

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular meeting at 7:03 p.m. on Monday, December 3, 2012 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chairperson Rudolph led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Furey, Herring, Sargent,
Siani, Tsao, and Chairperson Rudolph.

Absent: Commissioner Walter.

Also Present: Engineering Manager Semaan,
Public Works Director Beste,
Torrance Police Sergeant Koenig, and
Cable & Community Relations Manager Smith.

MOTION: Commissioner Siani moved to grant Commissioner Walter an excused absence for the December 3, 2012 Commission meeting. Commissioner Sargent seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Siani 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 voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Walter).

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5a. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5, 2012

MOTION: Commissioner Tsao moved for the approval of the November 5, 2012 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Siani seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Walter).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

Engineering Manager Semaan introduced Public Works Director Beste, Torrance Police Sergeant Koenig, and Cable & Community Relations Manager Smith from the City Manager's Office.

7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

7a. **PRESENTATION BY CABLE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIVISION OF THE CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE ON THE CITY'S CITISOUNDS AM 1620 RADIO STATION**

Cable & Community Relations Manager Smith provided a report on CitiSOUNDS, the PC based, non-commercial automated traffic information radio station for the City of Torrance. He noted that CitiSOUNDS launched in July 1999 for under \$30,000 and that the transmitter, located at the City Yard, sends the broadcast out over the airwaves. He stated that the station provides a pre-recorded, eight-minute loop that broadcasts traffic and street conditions, environmental issues, special events, and emergencies when they occur. He noted that CitiSOUNDS has been on the Internet since February 2000. He stated that radio station is designed to be low power and is not intended to be heard in neighboring communities.

In response to Commissioner Sargent's inquiry, he advised that citizens should notify Public Safety if they see a hazardous situation that should be broadcast on the station.

Commissioner Siani inquired how often the loop is updated and Manager Smith explained that updates occur when capital projects begin or end or if there is a major accident, adding that alternative routes are offered.

Chairperson Rudolph mentioned that he heard the City of Redondo Beach when he tuned into AM 1620, and Manager Smith stated that other cities share the same frequency and that atmosphere affects AM radio tremendously.

Responding to Chairperson Rudolph's inquiries, Manager Smith stated that there is no way to know the number of listeners, that it is possible to go live, and that CitiSOUNDS is advertised in Torrance Seasons, street signs, and bumper stickers.

Chairperson Rudolph suggested installing more signage and enhancing the broadcast to include community advisement such as information regarding the Transit Center, bike routes, and 110 Metro Express lanes.

Manager Smith stated that Travelers Information Stations are restricted to traffic and road conditions occurring within a city but that he would explore his suggestion with Transit and Engineering Manager Semaan.

Commissioner Tsao suggested using text messaging in the event of an emergency and Sergeant Koenig stated that e-mail and text alerts are already available through Torrance Police Department's Community Affairs.

7b. **TRAFFIC COMMISSION 2012 YEAR IN REVIEW**

Engineering Manager Semaan briefly reviewed Traffic Commission matters of 2012 in the material of record, summarized by meeting date, the listing of items of that meeting, and a brief summary of the outcomes.

7c. **TRAFFIC COMMISSION WORK PLAN SUMMARIES**

Engineering Manager Semaan presented the Traffic Commission Work Plan Priorities summary, listed by priority number and goal statement, Commission meeting date of the latest update, and summary of the outcome.

In response to Commissioner Rudolph's inquiry, he stated that City Council has already approved the design contract for protected permissive left-turn phasing for four locations. He noted that the Flashing Yellow Arrow indication was chosen for the City and that consultants would determine if the intersections are viable to consider before beginning any public education.

Referring to Western Avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard, Engineering Manager Semaan provided clarification that they are pursuing outside Measure R funding in conjunction with the City of Los Angeles, adding that the application to Metro is due in January 2013.

He stated that the Commission last met with City Council in April 2011 and reviewed which Commissioners spoke about which priority at that meeting. A brief discussion centered on what direction to expect from City Council at the January 15, 2013 joint meeting.

7d. QUARTERLY TRAFFIC COMMISSION SUMMARY OF REQUESTS

Engineering Manager Semaan presented the Traffic Commission Summary of Requests encompassing the period of September 2011 to December 2012.

Commissioner Sargent stated that the ending date of December in the Summary of Requests does not make sense and recommended changing it to reflect only up to the period that the request occurred.

Engineering Manager Semaan responded that minutes could not be changed for what has already been approved but indicated that the Commission could consider changing it in the future.

Commissioner Sargent offered his observation that signal timing at the intersection of Calle Mayor and Anza Avenue improved for a while but now traffic flow seems to be bogged down again. Engineering Manager Semaan responded that he would relay his concern and have it investigated.

Referring to illegal turns into and out of In 'N Out at Del Amo Boulevard and Hawthorne Boulevard, Sergeant Koenig stated that Traffic Engineering and Police Department continue to monitor the situation. He noted that citations are being issued and violations have drastically reduced. He added that re-engineering would be considered if violations continue at the same rate after a period of education and enforcement.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

8a. Engineering Manager Semaan confirmed that the joint meeting with City Council is scheduled for January 15, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Manager's Assembly Room.

8b. Staff and Commissioners wished each other a happy holiday season.

8c. Commissioner Siani initiated a brief discussion regarding improvements planned for the north section of Del Amo Mall. It was noted that the Mall is working within previous entitlements and that the net addition is insignificant.

8e. Commissioners Sargent and Siani discussed their recent Metropolitan Water District inspection tour to Diamond Valley Lake and treatment plant.

8f. Public Works Director Beste thanked Commissioners for allowing him to sit in on this meeting. He shared information about the Carlsbad Desalter and explained why it was not practical to capture and treat runoff water in Torrance.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:29 p.m., Commissioner Sargent moved to adjourn the meeting to January 15, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Manager's Assembly Room, 3rd floor, Torrance City Hall for a joint meeting with City Council. Commissioner Furey seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Rudolph so ordered.

Approved as Submitted February 4, 2013 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
