

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular meeting at 7:08 p.m. on Monday, June 6, 2005 in the City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

2. **SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Lee.

3. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Lee, Lewis, O'Brien, Tsao, Ulrich, and Chairperson Rische.

Absent: Commissioner Santome.

Also Present: Transportation Manager Semaan,
Transportation Planning Associate Crump,
Deputy City Attorney Sullivan,
Deputy City Attorney Caceres,
Torrance Police Department Lieutenant Matsuda, and
Torrance Police Department Sergeant Bock.

4. **AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

MOTION: Commissioner O'Brien moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Ulrich seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Santome).

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MAY 2, 2005**

MOTION: Commissioner O'Brien moved for the approval of the May 2, 2005 Traffic Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Santome).

6. **ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION**

6a. **ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

MOTION: Commissioner O'Brien, with a second by Commissioner Ulrich, moved for a unanimous ballot to elect Commissioner Lewis for the position of Chairperson of the Traffic Commission with the term to begin August 2005.

MOTION: Commissioner Lewis, with a second by Commissioner O'Brien, moved for a unanimous ballot to elect Commissioner Lee for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Traffic Commission beginning August 2005.

6b. **ON-STREET PARKING FOR RECREATIONAL VEHICLES, TRAILERS, AND OVERSIZED VEHICLES**

Transportation Manager Semaan distributed supplemental material consisting of additional correspondence received after the agenda packet was prepared. He advised that there were boards on display with photographs showing examples of recreational vehicles, trailers, and oversized vehicles parked on City streets.

He introduced city staff members present and provided background and analysis of the consideration to restrict parking of recreational vehicles (RVs), trailers, and oversized vehicles on public streets included in the material of record. He discussed attendance and input received from residents at four Community Meetings held on December 16, 2004, January 13, 2005, April 18, 2005, and May 23, 2005.

He introduced a draft ordinance prepared for the Commission's review and consideration that would place limitations on long-term placement of recreational vehicles, trailers, and oversized vehicles on City streets. He provided a summary of the ordinance that would require owners of RVs, trailers, and oversized vehicles to obtain up to 24 no-fee permits within any 90-day period, valid for specifically identified singular or multiple one-day periods.

Mr. Semaan discussed other considerations including:
exclusion of permit requirement from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. or

- exclusion of permit requirement from 12:00 p.m. Thursday to 12:00 p.m. Monday.
- trying out the permit system on an interim basis and
- Implementing an automated system that would process permits by telephone or through the City's web-page.

He requested that the Commission review the staff report, review the draft ordinance, accept public input, and either concur with staff recommendation or give direction to staff to incorporate changes before forwarding the draft ordinance to City Council. He advised that the Commission could have full concurrence, non-concurrence, or concurrence with modifications.

Deputy City Attorney Sullivan advised that, due to potential conflict of interest, any Commissioner who owned an RV, trailer, or oversized vehicle needed to abstain and leave the City Council Chambers. There were no Commissioners who indicated that they possessed such a vehicle.

Responding to Chairperson Rische's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan directed his attention to Attachment #3 in the material of record that included a tabulation of parking restrictions in the South Bay and other cities. He noted that in the City of Rolling Hills Estates, stopping, standing, or parking of a vehicle on any street between 3:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. was prohibited.

In response to Commissioner O'Brien's inquiry regarding visitors with RVs, Transportation Manager Semaan advised that permits could be tied to either the property and/or vehicle.

Commissioner Lewis inquired about RV storage options in the South Bay. Transportation Manager Semaan stated that the number of spaces and locations were limited, noting that some RV owners chose to rent storage space in outside communities such as Temecula.

Commissioner Ulrich stated that he called several RV storage locations and learned that they were full.

At Commissioner O'Brien's request, staff explained under what conditions a front yard could be modified to allow RV parking.

Responding to Commissioner Lewis' inquiry regarding strain on the Police Department, Lieutenant Matsuda stated that the proposed permit system would require some adjustment, that issuing permits would be time consuming, and that it was difficult to predict the impact on officers.

At Chairperson Rische's request, Transportation Manager Semaan clarified that current regulation stated that vehicles moved within 72 hours of observance by a police officer were considered legally parked.

Mr. Semaan advised that there had been discussion during the community meetings regarding the parking of RVs that blocked visibility, and that there was staff consensus that the issue should be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Chairperson Rische welcomed public input at 7:38 p.m.

Frank Rizzardi, Carlow Road, stated that the length of time that RVs can be parked on public streets needed to be limited. He stated that reasons for restriction include: limited parking availability, difficulty for trash collectors, difficulty for street sweepers, blocked visibility, and appearance. He referred to an excerpt of a June 2005 "Highways" article published by the Good Sam Club stating that it does not support permanent parking or storage of any vehicle on public streets and recommending 72 hours for RV owners to load and unload their vehicles.

Karen Galvin, Iris Avenue, suggested that Torrance Police Department officers ask surrounding cities how they enforce the existing 72-hour parking limit. She stated that her RV is stored in Temecula and that, because storage is expensive and scarce in the South Bay, RV owners would need time a grace period to find storage locations. She suggested that public meetings be announced in the newspaper.

Michael Olson, Huber Avenue, described problems on his street with RV owners abusing the 72-hour parking restriction by moving their vehicles a few inches every few days. He suggested that the code be changed to force people to move their vehicles at least 1,500.

Roy Easton, Merrill Street, stated that the City of Rolling Hills Estates rents City space for RV parking for \$25 per month. He suggested that Torrance provide space at a nominal cost on City property, adding that the Exxon/Mobil Refinery might be a possible location.

In response to Chairperson Rische's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan stated that the City did not want to get involved with renting storage space due to legal and liability concerns.

Constance Vendeland, Grant Avenue, stated her opinion that the City should help alleviate the problem by providing storage space. She suggested that land near the Torrance Airport might be a consideration, and noted that there are several RVs parked at the City Yard.

William Cook, Evalyn Avenue, stated that his RV was stored on his property and was not used solely on weekends. He questioned the legality of a \$15 fee for permits and suggested that staff look into parking restrictions attempted in the cities of Redding and Fresno. He expressed concern that a sign would need to be installed on every block at a cost of \$150 per sign.

Transportation Manager Semaan reiterated that the draft ordinance did not contain a fee for permit requirement and that permits could be utilized any day in a 90-day period.

Ernest Giannioses, Pacific Coast Highway, expressed concern that a permit process would be time consuming and suggested an automated telephone system. He stated his opinion that permits should be free. He suggested that members representing both sides meet to prepare an ordinance, possibly with the assistance of a mediator.

Chairperson Rische inquired how many RVs there are in the City. Transportation Manager Semaan stated that staff was unable to obtain that information from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Torrance Police Department Lieutenant Matsuda advised that 786 complaints were received from residents over an 18-month period.

Karen Fitch, 236th Street, stated her opinion that property taxes were paid to the middle of the street and that cost of RV storage was prohibitive.

At Commissioner Ulrich's request for legal clarification, Deputy City Attorney Sullivan advised that, because Torrance is a charter city, parking could be regulated.

Dee Hardison, West 236th Street, discussed the lack of available RV storage space in the South Bay and recommended obtaining parking permits by phone or Internet. She stated that the larger issue was how to deal with residents who have had the assumption for years that they can park their RVs in front of their homes. She questioned how many of the 786 complaints were for the same vehicle and stated that a permit system would be cumbersome.

Terry Mueller, Pacific Coast Highway, stated that he already needed to have a permit to park his car in front of his house, that enough was enough, and that the City has to stop.

Andrew Podhurcak, Portobello Drive, stated that the human element needed to be considered, and that the proposed ordinance would impact a lifestyle. He questioned how many of the 786 complaints received were from the same people.

Bill Applegate, Galva Avenue, stated that the many should not be penalized because of the few. He stated that his RV was kept in storage and that he worked with his neighbors. He discussed RVs parked near the Torrance Police Station, the lack of storage facilities, and the gated communities where RV parking was restricted. He stated that RV travel is often seasonal and that making impromptu trips would become difficult with a permit system.

Jim Harrigan, Calle Mayor, maintained that RV parking was hurting the ambience of a residential neighborhood and that he was not in favor of a permit system. Instead, he would like to see a strict 24-hour RV parking limit for loading and unloading only. He expressed concern that residents were not using their garages to park their vehicles, and noted that it was not the neighbor's problem if there were not adequate storage facilities. He stated that the law should be changed for the betterment of the community and that he would love to be on the volunteer committee previously suggested by Mr. Giannioses.

Jean, last name and address not given, mentioned that RV parking was not permitted in Country Hills located in the City of Torrance. It was determined that the restriction was part of the CC&Rs for that community.

Charles Hickey, Arvada, estimated that there were approximately 6,000 RV owners in the City, based on the fact that 20% of RV owners belong to the Good Sam Club. He expressed concern that the proposed permit system was too complicated and that it should be simplified to identify those owners who circumvent the current law.

Paul Lindman, Halison Street, stated that he could not support a permit system and questioned if vehicles such as Suburbans were considered oversized vehicles.

Greta Mendes, Normallia Street, commented that RVs are often vandalized in storage facilities.

Randy Lee, Vanderhill Road, stated that he moves his RV every week and suggested that RV owners be required to register their vehicles. He commented that there were homeless people living in RVs on Maricopa and Ladeene.

Harvey Hetrick, Cranbrook Avenue, stated that residents should have the right to enjoy their lives and that he has not had complaints from any of his neighbors. He suggested that, rather than have a permit system, that RVs be given a confirmation number. He suggested that it would be good public relations if Exxon/Mobil would provide storage space for RVs.

The Commission was in recess from 9:01 to 9:15 p.m.

Randy Langsdale, Gramercy Avenue, questioned if the City was attempting to limit or to remove parking of recreational vehicles. He indicated that a larger problem was speeding drivers.

James Bolinas, Gramercy Avenue, stated that neighbors were complaining about his RV because of its color and that it was parked behind a fence on his property.

Floyd Heideman, Teri Avenue, urged the Commission and staff to study the issue longer and not rush into a decision. He stated that he uses his RV as an emergency preparedness kit and also as a second vehicle. He stated that the current 72-hour parking restriction needed to be enforced.

Eva Hazboun, West 232nd Street, RV owner, stated that the proposed ordinance would change a way of life and cause a hardship to many people. She stated that storage facilities are dangerous and that insurance often does not cover damages that occur in them.

Joe Stoudt, Entradero Avenue, questioned the validity of the complaints received. He stated that Torrance was a child and family friendly city and that use of RVs contributed to the wellness of the community. He suggested that the City provide rental space for RVs.

Kurt Beyersdorff, Spencer Street, suggested that RV parking be restricted only in areas where it is a problem. He questioned if a vehicle would be cited in the case of mechanical breakdown.

Deputy City Attorney Sullivan stated that there was an exception in the draft ordinance regarding mechanical breakdowns.

In response to Chairperson Rische's inquiry, Torrance Police Department Sergeant Bock stated that under current law RVs could be legally parked in front of a neighbor's house and that there were no distance restrictions from intersections.

Mike McGinnis, Post Avenue, stated that street sweepers would not have problems with parked vehicles if street sweeping signs were posted. He expressed concern about the amount of gasoline that would be needed to go to and from storage facilities in surrounding cities and questioned how many different vehicles and individuals were involved with the 786 complaints received.

Steven Bruechle, Weston Road, questioned how many signs would have to be posted to enforce the parking restrictions. He commented that there was a three year waiting list at a local storage facility.

Damien Williams, W. 218th Street, RV owner, stated that the 72-hour parking restriction should also include cars.

Mike, Gramercy Avenue, (speaker card not submitted), stated that more research was required and that a solution needed to be found that works for everyone. He stated that the Police Department did not have the education or tools to enforce the 72-hour parking restriction.

Peter Dabbieri, Via El Chico, questioned the fiscal impact of the draft ordinance to the City and residents in terms of man hours, signage, and permit processing.

Michael P. Richardson, Watson Avenue, stated that enforcement was the issue and that a solution needed to be found that was fair to everyone. He discussed parking in industrial areas and the possibility of increasing fines for repeat offenders.

Wendy Williams, W. 218th Street, questioned the data that was collected to support findings and asked what restrictions other South Bay cities such as Redondo Beach and Hermosa Beach have regarding RV parking. She stated that public meetings needed to be better publicized and expressed concern about the fiscal impact and burden on Police Department if an ordinance was passed. She stated that the width of a street should be taken into consideration and, if a permit system was put into effect, there should be a grace period to allow owners to make storage arrangements.

Dan Martin, Elm Avenue (no speaker card), stated that the permit process would be a huge logistical problem and that the current parking restrictions should be enforced or modified.

Serge, Street (no speaker card), stated that only a small percentage of residents were complaining and that enforcement of current code was sufficient.

Ernie Rivera, Cordary Avenue, stated that his RV was stolen from a storage facility. He stated that he uses his RV on a weekly basis and that a bigger concern was speeders.

Janet Payne, Engracia Avenue, stated that her RV is stored off-site and that she would support a registration fee and on-line registration. She questioned the necessity of the "legalese" in the draft ordinance.

Commissioner Lewis stated that any decision that the Commission made would go before City Council for approval. He stated that he could not support the draft ordinance due to the present lack of sufficient storage space.

Commissioner Ulrich stated that he would not support the draft ordinance. He stated that the City should assist residents on fixed incomes with storage costs. He thanked residents for attending tonight's meeting and suggested that they address their concerns to City Council.

Commissioner Lee stated that this was a good time to address the issue because RV ownership is increasing.

Commissioner O'Brien stated that the 72-hour parking restriction needed to be enforced without shifting the problem from one location to another.

Commissioner Tsao stated that the City should find land for storage of RVs, possibly at Exxon/Mobil.

Chairperson Rische expressed concern about bureaucracy and overburdening the Police Department. He suggested that RV owners self-police each other, that there needed to be a way to enforce the current 72-hour parking restriction, and that RVs should be registered. He mentioned narrow streets and the difficulty with having RVs parked on them at any time.

In response to his inquiries, Transportation Manager Semaan stated that staff was unable to determine how many RVs there were in the City and that after each community meeting there was an expanded notification list.

Commissioner Lee asked if staff intended to answer questions raised by residents at this meeting. Transportation Manager Semaan indicated that there was not sufficient time to do so, and requested that the Commission give staff suggestions and direction before the item went to City Council.

Responding to Commissioner Lee's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan stated that if the ordinance was adopted, staff would explore an automated system that would provide application and/or permitting access through the City's web-page. He advised that if ordinance was adopted, it would be 60 or 90 days before any citations were issued.

MOTION: Commissioner Ulrich moved to continue the item to the next Commission meeting for further consideration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Brien.

A brief discussion centered on dates and locations of future Commission meetings and how to come up with a resolution in a timely manner.

Bill Applegate, Galva Avenue, suggested that RVs be ticketed if they are parked in front of somebody else's residence.

Chairperson Rische suggested that a subcommittee be formed to discuss the issue.

Commissioner O'Brien withdrew her second of the motion and no action was taken..

MOTION: Commissioner Ulrich moved to continue the meeting to August 1, 2005, and to form an ad hoc subcommittee to consider parking restrictions on recreational vehicles, trailers, and oversized vehicles on public streets. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Brien and passed by unanimous voice vote approval (absent Commissioner Santome).

It was determined that Commissioners Ulrich, Lewis, and Rische would serve on the subcommittee and that they would meet on July 13, 2005 at a location to be determined.

Randy Lee, Vanderhill Road, suggested that future meetings be publicized in the Daily Breeze.

Wendy Williams, West 218th Street, noted that current Traffic Commission agendas and Commissioners were not posted on the City's website.

Karen Galvin, Iris Avenue, stated that the Daily Breeze would not cover meetings at this stage. She suggested that the City publicize upcoming meetings in the Announcement section on Page Two of the Daily Breeze and that a representative from the Good Sam Club be invited to speak.

Joe Spilka, Street (no speaker card), suggested that announcements of upcoming meetings be included in water bills.

7. **ORALS**

Commissioners thanked residents for attending tonight's meeting and voicing their concerns.

Chairperson Rische announced the Fourth of July celebration at Wilson Park.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: At 11:17 p.m., Commissioner O'Brien, with a second by Commissioner Lee, moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, August 1, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Rische so ordered.

Approved as Written August 1, 2005 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
