



Tamar Galatzan <tamar.galatzan@lacity.org>

Tour Bus working group

3 messages

Kerry Morrison <Kerry@hollywoodbid.org>

Fri, Jun 29, 2012 at 5:00 PM

To: Ray Lau <ray.lau@lacity.org>, Nicole Shahenian <nicole@hollywoodchamber.net>, jan@lacitytours.com, Philip Ferentinos <philip@starlinetours.com>, aquapatrik100@yahoo.com, vahid@tourcoach.com, "Motta, Angela" <Angela.Motta@lacity.org>, fredsapir@starlinetours.com, josephwall3@gmail.com, Shinsuke Takahashi <stakahashi@his-usa.com>, tonyf@silverstatetrailways.com, Tamar Galatzan <tamar.galatzan@lacity.org>, Tony Hoover <tony@redlinetours.com>, HwoodBldg@aol.com, joe@hollywoodbid.org, Houssine Lazaar <houssinel@yahoo.fr>, Annette Bethers <abethers@cimgroup.com>, Dan Chismire <DChismire@cimgroup.com>, info@streetrodshollywood.com, thebigredbusone@yahoo.com

 **invite.ics**
5K

Tony Hoover <tony@redlinetours.com>

Mon, Jul 2, 2012 at 5:19 PM

To: Kerry Morrison <Kerry@hollywoodbid.org>, Ray Lau <ray.lau@lacity.org>, Nicole Shahenian <nicole@hollywoodchamber.net>, jan@lacitytours.com, Philip Ferentinos <philip@starlinetours.com>, aquapatrik100@yahoo.com, vahid@tourcoach.com, "Motta, Angela" <Angela.Motta@lacity.org>, fredsapir@starlinetours.com, josephwall3@gmail.com, Shinsuke Takahashi <stakahashi@his-usa.com>, tonyf@silverstatetrailways.com, Tamar Galatzan <tamar.galatzan@lacity.org>, HwoodBldg@aol.com, joe@hollywoodbid.org, Houssine Lazaar <houssinel@yahoo.fr>, Annette Bethers <abethers@cimgroup.com>, Dan Chismire <DChismire@cimgroup.com>, info@streetrodshollywood.com, thebigredbusone@yahoo.com

Hello

I'm going to reiterate again that my vote will be to include ANY business or person operating from the sidewalk as part of this discussion. I firmly believe that this is not a "bus" issue, but an issue relating to the enforcement of our existing laws.

The buses are obviously a problem but, the way I see it, there are two issues here: unfair business practices relating to unlawful use of the public right-of-way, and a poor experience for our visitors. If we want to make confronting these issues the least complicated as possible then wouldn't working with existing laws and finding ways to enforce them be the simplest way to accomplish our goals?

Captain Andy Smith said in an LA Times interview on this subject but relating to the problem of unregulated street food vendors ... *"We are not the hot dog patrol," said Police Capt. Andrew Smith. "It is but a tiny slice of the enforcement we do. But part of changing the culture of lawlessness is enforcing the laws that are on the books."* (see <http://articles.latimes.com/2007/apr/01/local/me-vendors1/2>).

That last line is extremely important ... changing the culture of lawlessness is enforcing the laws that are on the books. What we are dealing with is exactly that – a

culture of lawlessness that needs to change. We have somehow allowed the laws of this city to be set aside. We need to start enforcing them, then, we need to ask ourselves is why it got out of control in the first place so that this issue doesn't repeat itself.

Here is the Muncipal Code:

SEC. 42.00. REGULATION OF SOLICITING AND SALES IN STREETS.

(c) Street-Soliciting Employment of Services Prohibited. (Amended by Ord. No. 145,691, Eff. 5/2/74.)

(1) No person, except as otherwise permitted by this section, shall on any street offer for sale, solicit the employment of, or announce by any means the availability of, any goods, wares, merchandise, services or facilities, or solicit patrons for or advertise any show, exhibition, entertainment, tour, excursion, sight-seeing trip, or real estate viewing or inspection trip. **(Amended by Ord. No. 169,319, Eff. 2/18/94.)**

In regards to the characters, did the courts strike down this provision in the Municipal Code?

SEC. 42.02. STREET – SIDEWALK – ADJACENT PROPERTY – SOLICITING TRADE.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person in or on any street, sidewalk, or other public way to importune, or solicit any other person, by word of mouth, gesture, or otherwise, to enter a place where goods, wares, or merchandise is sold, or where for a price or a donation, services are offered, or any exhibition, motion picture, play or performance is shown.

Tony Hoover, Founder

Red Line Tours llc

Red Line Group Travel

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tony@redlinegrouptravel.com

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Kerry Morrison [mailto:Kerry@hollywoodbid.org]

Sent: Friday, June 29, 2012 5:01 PM

To: 'Ray Lau'; 'Nicole Shahanian'; jan@lacitytours.com; 'Philip Ferentinos'; aquapatrack100@yahoo.com; vahid@tourcoach.com; 'Motta, Angela'; fredsapir@starlinetours.com; josephwall3@gmail.com; 'Shinsuke Takahashi'; tonyf@silverstatetrailways.com; 'Tamar Galatzan'; Tony Hoover; HwoodBldg@aol.com; joe@hollywoodbid.org; 'Houssine Lazaar'; 'Annette Bethers'; 'Dan Chismire'; info@streetrodshollywood.com;

thebigredbusone@yahoo.com

Subject: Tour Bus working group

When: Wednesday, July 11, 2012 2:00 PM-3:00 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

Where: Chamber conf room

When: Wednesday, July 11, 2012 2:00 PM-3:00 PM (GMT-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

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Note: The GMT offset above does not reflect daylight saving time adjustments.

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Gentlepersons, please hold this date relative to the final convening our working group before we present our recommendations to the city.

I will send a draft report to you prior to this meeting, but wanted to get this date on your calendar.

Tony Hoover <tony@redlinetours.com>

Thu, Jul 12, 2012 at 1:20 PM

To: Kerry Morrison <Kerry@hollywoodbid.org>, Ray Lau <ray.lau@lacity.org>, Nicole Shahenian <nicole@hollywoodchamber.net>, jan@lacitytours.com, Philip Ferentinos <philip@starlinetours.com>, aquapatrck100@yahoo.com, vahid@tourcoach.com, "Motta, Angela" <Angela.Motta@lacity.org>, fredsapir@starlinetours.com, josephwall3@gmail.com, Shinsuke Takahashi <stakahashi@his-usa.com>, tonyf@silverstatetrailways.com, Tamar Galatzan <tamar.galatzan@lacity.org>, HwoodBldg@aol.com, joe@hollywoodbid.org, Houssine Lazaar <houssinel@yahoo.fr>, Annette Bethers <abethers@cimgroup.com>, Dan Chismire <DChismire@cimgroup.com>, info@streetrodshollywood.com, thebigredbusone@yahoo.com, alwyn@chinesetheatres.com, michael@redlinetours.com

Hello All,

I believe that this may have been discussed in past years but I wanted to offer this up as another possible solution. There is a line in Kerry's Mission Statement that I feel is extremely important *"...with a view toward enhancing the customer [visitor] experience..."*.

Privatization of the public right-of-way has its pluses and minuses however considering the issues we are facing I think a serious discussion regarding the privatization of at least a portion of Hollywood Blvd. should also be on the agenda as a mid to long range solution. This would apply to Tour Bus working group agenda but also address the problems with street performers, costumed characters, CD solicitors, highly aggressive political and religious "demonstrators" (this has been on the increase), homeless "camping" and commercial promotional solicitation. Commercial promotional solicitation being product "giveaways". An example of this would be the Flatout Bread Company that used parking spaces to stage their vehicles and gave away product to persons on the street to promote their products. They have begun replacing supergraphics as a major mode of exposure. This is lost income to the district and to the City. They essentially get "free" advertising.

The primary reason I think this is important to the discussion is because Hollywood Blvd is unique in the nation because it is not only a place where millions of people come to gather each year but is also a center of media attention – much in the same way our counterpart, Times Square, is. This makes Hollywood Blvd very different than, say, Beale Street in Memphis or Bourbon Street in New Orleans who both have similar foot traffic but not the same media spotlight. I believe this ingredient, in

particular, encourages the costumed performers to entrench themselves on Hollywood Blvd. Talk and news shows such as Jimmy Kimmel, Jay Leno and Conan Obrien often give airtime to these "performers." Some of them have achieved sudo-celebrity status over the years encouraging more to come out of the woodwork. The Korean church who used to march on Hollywood Blvd once a month now march Hollywood Blvd DAILY and whenever there are cameras around they follow them. These are just some examples.

Most persons who are abusing the system are using the First Amendment to protect themselves, but the First Amendment only protects those who are using the public right of way. Privatization of the street would help Hollywood overcome many of the issues that come with public space. It could also be used to create greater pedestrian access for our overcrowded sidewalks while also addressing the issue of sightseeing and charter tour bus zones, provide better access by emergency vehicles, and reduce vehicular and pedestrian conflicts. I don't think privatization is the answer in every situation, but I feel that there is no better candidate than Hollywood Blvd.

One additional benefit can come from this kind of proposal... Patrick with Rockin Hollywood Tours mentioned something during the meeting in relation to Starline's kiosks along Hollywood Blvd. I wanted to comment on this but didn't have time. Starline, Madame Tussauds (at the entrance to the Metro) and other retail kiosks are on what appears to be the public right of way but are actually on private property. I don't think most people are aware of this, because the public/private space is not clearly defined by walls or markings. By privatizing Hollywood Blvd we can extend what is considered private property to cover the entire right of way and therefore offer smaller companies the ability to lease space within the privatized area. This would allow start-up business, like Rockin Hollywood Tour to afford the ability to get into the marketplace while also allowing the privatizing Corporation to control it. I believe this should only happen, however, along with a licensing program. There needs to be licensing/regulation of Sightseeing Tour Operators. Privatizing the public space would also allow the city to monetize the public right of way by creating new revenues.

Tony Hoover, Founder

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