

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular meeting at 7:01 p.m. on Monday, February 1, 2016 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Due to Chairperson Rudolph's appointment to the Planning Commission, Vice-Chairperson Bajaj led the meeting.

**2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Commissioner Thomas 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 Sargent moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Siani seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5a. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7, 2015**

Commissioner Sargent offered a correction as follows: Page 2, 7a, "**MOTION:** The motion passed on a 5-1 roll call vote."

**MOTION:** Commissioner Sargent moved for the approval of the December 7, 2015 Commission meeting minutes as amended. Commissioner Habel seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected approval with Commissioner Obejas abstaining.

**6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1**

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

City Engineer Bilezerian welcomed new Commissioner Mario Obejas and informed the Commission that election of a new Chairperson would be next month.

## **7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION**

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

City Engineer Bilezerian presented the Traffic Commission 2015 Year in Review. He noted that Page 2 was mistakenly omitted, consisting of April, May, June, and July meetings, and recommended that the Commission wait until they have the complete report next month before approving it. He reviewed Commission meetings for February 2, March 2, August 3, October 5, November 2, and December 7, noting that there were no meetings in January and September.

Discussion centered on the December 7 meeting, Item 7b: Quarterly Traffic Commission Summary of Inquiries. City Engineer Bilezerian stated that the City Clerk's Office and City Manager's Office advised him that Council Rules of Order prevail, to discontinue the Summary of Inquiries, and to follow the protocol of City Council and other Commissions. He noted that no other Commission has an agenda item to respond to Orals. He recommended that Commissioners receive future updates and responses to their inquiries by email or telephone. He stated that this would allow staff to respond more frequently than four times a year. He recommended referring residents to submit concerns to the Public Works Department via email or telephone, adding that their concerns would be listed on their internal Work Request Log for follow up.

Commissioner Furey voiced support for staff's recommendation, pointing out that he has always emailed his requests to staff so his have never been tracked.

Commissioner Sargent expressed concern that the Commission would not know the status of requests without a log. He stated that many residents were concerned about speeding on Palos Verdes Boulevard and that he would like to be able to give them updates.

City Engineer Bilezerian explained that just because an inquiry is not discussed at a Commission meeting does not preclude it from being on their Work Request Log. He discussed the two segments in the City that need to be surveyed and added to the Engineering and Traffic Survey--Palos Verdes Boulevard south of Pacific Coast Highway and the new segment of Del Amo Boulevard.

Sergeant Koenig explained that they are unable to use radar or laser for speed enforcement on the two segments until they are added to the Survey.

Commissioner Thomas stated that he has emailed staff with inquiries and appreciates their quick response, and Commissioner Habel stated that staff has been responsive when he has called with inquiries.

Commissioner Siani stated that she wants a closed loop system and would still like big issues to be agendized. She commented that residents often prefer to voice their concerns to a Commissioner rather than to a staff member.

City Engineer Bilezerian encouraged Commissioners to inquire about any issue at a meeting that the entire Commission is interested in, adding that it does not require an agenda item.

Commissioner Obejas discussed the importance of visibility and raised the possibility of having staff provide the Commission with their Work Request Log.

City Engineer Bilezerian indicated that it might not be appropriate to share the Log with the Commission because it contains personal information about individuals; however, it is public record and can be requested with a Public Record Request. He pointed out that the Log lists many items that have never been brought up at a Commission meeting. He stated that it might be possible to provide a summary of how many stop sign requests or red curb requests there are. He offered to check with the City Attorney's office and City Manager's staff for direction on this matter.

City Engineer Bilezerian provided an update on items still pending on the Summary of Requests. Responding to Commissioner Habel's October 5 inquiry regarding 182<sup>nd</sup> Street at Crenshaw Boulevard, he stated that field investigations determined that the signal is operating correctly and delays were most likely due to pre-empting. He stated that the split phasing of the Lowes/Costco signal on Skypark Drive should be implemented in the next two months. Referring to Chairperson Rudolph's inquiry regarding Hawthorne Boulevard and 177<sup>th</sup> Street, he stated that it is on the State Highway and that he supports the median being there to protect pedestrians.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Siani moved to defer approval of the 2015 Year in Review until the March 7, 2016 Traffic Commission meeting. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2**

**8a.** Commissioner Sargent relayed a resident's concern that a stop sign removal is causing an access road to be blocked going southbound on Ocean Avenue approaching Carson Street.

**8b.** Commissioner Sargent noted a discrepancy with the turn arrow signal and the ground painting on Village Drive east. Staff explained that the intersection is on the State Highway and Village Drive is a private road; however, staff offered to contact the State to investigate.

**8c.** Commissioner Sargent initiated discussion regarding development of a Commission Work Plan and joint meeting with City Council. City Engineer Bilezerian suggested exploring the idea at a future meeting or when Commissioners visit him at Public Works.

**8d.** Commissioner Habel disclosed that he participated in a pedestrian and traffic count near an elementary school at Keith Montoya's request.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:10 p.m., Commissioner Furey moved to adjourn the meeting to March 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Siani seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Vice-Chairperson Bajaj so ordered.

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| Approved as submitted<br>March 7, 2016<br>s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk |
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