

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 4, 2016 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Sargent led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Habel, Obejas, Sargent, Siani, Thomas, and Chairperson Bajaj.

Absent: Commissioner Furey.

Also Present: City Engineer Bilezerian and Torrance Police Sergeant Koenig.

MOTION: Commissioner Siani moved to grant Commissioner Furey an excused absence for the April 4, 2016 Traffic Commission meeting. Commissioner Sargent seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Thomas moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Habel seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5a. MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2016

MOTION: Commissioner Sargent moved for the approval of the March 7, 2016 Traffic Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Habel seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (absent Commissioner Furey).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

6a. Chairperson Bajaj explained the policies and procedures of the Traffic Commission, including the right to appeal decisions to City Council.

6b. City Engineer Bilezerian stated that some of the Commissioners did not receive their agenda packets in the mail in time for this meeting. He asked Commissioners if they preferred that he send materials electronically in the future.

Following a brief discussion, it was decided that e-mail or a link to a centralized website was acceptable; however, if packets were large, hard copies would be sent by mail and be available at meetings.

7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

City Engineer Bilezerian recommended that the Commission initiate and develop the following two new proposed Work Plan items:

7a. PROPOSED WORK PLAN ITEMS

Work Plan #1: Develop a Policy for On-Street Blue Curb (Disabled) Parking Spaces

City Engineer Bilezerian provided background on the item and recommended that the Commission develop a policy and process for approving or denying requests for blue curb parking spaces. He noted that currently there is no formal application process, only an investigation by staff in response to a resident request. He stated that preliminary research has revealed that some cities have a formal application as well as grievance process if a request is denied. He stated that staff would canvas other cities, develop a draft policy that includes an application, guidelines, and review process, and bring it back to the Commission for review and public input.

In response to Commissioner Siani's inquiry, he stated that outreach would include notification in the Daily Breeze, Torrance Alerts, and homeowners associations.

Responding to an inquiry from Commissioner Obejas, City Engineer Bilezerian explained the litigation that took place regarding a blue curb request and assured him that any policy would be reviewed by the City Attorney's office.

Work Plan #2: Identify High-demand on-street parking areas eligible for supplemental corner red curb zones

City Engineer Bilezerian reported that in some high-demand on-street parking areas vehicles are parking within the radius portion of curb within the intersection of two streets. He stated that this curved area may or may not contain a marked crosswalk, is considered to be within the intersection, and parking is restricted per California Vehicle Code Section 22500(a). He noted that, because parking is already considered illegal within the curved portions, the City has not painted them red or they have been painted out with gray. He recommended identifying these areas throughout the City and adding supplemental red curb to enhance safety, visibility, and driver awareness of the parking prohibition. He suggested working on this item concurrently with Work Plan #1.

Commissioner Sargent received clarification from staff that there are no exceptions to the California Vehicle Code, that every intersection is a no parking zone.

Commissioner Siani suggested also developing a policy regarding removal of some red curb to maximize parking. She pointed out areas on Emerald Street where there is 20 feet of red curb for reasons that are not obvious.

City Engineer Bilezerian stated that removal of red curbs could be looked at separately or in conjunction with Work Plan #2. He stated that he does not recommend developing a red curb policy and that requests should be looked at on a case-by-case basis from a safety perspective.

Commissioner Obejas suggested that the City utilize a small mobile app for people to call in service requests and staff offered to look into the possibility.

In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Thomas, City Engineer Bilezerian explained that an intersection begins at the BCR (beginning of curb return).

Chairperson Bajaj described the strict red curb policy in the City of Los Angeles.

Commissioner Habel inquired about the cost of painting the curved areas and staff advised that it is already part of regular maintenance.

MOTION: Commissioner Sargent moved to approve Work Plans #1 and #2 and to direct staff to bring back information. Commissioner Obejas seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (absent Commissioner Furey).

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

8a. City Engineer Bilezerian requested that the Traffic Commission go dark in May 2016 and adjourn the meeting to June 6, 2016.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:54 p.m., Chairperson Bajaj adjourned the meeting to June 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall.

Approved as submitted June 6, 2016 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
