, 2004 through April 27, 2004 both dates inclusive.

Jim Bruce
General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services
(4095)

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CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER

Staff Report

Origin

The City continues to enforce its Business Licence bylaws and Public Health Protection bylaws with an emphasis on the operating hours and permissive functions within the business complex. These efforts for enforcement are part of our ongoing efforts to promote customer, community and employee safety and to ensure that all businesses are operating in a consistent manner so as to not prevent one business gaining an operational advantage over another business in the same business category. Various regulatory, protection services, health and federal agencies have worked together to ensure that business activities are operating within the various legislative parameters as established by these various agencies with an emphasis on the operating hours and permissive functions within the business complex.

Analysis

City staff continue to make unscheduled visits to entertainment establishments to ensure business operations comply with various legislative requirements. Many of these businesses, by the very nature of the business activity they provide, are open late at night.

Net Arena has been one of the many entertainment businesses that has been visited by staff that inspect these types of business entities.

Over the past several months Net Arena has continually ignored the City's Business and Public Health Protection bylaws. The business has, in fact, been issued four municipal tickets for various infractions.

A representative of the business appeared before the City's Licence Inspector on March 10, 2004 to review the continual disregard for the City's bylaws and to be afforded the opportunity to explain their actions. A copy of the correspondence associated with this hearing is attached for Council review.

Having completed the review of all the material presented at the hearing, it is the belief of the Chief Licence Inspector that a business licence suspension is warranted.

Financial Impact

There is no direct financial impact for the City.

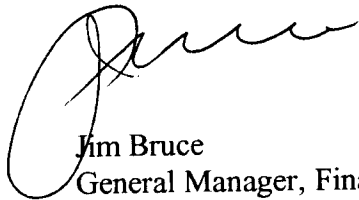
Conclusion

That Net Arena has continually ignored the City's bylaws and has received tickets for these infractions. The recommendation of a 30 days business licence suspension is warranted.

March 17, 2004

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The recommended suspension will be from March 29, 2004 to April 27, 2004 both dates inclusive.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Bruce", written in a cursive style.

Jim Bruce
General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services
(4095)

JWB:naw



City of Richmond

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March 16, 2004

File: 8060-20-7048

Mr. Yuk-Shi (Tom) Lo
Net Arena Enterprises Inc
Unit 130 - 8080 Leslie Road
Richmond V6X 3W1

Dear Mr. Lo:

Re: Business Licence Review Hearing

This correspondence will serve as official follow up to your business licence review hearing held before me at Richmond City Hall at 2:30 pm on March 11, 2004 in Room T.2.141.

I have now had the opportunity to review the facts as presented by Mr. Duarte of the City and Mr. Lo of your organization.

The findings clearly indicate that you have been in contravention of the City's No Smoking Legislation as well as the City's Business Licence and Regulation Bylaw No. 7538. By your own admission you indicated that you are not happy with the hours of operation, as set by the City, and believe you must stay open to allow customers, who have entered your business premises before the required closing time, to complete their game irrespective of how long it takes. This being said, I feel that a business licence suspension is warranted.

I will be forwarding a report to the Richmond City council meeting on March 22, 2004 recommending a 30 day business licence suspension commencing March 29, 2004 through to April 27, 2004 both dates inclusive.

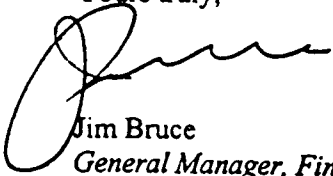
The Council meeting will commence at 7:00 pm in Richmond City Council Chambers and you have the right to appear before Council to debate the recommendations and to present your case as to why the recommendation should not be supported.

Should you wish to attend to present your case, please contact Mr. Richard McKenna, the City Clerk and he will detail for you the appropriate procedures to follow.


RICHMOND
Island City, by Nature

Should you have any questions regarding this recommendation or process relative to the Council meeting, please feel free to call me directly at 604-276-4095.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Bruce', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Jim Bruce
General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services

JWB:naw

pc: V.Duarte
A.Stevens
R.McKenna