MINUTES OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

REGULAR MEETING – November 13, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Traffic Commission met in Regular Session at 7:01 p.m. on November 13, 2019 in the Council Chamber, 3191 Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos, California, Chair Hill presiding.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners: Chair Hill
Vice Chair Patz
Mejia, Coxhill, Singer, and West

Absent: Rodman (excused)

Present: Staff: Dave Hunt, City Engineer
Chris Kelley, Assistant City Engineer
Farhad Iranitalab, Traffic Engineer
Brent Malatesta, Sergeant
Maria Veronica Enciso, Department Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner West.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATION

Chair Hill opened the meeting for Oral Communications.

Resident Steven expressed his concern of the Taco Surf signage near his home and the parking problem in his neighborhood.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of October 09, 2019

Motion/Second: Patz/Coxhill
Carried 6/0 (Rodman absent): The Traffic Commission approved the minutes of the Regular meeting of October 9, 2019.

6. STAFF REPORTS

A. Request to Remove Permit Parking from the Carrier Row Neighborhood
Residents in the Carrier Row Neighborhood have submitted three separate petitions requesting the removal of the permit parking on Langley Drive, Saratoga Drive and Green Avenue. The submitted petitions from residents on all identified streets meet the minimum 75% petition approval needed.
Assistant City Engineer Kelley summarized the staff report.

Commissioner Mejia expressed what has been discussed is in line with what was said in previous years and that he is thankful that this process will now be going to the City Council.

Commissioner Singer noted that if the Traffic Commission is perfectly clear and comfortable with why parking permit signs were installed, the cost of the removal, and are aware of any consequences then he would not have a problem with moving forward with the removal.

Chair Hill commented that the neighborhood do not need permit parking and have not needed it for a long time.

Vice Chair Patz clarified that the request was made by the residents in form of a petition of 75% or greater by the residents in the particular area and they have the right to remove the parking permit program.

The Traffic Commission and City Engineer Hunt discussed the following:
- Cost of the removal being minimal, below $500.
- No additional cost to remove the signs as it is part of the normal duties of the City staff.
- Next steps of the permit parking removal process: go to the December City Council meeting for approval along with New Dutch Haven Neighborhood, then the removal of the signs by Public Works.

Motion/Second – Mejia/Patz
Carried 6/0 (Rodman Absent): Motion to remove the parking permit program in the Carrier Row neighborhood and recommend to City Council of the entire neighborhood which includes the following streets: Langley Drive, Saratoga Drive, and Green Avenue.

Chair Hill took a quick break to thank the audience for joining the meeting. The audience that attended were students observing for school.

B. Request to Install Right Turn Lane on Cerritos Avenue East of Los Alamitos High School Intersection
The City received a request to install a right-turn lane on the north side of Cerritos Avenue to the east of the high school entrance to facilitate the right-turn onto the Los Alamitos High School.

Traffic Engineer Iranitalab summarized the staff report.
Commissioner Coxhill asked and received clarification by Traffic Engineer Iranitalab that staff has not contacted the school or the district in regards to this topic.

Vice Chair Patz asked and received clarification from Chair Hill that this topic was brought up at a City budget meeting.

Commissioner Coxhill expressed that having the right turn lane would make the lanes clearer, but not sure that it would ease up the congestion of pickup and drop off in the area.

Traffic Engineer Iranitalab explained that it would deter those to park at that area and improve the flow of traffic.

Vice Chair Patz expressed that installing a dedicated right turn lane will increase rather than impede traffic flow.

Traffic Engineer Iranitalab clarified that most people who drive along the red curb intend to go straight [on Cerritos Avenue] and not turning into the high school.

City Engineer clarified that if this is approved, City staff will discuss this with the school district.

Vice Chair Patz and Traffic Engineer Iranitalab discussed the cost for the striping and two arrows.

Commissioner Singer shared his concern of traffic flow of vehicles driving away from the curb going east of the new turn lane trying to get into the line of traffic.

Traffic Engineer Iranitalab clarified that the speed is going to be slower because drivers will be queuing.

Vice Chair Patz added to Traffic Engineer Iranitalab’s statement, that the curb is already red and there will be raised markers. He doubts that having a dedicated right lane will have much of an issue.

Sergeant Malatesta clarified that the enforcement activity is to ensure safety. So having signage, for example the striping and arrows for the dedicated right lane, this would provide people direction and structure.

Chair Hill shared another aspect to the complaint of vehicles.

Commissioner Mejia and Traffic Engineer Iranitalab discussed one signage stating “Right Turn Only” and the distance being 50 feet inside the right lane.
Commissioner Mejia spoke regarding a byproduct of the right turn lane during afternoon pickup which would move pickup to the west of the high school driveway entrance.

Sergeant Malatesta shared that speed and not obeying signs are literal traffic collision things, and that the enforcement of signs is a quality of life issue.

Motion/Second: Patz/Singer
6/0 (Rodman absent): Motion to direct staff to install a right turn lane on Cerritos Avenue east of the Los Alamitos High School main entrance.

C. Traffic Commission Status Log
This is a tracking tool used by the Commission to track assignments and accomplishments.

Commissioner Singer discussed the following:
- Item F13 – Update on the item
- Item F15 – Clarification of the remarks

C. ITEMS FROM THE DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER

Assistant City Engineer Kelley answered the question Chair Hill asked via email to City Staff of the nine (concrete) speed humps that would be put in place at Old Town West. The amount would be approximately $45,000 ($5,000 each hump) then $5,000 to make the plans to total $50,000.

The Traffic Commission began discussing the topic about speed humps at Old Town West to which City Engineer Hunt clarified that this issue will be brought back to the Traffic Commission meeting in January 2020.

D. TRAFFIC COMMISSION INITIATED BUSINESS

Commissioner Mejia discussed the following:
- Asked for an update of the street sign replacements.
- Observed more traffic due to the new Starbucks at Winners Circle.
- Observed in the morning time of cars making a prohibited left turn out of the Potholder parking lot.
- Trash in the alley of Katella Deli being overfilled.

Commissioner Singer added that the wall at Katella Deli is deteriorating.

Vice Chair Patz and Chair Hill discussed having the Traffic Commission review the minutes, completed by the Department Secretary, prior to the meeting in order to have any grammatical and spelling issues fixed. In addition, to ensure that the documented minutes do not change the meaning of what was said.

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Vice Chair Patz discussed the following:
- Repaving schedule of the Pavement Rehabilitation in the Greenbrook neighborhood and Little Cottonwood Park.
- Commission Holiday Dinner on December 12.
- At the January meeting, there will be a Traffic Commission reorganization.

City Engineer Hunt shared that the December Traffic Commission Meeting will be cancelled.

E. ADJOURNMENT
Motion/Second: Singer/Patz
Carried 6/0: The Traffic Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting until December 11, 2019.

The Traffic Commission adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

[Signature]
Randall Hill, Chair

Attest:

[Signature]
Maria Veronica Enciso, Department Secretary