

# MINUTES OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

REGULAR MEETING - October 8, 2014

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular meeting of the Traffic Commission was called to order at 7:04 P.M. on October 8, 2014, in the Council Chambers, 3191 Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos, Chair Emerson presiding.

## 2. ROLL CALL

**Present:** Commissioners:

Gina Biri  
Dave Emerson  
Javier Mejia  
Daniel Patz  
Johanna Schleuter  
James Wilhelm

**Absent:** Commissioner:

Richard Vardeman (Excused)

**Present:** Staff

Dave Hunt, City Engineer  
Steven Mendoza, Community/Public Works  
Director  
Bruce McAlpine, Police Captain  
Pamela Brackman, Department Secretary

## 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chair Patz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## 4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Emerson opened the meeting for Oral Communications.

There being no persons wishing to speak, Chair Emerson closed Oral Communication.

## 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion/Second: Patz/Schleuter

Unanimously Carried: The Traffic Commission approved the minutes as corrected of the Regular meeting of September 8, 2014.

## 6. STAFF REPORTS

### A. 2- Hour Restricted Los Alamitos Street Parking

City Engineer Hunt had originally introduced the 2-hour restricted street parking at Los Alamitos Plaza at the last Traffic Commission meeting. Directed by the Commission, Mr. Hunt sent out over 300 Public Notices within 500 feet of the proposed restricted parking perimeter of the Los Alamitos Plaza that notified all businesses and residences of the proposed restriction. The City received some feedback from local residences, business owners and charitable organizations. A slide presentation was shown that featured all the parking restricted areas. Mr. Hunt stated that it was important that the Commission listen to the people who have come to the meeting to speak as well as the ones that emailed their concerns in response to the Public Hearing Notice.

Chair Emerson opened the meeting to the public.

Eight (8) representatives from Precious Life Thrift Store, Reagan Street Surgery Center, Casa Youth Shelter, and a tenant of Los Alamitos Plaza addressed the Traffic Commission, and each shared an unfavorable parking experience on the streets that surround the Plaza. It was a unanimous request to the Commission to not support the 2-hour street parking restriction.

A representative from the Plaza/property owners of Los Alamitos Plaza addressed the Commission in favor of the street parking restriction.

Chair Emerson thanked the public for their comments, and opened up the meeting for Commissioner's comments.

Commissioner Wilhelm stated that he drove around Los Alamitos Plaza and observed there seemed to be a lot of unused space. He thought that the Plaza owners could come up with a greater parking utilization plan.

Commissioner Schleuter suggested a delay in making a decision on this issue, as the new parking structure at the Los Alamitos Medical Center just opened and there has not been enough time to see the effects from it.

Vice-Chair Patz agreed with Commissioner Schleuter's decision and supported the delay in a decision.

Commissioner Biri stated that she is in support for doing the greatest good for the greatest number of people. She failed to see how the parking issue is a City problem, and would not be voting in favor of the parking restriction at this time.

Commissioner Vardeman supported a delay and suggested re-visiting the issue in six (6) months.

Commissioner Mejia stated that the current signage on the annex Plaza parking lot is a bit deceiving and not what the applicant has represented in his request. Patrons and employees of surrounding businesses, including Los Alamitos Plaza, are in desperate need of parking. He said that since the annex lot has changed to a pay lot, it only adds to the parking difficulties in this area for customers and employees. Further restricting parking in this area is not currently the way to go. Commissioner Mejia stated he would like to see the exploration into alternative options taken before changes are made to restrict parking on the public right-of-way.

Chair Emerson stated that an ideal solution would be to bulldoze everything and build a new complex with multi-story parking; make it a destination and an attractive place to walk around. He supported plans and ideas that worked together for the common good.

Motion/Second/Nays: Vardeman/Patz/Biri & Mejia

The Traffic Commission approved the request to re-visit the issue for 2-hour restricted parking around Los Alamitos Plaza in 6 months.

Chair Emerson thanked everyone from the public for attending, and stated that parking seems to be an on-going issue.

## **RECESS**

The Traffic Commission took a five (5) minute recess.

### **B. DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES CHAIR & VICE CHAIR POSITIONS**

City Engineer Hunt presented the duties and responsibilities of the Chair and Vice-Chair for the Traffic Commission. Mr. Hunt explained that this was only a rough draft and they were based on documents that the Planning Commission uses. He reminded the Commission that three (3) people currently on the Commission were up for renewal of terms, and in January the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair could change.

Chair Emerson stated that the Commission Chair can rotate every year, and supported new blood in the position.

Vice-Chair Patz supported the leadership of the Commission being passed around, and stated that he planned to decline a nomination for Chair as his business affairs were going to be extremely busy all next year.

Commissioner Mejia stated that his role as a Commissioner has been a big learning curve, and was very interested in finding out those on the Commission that would like to serve as the Vice-Chair and Chair roles.

Commissioner Schleuter stated that she has served on the Traffic Commission for four (4) years, and had no interest in running for the Vice-Chair or Chair positions. She added that she would serve reluctantly, but would prefer not to.

Commissioner Biri added that she would reluctantly serve as Vice-Chair but not in the Chair position.

Commissioner Vardeman announced that he would not be seeking renewing his term on the Commission.

## **7. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

### City Engineer Hunt

- The project street overlay job at Ball Road, Portal and Winners Circle. A resident that lives off of Bloomfield Road was blocked for 15 minutes during construction. Another resident on the south side, and about 1,000 feet away from the project area thought we were having a gas explosion at night, but it was only the grinding in the streets. Loops are being done and then paint at a cost of \$400,000.
- Beginning Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup> the alley between Katella Avenue and Green and the first 1,500 sq. feet east of Bloomfield will begin construction using a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) of \$120,000. City Staff put out message boards, and the Contractor hand delivered flyers to the residences and businesses affected. About 5 to 6 phone calls were received from residents. One wanted the City to pay their rent for a month, and the day care center had concerns over parking
- Replacement of miscellaneous drive approaches, ADA ramps and sidewalks will begin soon at a price of \$40,000 for Public Works Staff and \$60,000 for On-Call Concrete. Areas that were not ADA compliant were found by completing a survey to find where we are in need and where we are missing.
- The Flood Control Channel Project off Orangewood and St. Hedwigs will be completed by the end of October or middle of November. We have not received many resident complaints during construction.
- Received a draft of the School Traffic Study last week, and it will come to the Traffic Commission sometime in November/December.
- Commissioner Schleuter's request on the intersection at Florista and Pine for making a left hand turn, unfortunately, cannot be changed.
- If freeway work is completed by December, a traffic count will begin in January. Traffic on Katella has been horrible since school began and the

City has received many complaints from local residences and surrounding cities.

**8. TRAFFIC COMMISSION INITIATED BUSINESS**

Commissioner Wilhelm

- Revisited Cherry and Catalina parking. Mr. Hunt stated that the Los Alamitos Medical Center Parking Structure was not finished yet and the next step is for the parking meters.

Vice-Chair Patz

- There is a restricted parking sign on Humboldt that is covered by a homeowners avocado tree. Mr. Hunt would notify Public Works to inspect the situation.

Chair Emerson

- Katella cloverleaf striping a line for southbound and one for northbound. Mr. Hunt stated that the signal is owned and controlled by Caltrans, and that he would pass along the lane configuration to OCTA.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The Traffic Commission adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

  
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Dave Emerson, Chair

ATTEST:

  
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Dave Hunt, City Engineer