

**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, May 7, 2007 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Santome.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Clouch, Rische, Santome, Tsao, Ulrich, and Chairperson Lewis.

Absent: Commissioner Galvin.

Also Present: Transportation Manager Semaan and Project Manager Sedadi.

MOTION: Chairperson Santome moved to grant Commissioner Galvin an excused absence for the May 7, 2007 Traffic Commission meeting. Commissioner Clouch seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Clouch 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; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: APRIL 2, 2007

MOTION: Commissioner Santome moved for the approval of the April 2, 2007 Traffic Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Clouch seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Galvin).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

Paula La Rose, Madison Street, expressed safety concerns if Torrance Unified School District's proposal to open traffic in both directions on Madison Street occurs. She stated that the street is narrow, that it is already difficult to exit parking garages due to parked cars, and that speeding has been an on-going problem.

Transportation Manager Semaan clarified that circulation enhancements in and around Levy School would be considered by City Council on May 15, 2007. He stated that notices would go out on May 8, 2007 to residents in the vicinity of Levy School as well as to parents of students currently attending Hull Middle School, noting that school area boundaries would be kept exactly as they are now. He advised that the Traffic Commission would not be hearing the item unless it is redirected by City Council.

Donald Petter, Samuel Street, discussed the difficulty of exiting parking garages and expressed concern that the proposal to remove the barricades would create a dangerous situation. He distributed correspondence from his tenants to staff.

Jeffrey Young, Samuel Street, stated that the barricades are imperative to the quality of life in the area, particularly on Samuel Street. He discussed problems with speeding, traffic noise, and back-up traveling northbound on Samuel Street to 230th Street if the barricade is removed.

Charles Browning, Madison Street, stated that removal of the barriers on Samuel Street and Madison Street would cause more traffic problems.

David Smock, Samuel Street, stated that children's safety would be at risk if the barriers were removed. He offered the suggestion to install four-way stop signs at 230th Street and Samuel Street to control speeding and enhance pedestrian safety.

James Marks, Samuel Street, expressed concern about increased speeding if the barriers are removed.

John Sanders, Madison Street, discussed the difficulty of exiting the parking garages. He suggested that removal of the barricades would accommodate very few parents and would instead be used for cut-through traffic from the industrial/commercial area. He noted that the barricades have been successfully in place for 25 years and gave a petition and correspondence from his tenants to staff.

Richard Mullen, Madison Street, expressed concern that widening the section of Madison Street north of Lomita Boulevard would entail removal of trees.

Chairperson Lewis closed the Oral Communications and encouraged audience members to attend the May 15, 2007 City Council meeting to voice their concerns.

Commissioner Ulrich thanked residents for coming and stated that they brought up excellent points.

Commissioner Rische stated that he was puzzled by the timing and urgency of the issue and questioned why Torrance Unified School District conducted an independent traffic study and why City Council and not the Traffic Commission was considering the item.

Transportation Manager Semaan advised that Torrance Unified School District felt it was necessary to conduct its own traffic study associated with the school relocation and that the urgency is because the relocation is scheduled for September 2007.

Commissioner Tsao requested data to support the proposal to install four-way stop signs at Samuel Street and 230th Street.

Commissioner Santome encouraged audience members to voice their concerns at the May 15, 2007 City Council meeting, noting that the citizens and not the School Board own the barricades.

7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

7A. ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Transportation Manager Semaan relayed City Clerk Herber's preference that last month's election of a new Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson not become effective until the new fiscal year in order to coincide with other City Commissions.

Commissioner Rische noted that Chairperson Lewis took office on January 1, 2006 and questioned why the City enforced rules some times and not others.

MOTION: Commissioner Santome, with a second by Commissioner Clouch, moved to concur with staff recommendation to hold the seating of the new Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of Traffic Commission to on or after July 2, 2007. The motion passed as reflected in the following roll call vote:

AYES: Commissioners Clouch, Lewis, Santome, Tsao, and Ulrich.
NOES: Commissioner Rische.

Chairperson Lewis concurred that he has been in office for more than two years and there was a brief discussion regarding how this happened. Commissioner Rische suggested that rules be established and enforced equally over time.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

8a. Transportation Manager Semaan advised that the Traffic Management Center item would not be considered by City Council until June 2007.

8b. Transportation Manager Semaan provided an update on the Sepulveda Boulevard reconstruction project and improvements at the intersection of 190th Street and Western Avenue.

8c. Responding to an inquiry by Commissioner Ulrich, Transportation Manager Semaan stated a local judge ruled in favor of the City regarding 235th Street.

8d. Commissioner Ulrich discussed a threat assessment scale published in the Daily Breeze on April 28, 2007.

8e. Commissioner Rische stated that last week "U.S. News" projected that Los Angeles area will have the largest amount of traffic anywhere in the country in a few years.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:52 p.m., Chairperson Lewis adjourned the meeting to June 4, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room.

Approved as Submitted June 4, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
