

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular meeting at 7:02 p.m. on Monday, February 7, 2005 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. **SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner O'Brien.

3. **ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: None.

Also Present: Transportation Manager Semaan,
Transportation Planning Associate Crump,
Torrance Police Department Lieutenant Matsuda,
Torrance Police Department Sergeant Prins,
Torrance Police Department Officer Hernandez,
Torrance Police Department Officer Heslep, and
Torrance Police Department Services Officer Newman.

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 Santome seconded the motion and a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: DECEMBER 6, 2004**

MOTION: Commissioner O'Brien moved for the approval of the December 6, 2004 Traffic Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Santome seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

6. **ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION**

6a. **ACCEPT INPUT AND COMMENTS RELATED TO RECREATIONAL VEHICLE (RV) AND TRAILER PARKING ON PUBLIC STREETS**

Transportation Planning Associate Crump provided background and analysis on resident concerns regarding recreational vehicles (RVs) and trailers parked on public streets in the City. She discussed input received at the December 16, 2004 and January 13, 2005 community meetings. She requested that the Commission accept public comments and concerns and direct staff to return to the Commission with

Torrance Traffic Commission
February 7, 2005

recommendations based on input received tonight, from community meetings, and from written correspondence received via letters and e-mails.

Transportation Manager Semaan advised that staff was asked by City Council to look into this matter and that tonight's meeting was the first official forum with which residents and Commissioners could provide input in a more formal setting. He stated that, pending the outcome and direction given by the Commission, staff would evaluate the comments received from residents and Commissioners and make their recommendations.

Chairperson Rische welcomed public input at 7:09 p.m.

Frank Rizzardi, 23544 Carlow Road, voiced concern that RVs and trailers parked on public streets prohibit street sweeping, take away parking spaces, are eyesores, and make it difficult for trash and recycling trucks to carry out their function. He stated that vehicles parked more than 72 hours violate the City's parking code, but that some allowance should be made for short-term parking.

At Chairperson Rische's request, Transportation Manager Semaan read Sections 61.6.31, 92.5.12, and 61.6.4 of the Municipal Code regarding parking.

Tom Brewer, 23426 Evalyn Avenue, stated that as president of his homeowner's association he has received numerous complaints about RV and trailer parking. He suggested that an ordinance be passed that would prohibit boats and trailers from parking on public streets if not attached to movable, operable vehicles.

Karen Galven, 22629 Iris Avenue, RV owner, stated that at times RVs have to be detached. She suggested a permit process limited to one week at a time with a limit on the number of permits issued per year. She noted that City storage lots are often full and are expensive.

Janet Payne, 1318 Engracia Avenue, RV owner, stated that she would support a permit system with limitations and recommended that a telephone line be dedicated for this purpose. She added that she objected to citizens who stored any vehicle on public streets and that 72 hours was often not sufficient to load or unload a RV.

Newton Young, 22637 Hickory, discussed appearance and safety issues involved with RV and trailer parking. He stated that fines for violators should be sufficient deterrents and that there should be a way to track repeat offenders.

Norman Bauer, 4808 Macafee, stated that he was in favor of prohibiting RV parking on public streets.

Lisa Jo Bright Brennan, 23320 Adolph Avenue, stated that she would like to see RV parking prohibited on public streets due to safety concerns and that she would support a permit system. She added that the weight of RVs adds wear and tear on local streets.

Tom Brewer, 23426 Evalyn Avenue, asked staff for the definition of a RV. Transportation Manager Semaan responded that determining a definition would be addressed as staff moved forward with this process.

Traffic Commission
February 7, 2005

Sarah Guyan, 2119 Gramercy Avenue, expressed concern about RVs parked on narrow streets and near corners. She suggested that chronic offenders be cited sooner than 72 hours.

Pam Sheerin, 1537 Post Avenue, stated that there has been a RV parked next door to her home for 16 years and was never used, and another parked on Arlington that makes exiting their alley very difficult. She commented that she stores her boat at King Harbor Yacht Club.

Janet Payne, 1318 Engracia Avenue, stated that it was also a challenge to find storage space for boats.

Kathryn Novak, 2441 Palos Verdes Drive, observed that the overriding theme that she has heard repeatedly was law enforcement and safety. She stated that she hoped that the scope of any proposal addressed the larger group of vehicles that are on public streets and that the unspoken majority was taken into consideration. She suggested implementing a pilot permit program in one area of the City.

Commissioner Santome stated that it was important to strike a balance between public safety and individual rights and that he would support a permit program. He added that there were good reasons to prohibit untrailered vehicles parked on public streets, especially boats.

Commissioner Ulrich requested that Torrance Police Department Officers answer questions raised by residents.

Torrance Police Department Lieutenant Matsuda stated that Wilson Park closes at 10:00 p.m. and therefore overnight parking was not allowed. He stated that all vehicles parked on the street, including trailers, needed to have a license. He explained why officers needed to wait 72 hours after marking a vehicle before citing it, and why a vehicle moved even an inch could not be cited. Referring to the weight of RVs, he stated that there were probably vehicles when fully loaded that were over the weight limit.

Lisa Jo Bright Brennan, 23320 Adolph Avenue, stated that a 1995 Suburban weighed 8,200 pounds.

Transportation Manager Semaan advised that there was an 8,000 pound weight restriction on commercial vehicles on local roadways, and would bring back more information about weight restrictions at a future meeting.

Responding to Commissioner Lewis' inquiry, Transportation Planning Associate Crump stated that there were approximately 80 residents at the December 2004 community meeting and 30 at the January 2005 meeting.

Commissioner Ulrich noted that approximately 89% of documentation included in the agenda packet was in favor of parking restrictions.

Transportation Manager Semaan stated that it was staff's intention to represent all residents of the City, and that they would try to bring that balance as they move forward.

Traffic Commission
February 7, 2005

In response to Chairperson Rische's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan stated that he did not know how many Torrance residents owned RVs.

Responding to Commissioner Lewis' inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan responded that a permit system could be a viable option but not 100% effective. He advised that staff would take information, summarize, confer with other departments in the City, and compile a list of recommendations. He stated that there would be another neighborhood meeting, that staff would bring recommendations back to the Commission and, if changes to the Municipal Code were proposed, taken to City Council.

Responding to Commissioner Rische's inquiry, Torrance Police Department Lieutenant Matsuda stated that their biggest challenge was the 72-hour violation that some citizens found a way to get around. He stated that they needed a more effective tool and were waiting for direction from the City. He stated that there have been no recent accidents attributed to an RV parked on the street but that drivers do feel apprehensive going around a large vehicle.

Commissioner O'Brien commented that she has observed RVs parked on side streets near the power lines off of 190th Street in North Torrance. Torrance Police Department Lieutenant Matsuda stated that they have been dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Commissioner Santome recommended that staff define an oversized vehicle or trailer and what height and weight restrictions it should have.

Sarah Guyan, 2119 Gramercy Avenue, inquired if there was a better way to report parking violations on weekends other than calling the front desk of the Police Department.

Sandi Monda, 21506 Talisman Street, observed that officers should be aware of trailers or RVs that are in the same location every week. She inquired if a parking enforcement officer has the ability to independently mark and cite a vehicle that was in violation of parking restrictions.

Torrance Police Department Services Officer Newman stated that officers not only take complaints but also mark and ticket vehicles based on their own observations.

Commissioner Tsao requested that staff provide information at a future meeting on how surrounding cities handle RV parking violations and enforcement.

Transportation Manager Semaan advised that their process of making recommendations would not target any particular type of vehicle and would have findings and reasons as to why they were recommending those actions to the Commission. He stated that their findings would be brought back to the Commission in summer 2005. He thanked residents for providing input at this meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner O'Brien moved to concur with staff recommendation to return to the Commission with recommendations received tonight, from community meetings, and from written correspondence regarding recreational vehicle and trailer parking on public streets. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lewis and passed by unanimous voice vote approval:

Traffic Commission
February 7, 2005

7. ORALS

7A. Transportation Manager Semaan welcomed new Commissioners Tsao and Ulrich.

7B. Transportation Manager Semaan distributed copies of an item regarding Caltrans' proposed traffic signal installation at the intersection of Western Avenue and 235th Street. He advised that City Council supported staff recommendation to oppose its installation at the January 25, 2005 meeting. Discussion centered on the conceptual diagram of the extension of Jefferson Street and Plaza del Amo included in the material of record.

7C. Responding to Commissioner Santome's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan advised that traffic counts were being taken for the Citywide Traffic Study, would take approximately one year to complete the study, and another year to finalize the circulation element of it.

7D. Commissioner O'Brien commented that traffic counts would increase with the Del Amo Mall remodel.

7E. Commissioner Santome thanked staff and the Torrance Police Department for all the work that they do.

7F. Chairperson Rische welcomed new Commissioners.

8. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:50 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Monday, March 7, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

Approved as Written March 7, 2005 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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