

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular meeting at 7:05 p.m. on Monday, May 2, 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, O'Brien, Tsao, Ulrich, and Chairperson Rische.

Absent: Commissioners Lewis and Santome.

Also Present: Transportation Manager Semaan,
Traffic Engineering Assistant Kamimura, and
Torrance Police Department Officer Fernandez.

MOTION: Commissioner O'Brien moved to grant Commissioners Lewis and Santome excused absences for the May 2, 2005 Traffic Commission meeting. Commissioner Ulrich seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

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 Commissioners Lewis and Santome).

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: APRIL 4, 2005**

MOTION: Commissioner O'Brien moved for the approval of the April 4, 2005 Traffic Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Ulrich seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Lewis and Santome).

6. **ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION**

TRAFFIC CONCERNS AT 168TH STREET AND CRANBROOK AVENUE

Transportation Manager Semaan distributed supplemental material consisting of additional correspondence received after the agenda packet was prepared.

Traffic Engineering Assistant Kamimura presented the material of record that included background information, photographs, and analysis conducted by staff regarding a request from Bambi Honda to remove 20 feet of red curb along 168th Street east of Cranbrook Avenue. He advised that analysis included field observations, inspection of physical conditions, and a review of Police Department records of reported collisions within the past five years. He requested that the Commission review the traffic analysis, take public input, and concur with staff's recommendation to deny the request for the reduction of red curb.

In response to Commissioner O'Brien's inquiry regarding a large truck that parked near the intersection of 168th Street and Cranbrook Avenue impeding visibility, Office Fernandez advised that he was not aware of any action taken and was unable to determine by photographs if the vehicle was over the 8,000 pound weight limit. He offered to run a license plate check to determine what Department of Motor Vehicle records show.

Responding to Commissioner Ulrich's inquiry, Traffic Engineering Assistant Kamimura confirmed that there were no accidents reported at the intersection in the past five years when there was not a red curb. He stated that the red curb was installed to enhance visibility of opposing traffic following a resident request and field observation.

Transportation Manager Semaan stated that normally accident history was a key factor in making a determination. He advised that once staff has been informed in writing of a potentially hazardous situation, the City could become potentially liable if no action was taken. He stated that the Department was sensitive to parking needs and, in this case, found there to be ample parking on both Cranbrook Avenue and 168th Street. He stated that one parking space would not significantly alter the parking situation.

Bambi Honda, 3675 West 168th Street, stated that there was not ample parking due to parking by apartment residents and that she was unable to park in her driveway because it was too short. She expressed frustration that a red curb was installed on the request of just one person.

Transportation Manager Semaan advised that it was installed not only because of potential liability, but also due to potential benefit. He confirmed that all affected residents within a 500-foot radius were notified of this meeting.

Ms. Honda initiated discussion regarding excessive speeds on 168th Street and the possibility of installing stop signs. Traffic Engineering Assistant Kamimura explained that volume and speed counts taken determined that 85% of eastbound drivers traveled at 32 miles per hour and westbound at 33 miles per hour. He explained that stop signs were not an approved speed control device and that the recorded speeds were not unusual, noting that stop signs would eliminate more parking spaces.

Ms. Honda questioned the accuracy of the speeds recorded, stating that after 1:00 p.m. and throughout the night vehicles traveled at much faster speeds. Transportation Manager Semaan responded that counts were taken over a 24-hour period and explained that education and selective enforcement controlled the 15% who broke the law.

Commissioner Ulrich, echoed by Commissioner O'Brien, commended Ms. Honda for coming forward tonight. He expressed concern that removing the existing red curb would leave the City open for potential liability. He suggested that parallel parking in front of her door was an option and stated that he would support a speed limit sign.

Transportation Manager Semaan remarked that staff would consider the installation of a 25-mile-per-hour speed limit sign and a speed trailer as well as work with the Police Department to conduct more selective enforcement.

Commissioner Tsao urged Ms. Honda to think of public safety.

MOTION: Commissioner O'Brien moved to concur with staff recommendation to deny the request for the reduction of red curb along 168th Street east of Cranbrook Avenue. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ulrich and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Commissioners Lewis and Santome).

7. ORALS

7A. Transportation Manager Semaan informed Commissioners that the recreational/oversized vehicle issue was still moving forward. He stated that a second community meeting was scheduled for May 23, 2005 to present staff recommendations.

7B. Commissioner O'Brien commended the Torrance Police Department for their enforcement of speeding vehicles on Del Amo Boulevard between Crenshaw Boulevard and Van Ness Avenue. She wished everyone a happy Mother's Day and Memorial Day.

7C. Commissioner Tsao inquired about visibility at the northwest corner of Ocean Avenue at Lomita Boulevard. Transportation Manager Semaan responded that staff did not see a problem traveling northbound or southbound during investigation. He advised that the accident that occurred at the intersection was due to a driver running a red light.

7D. Transportation Manager Semaan notified Commissioners about future construction on City streets that involves the Mindoro storm drain and the West Basin recycled water line projects.

7E. Chairperson Rische discussed a dispute between drivers regarding circulation at Jefferson Boulevard and Crenshaw Boulevard.

7F. Chairperson Rische noted that in the Seaside neighborhood there are also short driveways.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:03 p.m., Commissioner O'Brien, with a second by Commissioner Tsao, moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, June 6, 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 June 6, 2005 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
