

**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, June 1, 2009 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, Tsao, and Chairperson Galvin.

Absent: Commissioners Lewis, Santome, and Sargent.

Also Present: Transportation Manager Semaan,
Project Manager Sedadi, and
Deputy City Attorney Sullivan.

MOTION: Commissioner Clouch moved to grant excused absences to Commissioners Lewis, Santome, and Sargent for the June 1, 2009 Commission meeting. Commissioner Rische seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

Transportation Manager Semaan distributed a revised agenda and indicated that it was properly posted.

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF APRIL 6, 2009

MOTION: Commissioner Rische for the approval of the April 6, 2009 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Tsao seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected 3-1 to approve (with Commissioner Clouch voting nay).

5B. MINUTES OF MAY 4, 2009

MOTION: Commissioner Clouch moved for the approval of the May 4, 2009 meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Tsao seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (with Commissioner Rische abstaining).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

None.

7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

7a. PRESENTATION BY THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE REGARDING THE LAWS THAT APPLY TO MEETINGS OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION INCLUDING THE BROWN ACT, ETHICS LAWS, AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST LAWS

Transportation Manager Semaan provided background on discussion at the April 6, 2009 Commission meeting and welcomed Patrick Sullivan from the City Attorney's Office.

Deputy Attorney Sullivan answered Commissioners' questions and provided examples of violations of Brown Act, ethics laws, and conflicts of interest laws. He recommended that Commissioners go home after Commission meetings to avoid any perception of impropriety. Further, he advised that if four or more Commissioners are together at a social event they are prohibited from discussing any item that may come before the Commission.

He responded to questions related to the following topics:

- commissioners attending a homeowners association meeting;
- commissioner's ability as a citizen to advocate or request a hearing for a traffic issue at a City Council meeting;

Responding to Commissioner Clouch's inquiry regarding a Planning Commissioner and a homeowners association meeting, he explained that the Planning Commission is a quasi-judicial body that applies the law to a specific set of facts in a public hearing. He stated that ex parte contacts, or one-sided conversations, are not allowed and advised that the same would apply to the Traffic Commission when there are formal public hearings.

When Chairperson Galvin pointed out that in traffic and parking issues it is often useful to visit sites, Deputy Attorney Sullivan stated that it is generally acceptable if the visit is disclosed and if it is not discussed outside of the Commission meeting. He added that a more cautious approach would be for staff to take and bring in pictures.

Commissioner Clouch questioned if a Commissioner, as a citizen at a City Council meeting, can advocate or request a hearing for a traffic issue. A brief discussion centered on protocol if that item should later come before the Commission. He was advised that a Commissioner can speak at any public hearing as a citizen, that it is

acceptable to direct staff to bring back information on the issue, and that there would probably not be a problem if it is not a formal public hearing.

Chairperson Galvin received clarification that Commissioners can hear cases that are in their neighborhoods.

Deputy Attorney Sullivan discussed the requirement to disclose the value of gifts received and informed Commissioners that audience members cannot be required to give their names and addresses if they do not want to.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

8A. Transportation Manager Semaan provided an update on the installation of protective-permissive left-turn signals at the intersections of Torrance Boulevard and Anza Avenue as well as Rolling Hills Road and Whiffletree Lane.

8B. Transportation Manager Semaan stated that improvements on Torrance Boulevard are moving rapidly and ahead of schedule.

8C. Transportation Manager Semaan stated that a request for a stop sign and crosswalk at 227th Street and Ocean Avenue has been forwarded to Public Works.

8D. Commissioner Tsao informed staff that a street name sign is missing on Adolph Avenue and 228th Street.

8E. Commissioner Clouch expressed concern about the difficulty of entering and exiting the Court House parking lot.

8F. Chairperson Galvin was informed by staff that the road will be smoothed over after construction projects are completed on Crenshaw Boulevard.

8G. Following a brief discussion, the Commission decided to go dark in July 2009.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:12 p.m., Chairperson Galvin adjourned the meeting to Monday, August 3, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room.

Approved as Amended August 3, 2009 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
