

MINUTES OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

REGULAR MEETING – January 10, 2018

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Traffic Commission met in Regular Session at 7:01 p.m. on January 10, 2018 in the Council Chamber, 3191 Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos, California, Chair Mejia presiding.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners:

Chair Patz
Vice Chair Mejia
Emerson, Hill, Rodman, Singer
and West

Present: Staff:

Eric Nuñez, Police Chief
Steven Mendoza, Development Services Director
Farhad Iranitalab, Traffic Engineer
Michelle Müller, Department Secretary

Absent:

Chris Karrer, Police Captain

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Emerson.

4. SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS

Department Secretary Müller swore in new Commission Member West.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Patz opened the meeting for Oral Communications.

Residents in the Rossmoor-Highlands neighborhood Joy Baker and Ashley Sewn expressed concern over the safety hazard present at the intersection of Rossmoor Way and Pine Street. Ms. Baker expressed concern over drivers regularly speeding through the yield sign, most commonly during peak hours of the day, posing a safety hazard for the community and school aged children. Ms. Baker and Ms. Sewn are requesting for the yield sign to be replaced by a stop sign.

The Traffic Commissioner instructed Traffic Engineer Iranitalab to evaluate the intersection in question.

There being no further speakers, Chair Patz closed Oral Communications.

6. TRAFFIC COMMISSION REORGANIZATION

A. Annual Traffic Commission Reorganization

This report provides relevant information for the Traffic Commission's annual reorganization, by the election of the Chair and Vice Chair.

Department Secretary Müller called for nominations for the position of Chair.

Commissioner Emerson nominated Commissioner Mejia.

Department Secretary Müller asked if there were any other nominations and there were not.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Patz	Yes
Commissioner Emerson	Yes
Commissioner Hill	Yes
Commissioner Mejia	Yes
Commissioner Rodman	Yes
Commissioner Singer	Yes
Commissioner West	Yes

Unanimously Carried: The Traffic Commission appointed Commissioner Mejia as Chair.

Chair Mejia asked if there were any nominations for the position of Vice Chair.

Commissioner Patz nominated Commissioner Hill.

Chair Mejia asked if there were any other nominations and there were not.

There being no further nominations, Chair Mejia closed the nominations.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Patz	Yes
Commissioner Emerson	Yes
Commissioner Hill	Yes
Commissioner Mejia	Yes
Commissioner Rodman	Yes
Commissioner Singer	Yes
Commissioner West	Yes

Unanimously Carried: The Traffic Commission appointed Commissioner Hill as Vice Chair.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of November 08, 2017

Motion/Second: Patz/Mejia

Commissioner Rodman noted that that at the top of the first page, the date needs to be changed to reflect the month of November.

Commissioner Emerson noted that the initial deadlocked votes reached should be added for item 8A on the agenda.

Motion/Second: Patz/Singer

Carried 7/0: The Traffic Commission approved the minutes with the stated corrections of the Regular meeting of November 08, 2017.

8. STAFF REPORTS

A. Residential Permit Parking Review – Old Town West

Review of Old Town West Residential Permit Parking Program.

Development Services Director Mendoza provided a summary of the Staff Report.

The Traffic Commission and Staff discussed the following items:

- The process for implementing permit parking
- The effect Cottonwood Church had to necessitate having permit parking
- The absence of Cottonwood Church and whether or not parking remains to be impacted in the neighborhood
- Explore the option of implementing a sunset clause; further discussed whether or not it would require a code change.
- The effects surrounding businesses have on the parking in this neighborhood

Commissioner Singer stated that he believes the program should remain as is based on the information received.

Motion/Second: Singer/Hill

Carried 5/2 (Emerson and Chair Mejia opposed): The Traffic Commission voted to keep the program in Old Town West as it exist.

B. Installation of “Right-Turn Only” sign on Farquhar Avenue

A request from a resident initiated the analysis of the installation of a right-turn only sign at the first exit driveway to the east of Jack in the Box restaurant leaving Bank of America.

Traffic Engineer Iranitalab provided a summary of the Staff Report.

The Traffic Commission and Staff discussed the following items:

- The history of requests received to make the intersection safer
- The effects that the proposed options would impose
- More enforcement from the Police Department
- Existing limits on traffic exiting and entering the shopping center
- The ineffectiveness of having an abundance of signage
- Option 2 being the most cost-efficient option

Commissioner Hill asked and received clarification from Traffic Engineer Iranitalab about what the limitations are for the distance in striping.

Traffic Engineer Iranitalab suggested the need for outreach.

Motion/Second: Patz/Hill

Carried 5/1 (Singer voted no, Emerson abstained): The Traffic Commission voted to install striping and pavement marking on Farquhar Avenue to prevent left-turn movement to and from the shopping center driveway.

C. Installation of a “No U-Turn” sign at the intersection of Cerritos Avenue and Del Norte Way

A request from residents initiated the analysis of the installation of a “No U-Turn” sign at the intersection of Cerritos Avenue and Del Norte Way to eliminate vehicular traffic from making the U-turn.

Traffic Engineer Iranitalab summarized the staff report.

The Traffic Commission and Staff discussed the possible unintended consequences that might result should this sign be installed.

Motion/Second: Patz/Rodman

Carried 7/0: The Traffic Commission voted in favor of the installation of a “No U-Turn” on the existing street light pole at the northeast corner of Del Norte Way and Cerritos Avenue.

D. Traffic Commission Status Log

This is a tracking tool used by the Commission to track assignments and accomplishments.

Commissioner Emerson suggested providing a copy of the Traffic Study to Commissioner West.

The Traffic Commission and Staff discussed the necessity to install an additional speed sign on Bloomfield Street.

Commissioner Emerson added that perhaps an additional sign should be fixed right underneath or next to the digital sign to read, "25 mph when children are present".

Commissioner Hill suggested having Traffic Engineer Iranitalab conduct a traffic survey to assess the necessity for installing another sign.

Chair Mejia suggested to the Commissioners to drive by the area and assess on their own whether or not installing another sign would be a good idea and bring the item back for discussion should anyone believe it is needed.

Commissioner Rodman expressed concern over the left-turn light onto Katella Avenue(northbound), from Los Alamitos Boulevard causing a back-up of traffic.

Commissioner Singer asked about removing or covering the traffic signs that are still in place as part of the Los Alamitos Median Improvement project.

Traffic Engineer Iranitalab advised the Traffic Commission that the loop detectors on Los Alamitos Boulevard have been installed.

7. ITEMS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR

Development Services Director Mendoza introduced a letter for the record regarding a request which was received for the installation of a stop sign at the Kings Street and Myra Avenue.

The Traffic Commission asked Staff to reach out to the resident who submitted this request to obtain more information and invite to attend the next meeting to speak on his concern.

8. TRAFFIC COMMISSION INITIATED BUSINESS

Commissioner Patz advised of the following items needing attention:

- The red light for the left turn on Serpentine Drive onto Los Alamitos Boulevard is flashing.
- Left turn from Cerritos Avenue onto Los Alamitos Boulevard needs to be looked at – only about 7 cars make it through on the green.

Commissioner Patz asked for an update as to when the lights will be lit as part of the Los Alamitos Median Improvement project. Development Services Director Mendoza advised that at this time, the City is facing delays as a result of Southern California Edison (SCE) finding errors in their own plan check design for the electrical work.

Commissioner Singer asked if there are studies which could be accessed which show the changes to the quality of air around the City.

Development Services Director Mendoza advised that there are no local studies showing the impacts of every traffic implementation made; what is available is the Air and Noise Study in the General Plan.

Traffic Engineer Iranitalab stated that there are other studies on a more national level encompassing how traffic affects the quality of air.


9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second: Patz/Singer

Carried 7/0: The Traffic Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting until January 10, 2018.

The Traffic Commission adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Attest:



Michelle Muller, Department Secretary



Javier Mejia, Chair