

February 1, 2010

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 1, 2010 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Clouch.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Clouch, Rische, Sargent, Tsao, and Chairperson Galvin.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Transportation Manager Semaan,
Project Manager Sedadi, and
Planning Assistant Suree.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Tsao moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Sargent seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7, 2009

Commissioner Rische noted the following correction to the minutes: Page 5, Item 5, paragraph 8 "**MOTION**," line 3: "...the motion passed on a 4-1 roll call vote..."

MOTION: Commissioner Sargent moved for the approval of the December 7, 2009 meeting minutes as amended. Commissioner Rische seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (with Chairperson Galvin abstaining).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

None.

7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

7a. POTENTIAL EXPANSION OF THE NORTHEAST TORRANCE PERMIT PARKING DISTRICT

Planning Assistant Suree provided background on the material of record and recommended that the Commission review staff report, accept public input, and concur with staff's recommendation to include Cherry Avenue, Delia Avenue (north of Cherry Avenue and south of 168th Street), Ogram Avenue, Elgar Avenue (north of 168th Street), and 168th Street (between Cherry Avenue and Crenshaw Boulevard). He noted that existing and proposed boundaries of the Northeast Torrance Permit Parking District were included in Attachment A and distributed supplemental correspondence received after agenda packets were prepared. He described field observations, license plate survey, and inspections of physical conditions conducted by staff. He related findings that street parking is heavily congested during typical weekdays and that nearly 80% of vehicles parked in the area are registered to non-local residents as indicated in Attachment B. He noted that the permit program in existing boundaries has been an effective tool in reducing congestion and the number of vehicles parked by El Camino College students on residential streets.

Allen Hayden, Cherry Avenue, stated that he supports the expansion proposal due to litter, his blocked driveway, and moving of trash cans onto the sidewalk.

Richard Sand, Delia Avenue, stated that he supports the proposal, noting that the biggest problem is on trash pick-up days when trash cans have been moved to allow for parking. He expressed concern that provisions would need to be made for voters as his home is designated as a federal precinct for voting.

Transportation Manager Semaan responded that Mr. Sand could contact his office one week before voting day so that signs could be covered.

May Cambra, Ogram Avenue, stated that her street does not have street sweeping because of all the parked cars and that students have told her that the parking structure is closed during the hours they need it.

Pat McAfee, 168th Street, voiced support for the proposal but was concerned because he needs disabled parking, adding that the Department of Motor Vehicles has informed him that he is allowed to park regardless of restrictions.

Eudora Villa, 166th Street, discussed the lack of parking and expressed concern about visitors being able to park. She related her understanding that students have to sign up for a certain number of classes in order to purchase a parking permit.

Planning Assistant Suree stated that the proposed restriction is from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday. He indicated that he was not aware of parking time restrictions at El Camino College, adding that anyone can purchase a day permit for \$2.

In response to Commissioner Tsao's inquiries, Transportation Manager Semaan stated that disabled residents would receive parking permits and concurred that California Municipal Code allows parking without restriction if a handicapped placard is displayed. He further advised that residents would be provided temporary permits for guests and visitors.

Commissioner Sargent received clarification from staff that there would be no cost to residents and that there is ample parking available on campus.

Commissioner Clouch stated that he is opposed to the permits being free because of enforcement costs. He was informed that El Camino College is aware of the parking intrusion, that the existing permit program has been very successful, and that staff is optimistic that the proposed expansion would encourage students to park on campus rather than neighboring streets.

Chairperson Galvin pointed out that income from citations should cover enforcement costs.

Commissioner Rische stated that it is being proposed that there be no free parking in commercial areas in the City of Sacramento. He expressed support for the expansion and, in response to his inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan explained how residents can petition Public Works for street sweeping.

Richard Sand, Delia Avenue, stated that the problem is an overwhelming amount of traffic, not just a trash pick-up and street sweeping issue.

MOTION: Commissioner Sargent moved for staff to prepare an item to City Council to amend Torrance Municipal Code Section 61.6.32 to expand the Northeast Torrance Permit Parking District to include Cherry Avenue, Delia Avenue (north of Cherry Avenue and south of 168th Street), Ogram Avenue, Elgar Avenue (north of 168th Street), and 168th Street (between Cherry Avenue and Crenshaw Boulevard). Commissioner Tsao seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

Commissioner Clouch stated for the record that he is opposed to the permits being free of charge.

Transportation Manager Semaan advised that the item would be considered by City Council in mid to late March 2010 and that residents would be notified. He explained to residents how to contact Public Works regarding street sweeping requirements.

Chairperson Galvin reminded residents that their vehicles would also be cited on street sweeping days.

Commissioner Rische suggested submitting a letter to the El Camino College student newspaper advising them of the expansion if it is approved by City Council.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

8a. Commissioner Tsao commended the new screen in the West Annex meeting room but pointed out that it is difficult for audience members to see it.

8b. Commissioner Rische suggested that the City have special spaces for motorcycle parking.

8c. Commissioner Rische invited Commissioners to attend the 60th anniversary of Seaside on March 20, 2010 at Seaside Elementary.

8d. Transportation Manager Semaan informed the Commission that Commissioner Santome completed his term and did not reapply, that Commissioner Lewis resigned, and that Commissioner Tsao was reappointed for another term. He stated that new Traffic Commission appointments would be made at the February 23, 2010 City Council meeting.

8e. In response to Commissioner Clouch's inquiry, staff members stated that they did not know how much the City makes from traffic citations.

8f. Commissioner Clouch related his understanding that permit parking is implemented in either Hawthorne or Lawndale if a majority of residents request it.

8g. Responding to Chairperson Galvin's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan explained that traffic counts are typically taken on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday.

8h. Chairperson Galvin requested an excused absence for the March 1, 2010 Commission meeting if traffic circulation for the Southwood Sunray neighborhood is to be discussed.

8i. Transportation Manager Semaan advised that City Council concurred with the ad hoc Council Committee for Commission Review's recommendation to bring traffic impact analyses to the Traffic Commission that are tied to land development.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 7:59 p.m., Commissioner Sargent, seconded by Commissioner Clouch, moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, March 1, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Galvin so ordered.

Approved as Submitted March 1, 2010 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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