

MINUTES OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 8, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Traffic Commission met in Regular session at 7:00 p.m. on February 8, 2017, in the Council Chamber, 3191 Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos, California, Chair Patz presiding.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners:

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

Present: Staff:

Steven Mendoza, Development Services Director
Eddie Esquivel, Parking Enforcement Officer
Farhad Iranitalab, Traffic Engineer
Michelle Müller, Department Secretary
Rick Moore, Police Captain

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Hill.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Patz opened the meeting for Oral Communications.

Beth Piburn, resident of Seal Beach, expressed the following concerns: Florista/Los Alamitos Boulevard, the light at Orangewood Avenue, closest to the Base is disregarded by drivers, the crosswalk between 10861 Cherry Avenue and the hospital, stop sign is disregarded.

Douglas Smith, resident of Rossmoor, distributed handouts regarding his concern over the negative traffic impact he believed would occur as a result of the approval of the Village 605 Shopping Center.

Tricia Ordaz, President of the PTA at Oak Middle School introduced herself and expressed concern over the safety of students getting to and from school with the increase in traffic from the Village 605 Shopping Center.

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of January 11, 2017

Commissioner Hill asked to correct action on page 3, regarding the Staff report for the Traffic Analysis at the intersection of Katella Avenue and

Cherry Street, as the consensus was for no action to be taken at this time, rather than for a “u-turn only” sign to be installed at the intersection.

Motion/Second: Mejia/Seaman

Carried 6/0/0 (Emerson abstained): The Traffic Commission approved the minutes of the Regular meeting of January 11, 2017, with stated correction.

6. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

A. Consideration of Parking Revision 10732 Los Alamitos Boulevard

A request was received from Business Owner, Kathi McNally from McNally Lighting requesting the Traffic Commission to consider limiting the parking time in front of her business, from the existing four hours to twenty-four minutes. Ms. McNally expressed concern that having a long time-limit, is affecting her business immensely as vehicle park for long periods of time. Ms. McNally expressed concern over the inconvenience it causes for the elderly customers. Furthermore, Ms. McNally stated that so far this quarter sales have been affected by thirty percent.

Development Services Director Mendoza provided a brief history of how the timed parking throughout the City was established.

Commissioner Emerson recommended that signs should be posted by the owner, advising the public that there is also parking available in the rear.

Commissioner Seaman requested this item be considered after agenda item B.

Motion/Second: Seaman/Singer

Unanimously Carried 6/0/0 (Emerson abstained): The Traffic Commission moved item A forward.

B. Four Month Review of Residential Parking Implemented in May 2016

In May 2016, the City Council established time limits throughout various areas of the City as represented on Attachment 1. Initially, the City Council carefully reviewed thirteen areas of the City and then extended the area to include two more areas stretching north to Sausalito Drive and Briggeman Drive on both sides of Los Alamitos Boulevard. Council directed Staff to move forward on establishing time limits for formal consideration by the City Council. The decision to establish Time Limited Parking came after nearly 18 months of consideration and outreach.

Development Services Director Mendoza summarized the Staff report, referring to the information contained therein.

Parking Enforcement Officer Eddie Esquivel provided information about frequent problem areas and encounters with the violators.

The Traffic Commission and Staff discussed the existing conditions and quantitative history of citations in the frequent problem areas.

Speaker, Kathi McNally, provided her experience with the parking issue at the medical center where she was asked to park on the street rather than in the designated parking area.

Development Services Director Mendoza indicated that Staff will produce a report which will summarize calls received since September 2016 to date, concerning this matter; in addition, the input provided by Commissioners will be included.

The Traffic Commission and Staff discussed that decisions made by the Commission serve as recommendations for the City Council in making final decisions.

Motion/Second: Emerson/Rodman

Unanimously Carried (7/0): The Traffic Commission recommends changing the parking time-limit outside of McNally Lighting from four hours to twenty-four minutes to the Council. Also to include the removal of the pole located outside of the business, unless removing it violates a law.

C. “Traffic Engineering 101”

Traffic Engineer Farhad Iranitalab requested this item be moved to the next Traffic Commission meeting.

Chair Patz continued the item to the next Traffic Commission meeting.

D. Traffic Commission Log

The Status Log is used to track the assignments that come our way. It is also an opportunity for the Commissioners to assign work to the Traffic Engineer.

The Traffic Commission and Staff reviewed the Traffic Commission Log.

Commissioner Hill requested the light at Florista Avenue heading northbound on Los Alamitos be included. There is a heavy amount of traffic as a result of the poor synchronization on Katella Avenue from Bloomfield Avenue to the 605 freeway.

The Traffic Commission and Staff discussed the status of various items on the status log list.

7. TRAFFIC COMMISSION INITIATED BUSINESS

The Traffic Commission and Staff briefly discussed the correspondence received from Mr. David Kalish regarding his traffic light concerns at Los Alamitos Boulevard and Katella Avenue.

Community Development Director Steven Mendoza stated that he received a call concerning the intersection of Catalina Avenue and Walnut Avenue (east and westbound) that is lacking a four-way stop.

Motion/Second: Seaman/Hill

Carried 6/0/0 (Emerson abstained): The Traffic Commission moved to add this item to the Agenda for the next Traffic Commission meeting.

Traffic Commissioner Hill shared a suggestion he received about proposing a “scramble” like crosswalk at the intersection of Cerritos Avenue and Los Alamitos Boulevard. Traffic Engineer Farhad Iranitalab stated that it would be added to the list for follow-up discussion.

Commissioner Mejia mentioned various intersections that are lacking proper street lighting. A list was provided so that the Traffic Engineer can follow-up and address accordingly.

The Traffic Commission discussed the traffic impact as a result of the development of the approved Village 605.

Speaker Douglas Smith expressed concern over Rossmoor residents not having input in the process.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Traffic Commission adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Daniel Patz, Chair

Attest:

Michelle Müller, Department Secretary