Urgent by fax (2537 3539)

<u>Total: 2 pages</u>

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

來函檔號 YOUR REF

本函檔號 OUR REF 話 TELEPHONE: CB2/PL/FE

圖文傳真 FACSIMILE :

2537 2560

Dear Stephen.

2869 9263

12 September 2005

Mr Stephen IP, GBS, JP Secretary for Economic Development and Labour 8th Floor, West Wing Central Government Offices 11 Ice House Street Central Hong Kong

Arrangements for law enforcement in Hong Kong Disneyland

As the Chairman of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene and the Chairman of the Panel on Security, we are gravely concerned about the two recent incidents that health inspectors from Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) had been asked by the management of Hong Kong Disneyland to remove their uniform caps and epaulettes while investigating food poisoning cases at the Disneyland.

Arising from this incident, there is wide public concern that the Hong Kong Disneyland appears to have been granted favourable treatment in matters relating to public safety and law enforcement. In this connection, we would like to seek clarification from you as to whether the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region had entered any agreement with the Hong Kong Disneyland concerning arrangements for law enforcement within the premises of the Disneyland. We request that the Administration should provide Legislative Council Members with information on the following -

(a) details of any agreement with the Disneyland concerning arrangements for law enforcement in the Disneyland;

- (b) a report on the two recent incidents that health inspectors of FEHD were asked to remove their uniform caps and epaulettes while investigating food poisoning cases at the Disneyland;
- (c) whether there were other incidents that the Disneyland management had asked the law enforcement officers from FEHD or other law enforcement agencies (such as Police) to dress down or deviate from their normal practice while discharging their official duties in the Disneyland; and
- (d) any guidelines from the Government and the departments concerned to the law enforcement staff on how they should act or behave in carrying out official duties and exercising statutory powers in the Disneyland.

We should appreciate a reply from you as soon as possible.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Fred LI Wah-ming)
Chairman, Panel on Food Safety and
Environmental Hygiene

(James TO Kun-sun) Chairman, Panel on Security

c.c. Mr LEE Siu-kwong, Ambrose, IDSM, JP Secretary for Security (Fax: 2868 5074)

Dr York CHOW Yat-ngok, SBS

Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Fax: 2526 3753)

P.01/02

政府總部 經濟發展及勞工局 香港下亞厘畢道

中區政府合署

(Fax: 2537 2560) **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND** LABOUR BUREAU

TO 25090775

By Fax and Post

GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT Central Government Offices

Lower Albert Road

Hong Kong LC Paper No. CB(2) 206/05-06(02)

21 September 2005

本函檔號 Our Ref: EDB 22/22/1

來函檔號 Your Ref:

The Honourable Fred LI Wah-ming, JP Chairman, Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

The Honourable James TO Kun-sun Chairman, Panel on Security

Dear Fred and Jame,

Arrangements for law enforcement in Hong Kong Disneyland

Thank you for your letter of 12 September, 2005, arising from the recent incidents involving health inspectors conducting food premises inspection in the Hong Kong Disneyland. We welcome the chance to clarify government's ability to discharge statutory authority in the theme park. Replies to your specific questions or requests are set out below -

- The agreement between Hong Kong Special Administrative (a) Region Government and The Walt Disney Company is drawn up based on the principle that in no way the Government's ability to exercise its statutory authority in the Hong Kong Disneyland is not fettered in any way.
- The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau has confirmed that the two recent incidents cited in your letter are the only two occasions when their inspectors were asked to remove their uniform caps and epaulettes in carrying out inspection of food premises in Disneyland,

The incidents were due to a misunderstanding on the role of FEHD staff in carrying out their statutory duties in licensed food premises in Disneyland. The Management of Disneyland has subsequently apologized and given an assurance that FEHD staff will not be inhibited or hindered in any way in future when carrying out their official duties of investigation, surveillance, monitoring and enforcement in food premises in Disneyland.

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There have been no other cases apart from the two isolated incidents mentioned in (b) above. FEHD staff has recently conducted inspections of food premises in Hong Kong Disneyland with no problem at all.

As advised by the Security Bureau, none of our law enforcement officers in the disciplined services has come across any request from Disney authorities to 'dress down' while performing their statutory duties.

No special guidelines have been issued for FEHD staff for carrying out their official duties and exercising statutory powers in Hong Kong Disneyland. The theme park is treated in exactly the same way as other establishments in Hong Kong.

Similarly, the Security Bureau has confirmed that none of the disciplined services have any specific guidelines for the performance of statutory duties within the theme park. If any of our officers from the disciplined services are required to respond to any incidents inside the theme park, they will discharge their duties in the same professional manner, no different from what they would do in other locations of the territory.

Justicely,

(Eva Cheng) for Secretary for Economic Development & Labour

c.c. Mr LEE Siu-kwong, Ambrose, IDSM, JP Secretary for Security (Fax: 2868 5074)

Dr York CHOW Yat-ngok, SBS

Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Fax: 2526 3753)