

Hollywood Video Loses Fight to Stay Open after 11 P. M.

Westwood South of Santa Monica Boulevard Homeowners Association has succeeded in forcing the Hollywood Video store at Olympic and Westwood Boulevards to obey the law.

Despite a city ordinance which requires businesses on corner lots to close by 11 p.m., Hollywood had been keeping its doors open until midnight. Complaints by Westwood South to the Building and Safety Dept. resulted in the department sending notices to Hollywood to comply with the law; however Building and Safety did not follow up on the notices.

Hollywood continued to violate the law. Finally, when Councilman Jack Weiss backed Westwood South on the issue, Hollywood filed for a conditional use permit to allow deviation from the requirements the municipal code.”

At the hearing, Hollywood representatives argued they were good neighbors; they did not create excessive noise. They also said that other video stores stayed open late.

Westwood South representatives countered that the late hours could attract panhandlers and added nothing of benefit to the community since people would not walk to Hollywood at midnight. They also said that the video stores that stayed open late were not adjacent to single family residences .

The hearing officer, Anik Charron, rejected the appeal. She accepted Westwood South’s arguments that a conditional use permit would create a precedent. She also agreed with Westwood South that a permit would not provide any public benefit since other video stores that stayed open late were within driving distance and people would not walk over to Hollywood at midnight.