

**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, March 7, 2016 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Due to the absence of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson Bajaj led the meeting.

**2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Commissioner Siani led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Furey, Habel, Obejas, Sargent, Siani, Thomas, and Vice-Chairperson Bajaj.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Engineer Bilezerian, Engineering Manager Finton, and Torrance Police Sergeant Koenig.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Thomas 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 FEBRUARY 1, 2016**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Sargent moved for the approval of the February 1, 2016 Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Siani seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1**

**6a.** Vice-Chairperson Bajaj explained the policies and procedures of the Traffic Commission, including the right to appeal decisions to City Council.

**6b.** Lee Ybarra, Del Amo Boulevard, discussed problems with increased volume of traffic, accidents, and speeding on Del Amo Boulevard between Crenshaw Boulevard and Van Ness Avenue. He stated that it is difficult to enter and exit driveways, that traffic backs up, and that the edge lines that were installed have not helped. He recommended lowering the speed limit, increasing enforcement, and installing a left turn signal from northbound Van Ness Avenue onto Del Amo Boulevard.

City Engineer Bilezerian maintained that his department has been very responsive and there has been a tremendous amount of speed enforcement. He stated that additional speed limit signs, flashing radar feedback sign, crosswalk, and 11-12 foot wide edge lines were installed, and that some red curbs were eliminated to increase parking spaces. He raised the possibility of installing a left turn signal at Madrid Avenue to eliminate U-turn allowance.

In response to Commissioner Obejas's inquiry, Mr. Ybarra asserted that there are 12-15 accidents per year between Crenshaw Boulevard and Van Ness Avenue.

Sergeant Koenig noted that there is more enforcement on Del Amo Boulevard than on any other street in Torrance.

**6c.** Julie Dojiri, Civic Affairs Chair of New Horizons, expressed concern about vehicles exceeding the 25 MPH speed limit on Nadine Circle and failing to stop at the stop sign on 229<sup>th</sup> Street. She suggested installing additional speed limit signs, stop signs, or a flashing radar feedback sign.

City Engineer Bilezerian explained the policy of installing speed limit signs. He directed her to email Public Works to request additional speed limit signs and Traffic Division for selective enforcement. He added that currently all radar feedback signs are fully deployed.

## **7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION**

### **7a. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON**

City Engineer Bilezerian requested that the Commission appoint a new Chairperson for the term beginning March 7, 2016 through the first meeting of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017.

Commissioner Sargent nominated Vice-Chairperson Bajaj for Chairperson of the Traffic Commission. There were no further nominations and Vice-Chairperson Bajaj was elected Chairperson on a unanimous roll call vote.

Commissioner Thomas nominated Commissioner Habel, Commissioner Habel nominated Commissioner Siani, and Commissioner Sargent nominated Commissioner Furey for Vice-Chairperson of the Traffic Commission. There were no further nominations and Commissioner Habel was elected Vice-Chairperson on a roll call vote as follows: Commissioner Habel (3), Commissioner Siani (2), Commissioner Furey (1) and Commissioner Obejas abstaining.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Siani moved to concur with staff's recommendation to extend the terms of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Traffic Commission until the first meeting of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017. Commissioner Sargent seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

### **7b. 2015 YEAR IN REVIEW**

City Engineer Bilezerian presented the Traffic Commission 2015 Year in Review, continued from the February 1 Commission meeting. He called attention to Page 2 that

was mistakenly omitted from the Year in Review presented last month. He reviewed Commission meetings of April 6, May 4, and June 1, 2015, noting that there was no Commission meeting in July.

Commissioner Habel requested that the Year in Review be amended to reflect that motions to approve Items 7a. on both August 3 and October 5 were not unanimous but passed on a 5-2 vote.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Thomas moved to accept and file the 2015 Year in Review as amended. Commissioner Siani seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

#### **7c. QUARTERLY SUMMARY OF INQUIRIES**

City Engineer Bilezerian reviewed the three items remaining on the Quarterly Summary of Inquiries. Referring to Item 1, North/South split phasing of the Lowes/Costco signal, he announced that work is scheduled to begin later this month. He stated that Item 3, verifying speed limit on Palos Verdes Boulevard south of Pacific Coast Highway, would be added to the Citywide Traffic survey to be completed by May 2018.

Discussion centered on Item 2 regarding left turns from the shopping center on Pacific Coast Highway and Vista Montana, and Commissioners recalled that it was decided to wait until the Korean market opens to see if traffic patterns change. City Engineer Bilezerian pointed out that the City is limited in what it can do because Pacific Coast Highway is a State highway and the shopping center is private property.

Responding to an inquiry from Commissioner Obejas, City Engineer Bilezerian stated that restricting left turns was the only option available to ease traffic congestion, adding that it would involve all the tenants at the shopping center.

City Engineer Bilezerian recommended that Commissioners receive all future Quarterly Summary of Inquiries via email to conform to protocol currently established and in practice for City Council and other Commissions.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Siani moved to receive and file the Traffic Commission's Quarterly Summary of Inquiries, to remove Item 2 from the list, and to concur with staff's recommendation to receive all future Quarterly Summary of Inquiries via email. Commissioner Obejas seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

#### **8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2**

**8a.** Commissioner Siani received clarification from staff that the appeal regarding the crosswalk at 182<sup>nd</sup> Street and Bailey Drive is going to City Council in late April or May.

**8b.** Commissioner Siani inquired about reports that Commissioners used to receive from the Community Development Department regarding the status of developments, and staff offered to check if they are still available and can provide them.

**8c.** Responding to Commissioner Thomas's inquiry, City Engineer Bilezerian provided an update on the Costco move. He advised that Costco's frontage and driveway will be on Lomita Boulevard, a signal is being installed on Lomita Boulevard, currently going through utility conflicts, and is on target to open soon.

**8d.** Commissioner Thomas inquired about the proposed lumber yard on Del Amo Boulevard and staff informed him that they are in the grading process, a signal is proposed between Crenshaw Boulevard and the bridge, most of their deliveries will be by rail, and there is no proposal to extend the truck route between Crenshaw Boulevard and Van Ness Avenue.

**8e.** City Engineer Bilezerian proposed two items for the Commission's Work Plan: 1) to develop an application process and policy for blue curb zones for disabled parking, and 2) identify areas where red curbs are needed due to vehicles parking along the radius parts of intersections.

**8f.** Commissioner Sargent suggested looking at parking in turnabout areas throughout the City, and City Engineer Bilezerian stated that he was not aware of any other problems since the Via Corona item.

**8g.** Commissioner Obejas raised the possibility of reviewing traffic circulation in the Christmas light area, and City Engineer Bilezerian explained that it is not a City-sponsored event and would need to talk to the City Manager for direction.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:17 p.m., Chairperson Bajaj moved to adjourn the meeting to April 4, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Obejas seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

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Approved as submitted April 4, 2016 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
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