

May 20, 2004

Honorable Mayor and Members of
The Hermosa Beach City Council

Regular meeting of
May 25, 2004

**RECOMMENDATION TO DENY DANCING
AT TJ CHARLYZ (1332 HERMOSA AVENUE)**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council:

1. Make a recommendation to the Department of the Alcoholic Beverage Control to reject the application by TJ Charlyz Nightclub and Restaurant to change their existing alcohol license to allow dancing in their establishment.

BACKGROUND

TJ Charlyz Nightclub and Restaurant at 1332 Hermosa Avenue was issued a type 47 alcohol license by the ABC in December of 1996. One of the conditions of the license (condition #5) was no dancing allowed on the premises. Recently, officials of the ABC working with members of the Hermosa Beach Police Department observed that TJ Charlyz was allowing dancing in their establishment. The owner, Mr. Steve Dahdah, was advised by the ABC of the violation of this condition. During April of 2004, Mr. Dahdah applied to the ABC to modify his alcohol license to allow dancing in his establishment. The ABC has formally notified the City of this request to change the license and the City has the opportunity to file a written objection to the modification of this license if it so desires. The Police Department objects to the change in Mr. Dahdah's alcohol license.

ANALYSIS

The Police Department has become very concerned with the operations of the nightclub TJ Charlyz. Long before the police department became aware that TJ Charlyz was prohibited from having dancing, our officers have become very concerned about the rowdy behavior at this business. Officers have encountered a number of confrontational patrons. As a result our police officers have had to deal with a number of situations at this establishment. Recently on March 27, 2004 a large fight broke out at TJ's and a crowd of about 100 persons were dispersed from the area of the bar. Our officers have found and cited persons under the age of 21 drinking inside of the business. The police department has also received information from neighboring police departments regarding gang members patronizing this nightclub.

The owner has expressed concern to our officers about the difficulty of his business competing with the other popular bars and nightclubs of the downtown area. Our foot patrol officers must make a point to monitor activities inside of this particular nightclub because of the rowdy behavior. This is not the case at other adjacent nightclubs such as the Café' Boogaloo and Sharks Cove where a more noticeably different and well-behaved clientele patronize these businesses.

The applicant has been aware of the fact that he was not to have dancing since 1996. However, our officers can attest to the fact that there has been dancing at TJ Charlyz for the past few months. Even after TJ Charlyz was informed of the fact that they could not have dancing, dancing continued. Our officers observed dancing inside TJ's over the weekend of May 15-16, 2004. This is an example of the applicant's disregard to the conditions imposed by his alcohol license.

While the Police Department is not opposed to dancing in general, the Police Department is concerned about the daily operation of this particular nightclub considering its past. It is felt that if the applicant is allowed to have dancing in the establishment, the same type of rowdy crowd will continue to show up as patrons. Therefore, the Police Department objects to changing this condition in this alcohol license.

Respectfully submitted,

Concur:

MICHAEL LAVIN, CHIEF OF POLICE
HERMOSA BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

STEPHEN BURRELL
CITY MANAGER