

MINUTES OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

SPECIAL MEETING – January 12, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Traffic Commission met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 in a video conference, Chair Randall Hill presiding. As a result of the State of Emergency in California due to the threat of COVID-19 and pursuant to Governor Newsom Executive Order N-25-20 issued on March 12, 2020, all members of the Traffic Commission attended telephonically.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners:

Chair Mejia,
Vice Chair Randall Hill
Dean Hill, Murphy, Patz
Salai (excused)

Absent: Commissioners:

Present: Staff:

Ron Noda, Development Services Director
Chris Kelley, City Engineer
Brent Malatesta, Sergeant
Maria Veronica Enciso, Department Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Randall Hill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATION

Department Secretary Enciso confirmed no public comment was received by the 4:00 p.m. cut off.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

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 Enciso called for nominations for the position of Chair.

Commissioner Patz nominated Commissioner R. Hill and Commissioner Murphy second the nomination.

Department Secretary asked if there were any further nominations and there were not.

Department Secretary proceeded with voting for Commissioner R. Hill for the Office of Chair.

Commissioner Mejia

Aye

Commissioner R. Hill	Aye
Commissioner D. Hill	Aye
Commissioner Murphy	Aye
Commissioner Patz	Aye
Commissioner Salai	(Absent)

Carried 5/0 (Salai absent): The Traffic Commission appointed Commissioner R. Hill as Chair.

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

Commissioner Mejia nominated Commissioner Patz.

Chair R. Hill asked if there were any further nominations and there were not.

Commissioner Mejia	Aye
Commissioner R. Hill	Aye
Commissioner D. Hill	Aye
Commissioner Murphy	Aye
Commissioner Patz	Aye
Commissioner Salai	(Absent)

Carried 5/0 (Salai absent): The Traffic Commission appointed Commissioner Patz as Vice Chair.

7. STAFF REPORTS

A. Request to Designate Disabled Parking on Walnut Street in the Old Town West Neighborhood

This is a request to consider designating a disabled parking space at 10841 and 10845 Walnut Street in the Old Town West neighborhood.

Development Services Director Noda summarized the staff report.

Department Secretary Enciso confirmed that the applicant was not in attendance.

Development Services Director Noda shared Commissioner Salai's email regarding the agenda item on denying them the designated disabled parking should they not attend the meeting.

Chair R. Hill shared that he was reluctant to draw that hard line (about either a denial or approval of the request).

Commissioner Murphy explained why it would be easier for the applicant to park at the front of the home opposed to the back. He then asked if he should recuse himself because he lives near the applicant's home.

Chair R. Hill asked Commissioner Murphy if he would have any personal benefit for this item. Commissioner Murphy clarified that he knows the family for over 50

years. Development Services Director Noda added that technically he (Commissioner Murphy) does not have any stake nor are they fellow family members, he has the right to have a say in this item, but ultimately it is up to him should he choose to recuse himself.

Commissioner D. Hill and Development Services Director Noda discussed the criteria on whether or not to approve the request. Development Services Director Noda shared that he looked into other cities criteria's since the City does not have one.

Vice Chair Patz shared that he trusts Commissioner Murphy's efforts and his statement about the applicant's living situation. He also shared that he was a part of the Commission that approved a request for a designated disabled parking on Green Avenue and how similar the two requests are.

Commissioner Mejia shared his thoughts that the property owners (the family) are not utilizing the space to make it convenient [for the older adults].

Commissioner D. Hill asked if it is two people at the front and one at the back (with a disability). Vice Chair Patz clarified that it did sound like it is two at the front and one at the back.

Development Services Director Noda shared that he has driven by the home before and noticed two vehicles with the ADA placard. He added that the City would only be painting one space for the disabled parking.

Chair R. Hill asked Development Services Director Noda if staff knows that the family owns the building and he shared that staff does not know. Therefore, Chair R. Hill shared his concern that the Commission is making assumptions because they do not know a lot of information.

Commissioner D. Hill asked if there was anyone else from the family that would speak on their behalf. Commissioner Murphy shared that Kathy (one of the family members) would be the one; he then asked Development Services Director Noda if the applicant gave a reason for not showing up.

Development Services Director Noda explained that the City has never communicated with Mr. and Mrs. Avalos and communication has been with either Kathy Gutierrez or Alexandra De La Torre. He also added that in an email, they mentioned that Mr. and Mrs. Avalos could not attend because the meeting was held passed their bedtime.

The Traffic Commission discussed the possibility of the family members having the access and capabilities to attend the meeting.

Chair R. Hill asked the Traffic Commission if they feel it is in their best interest to err on the side of denying the applicant the request. He added that nobody is denying them (the applicant) of having letters from doctors, health issues, and

disabled placards, it is the issue of not knowing the answers to the questions they have for the applicant.

Commissioner D. Hill shared that it bothered him and that it is the property owner's responsibility to have the property be accessible to who they will have live on their property.

Development Services Director Noda shared that he knows the family (applicant) and explained that he understands that the Traffic Commission want to be neighborly, but also reminded them how these items could effect citywide.

Chair R. Hill asked for clarification regarding the recommendation to the staff report. Development Services Director Noda clarified that the recommendation was to get direction on what residents of the City would prefer.

Chair R. Hill discussed the issue should the Traffic Commission approve or deny the request. Development Services Director Noda reminded the Commission that there are no set guidelines and the applicant welcome to make another request.

Vice Chair Patz stated that he thinks the Commission should set a pretty high bar so that [residents do not feel like they can easily request for a disabled parking in front of their homes because they have an elderly parent]. He added that he is inclined to agree with fellow Commissioners that have expressed concerns.

Vice Chair Patz asked how the applicant is notified regarding the request. Development Services Director Noda clarified that staff has been in communication with them by email, but they can send out a letter and give them a call.

Motion/Second: Mejia/Patz

Carried 4/0 (Murphy recused, Salai absent): The Traffic Commission denied the request to designate disabled parking on Walnut Street in the Old Town West neighborhood.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Chair R. Hill	Aye
Vice Chair Patz	Aye
Commissioner D. Hill	Aye
Commissioner Mejia	Aye
Commissioner Murphy	(recused)
Commissioner Salai	(absent)

B. Traffic Commission Status Log

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

Commissioner D. Hill asked about adding the accessibility issue at Los Alamitos Boulevard and Bradbury Road.

Chair R. Hill noted the following:

- Item C1 → asked if this was completed
- Item C2 → update on this item

Vice Chair Patz and Development Services Director Noda quickly discussed the new street sweeping company.

8. FROM THE DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER

Sergeant Malatesta briefly shared that during the day shift they would do a lot of enforcement around the schools.

City Engineer Kelley shared the following:

- OC San project has moved onto the night work on Lexington Drive and Katella Avenue. In February, it will move to day work on Los Alamitos Boulevard
- The 605/Katella Avenue is 65% completed and will tentatively start in 2023

Development Services Director Noda shared the following:

- OC San project in February day work on Los Alamitos Boulevard will have traffic impact
- Old Town West Traffic Calming stop signs will be installed in the next three to four weeks
- In the February City Council meeting, staff will ask for approval of the striping plan and award the Street Improvement project
- In the January City Council meeting, discussion on the redistricting will begin – Public meetings will be held on January 18, February 7, February 28, and March 7
- Completed the transition of the residential bins, should residents have issues to contact UWS
- COVID is affecting City staff therefore; there may be delay on work orders and projects
- Chief Eric Nunez is retiring; his last day will be on Tuesday, January 18
- The new Chief, Michael Clayborn, to start at the end of January

9. TRAFFIC COMMISSION INITIATED BUSINESS

Vice Chair Patz shared that there are faded permit parking signs on the corner of Humbolt Street and San Joaquin and another halfway down on San Mateo towards Humbolt Street.

Commissioner Murphy shared that the traffic calming measure are working in Old Town West, but the painted median on Walnut Street are being used by kids riding their bikes to Katella Avenue.

Commissioner Mejia shared the following:

- Asked and received clarification by Development Services Director Noda that the trash pickup schedule will be remaining the same, at this time, but there is a portion of the City that will transition to another day in the future.
- Decorative first and third light poles are out on Lexington Drive from Katella Avenue going south
- Monitored a previously approved request for disabled parking and noticed a vehicle that is parked that did not have a handicap placard or license plate
- Noticed that within the City there are vehicles that would park adjacent to the alley but a portion of their vehicle extends to the alley
- For the City to update the safety lights to LED

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second: Patz/Mejia

Carried 5/0: The Traffic Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting until February 9, 2022.

The Traffic Commission adjourned at 8:04 p.m.



Randall Hill, Chair

Attest:



Ron Noda, Secretary