# **Parking and Traffic Commission**

# Minutes of April 28, 2004

## **COMMISSIONERS**

Lynette Lewis, Chairperson Willie L. Wilson, District 1 Richard Kaufman, District 2 Leticia Victorino, District 3 Jose De La Torre, District 4

## **STAFF MEMBERS**

Charng Chen, Transp. Engineer William Barnett, Transp. Planner Patrick Lui, Assistant Transp. Engineer Sgt. Ronald Ragan, Police Dept. Pearlie A. White, Secretary

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lynette Lewis.
  - a. Roll Call: The above Commissioners were in attendance.
  - b. <u>Approval of Minutes</u>: The minutes of March 24, 2004 were approved without revision.
- II. Referrals from City Council or City Departments: None
- III. Public Hearing: None
- IV. Other Business:
  - a. Parking Study in Lockhaven Neighborhood: Draft Resolution

Transportation Planner William Barnett briefly discussed the draft resolution prepared as requested by the Commissioners at the last meeting regarding parking needs in the Lockhaven neighborhood. Commissioner Wilson made a motion that the resolution be accepted as written. Commissioner De La Torre seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 5 to 0 vote.

b. <u>Crenshaw Boulevard Intersection Traffic Calming Reconfigurations:</u>
<u>Draft Resolution</u>

Mr. Barnett presented a draft resolution that was prepared following last month's discussion about the Crenshaw Boulevard intersection traffic calming reconfigurations. Commissioner Kaufman made a motion that the resolution be approved as written. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 5 to 0 vote.

### c. <u>Proposal to Restrict Access on Grevillea Avenue and Queen Street</u>

Mr. Barnett discussed a proposal to restrict vehicle access on Grevillea Avenue and Queen Street due to heavy school traffic and children being let off and picked up for school. He said that Queen Street would no longer be a through-street, as one would enter Queen Street at Fir Avenue to get to the County Health building or the Inglewood Library, and exit by returning back to Fir Avenue. He explained that, at its intersection at Queen Street, Grevillea Avenue would be restricted to City vehicles including Police vehicles, but it would remain open for pedestrians. Mr. Barnett said staff believes this will increase public safety by keeping most parents from double- and triple-parking to pick up and drop off their children at the school; and the City will put in a new passenger-loading zone along Regent Street as an alternative location for the parents.

Sgt. Ragan, of the Inglewood Police Department's Traffic Section, further explained the City's plan to limit Queen Street access except for City vehicles. Sgt. Ragan stated that special enforcement officers can only do so much, and that if access is restricted and parents are routed to the Regent Street loading zone, this would create safer access for parents picking up and dropping off their children for school. He said it will be two years before school's construction is completed, so this should be implemented before someone gets injured.

Mr. Barnett stated that the school's long-range plan is to have parking lots and a loading zone on Regent Street. However, there will be Special Enforcement Officers (SEOs) urging parents to go up Fir Avenue and use the Regent Street side.

In response to additional questions from the Commissioners, Mr. Barnett and Sgt. Ragan explained which school gates can be used by students and by the school contractor, how the streets would be posted with signs, and how this matter can be reconsidered by the Commission at the end of the construction period.

Sgt. Ragan said the Traffic Section will be getting letters out to the parents advising them of the new procedure if the Commission approves the proposal.

Commissioner Kaufman made a motion that the Commission approve the closure of Grevillea Avenue as proposed. Commissioner De La Torre seconded it. The motion was approved by a 5 to 0 vote.

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#### V. Public Comments

Paul Russell, resident in District 2, said he had three comments to make:

- 1. He has seen City vehicles parked along Queen Street, which reduces one's ability to use this street;
- 2. Parents once parked at meters on Grevillea Avenue and now it is all City vehicles, which has aggravated the parking problem;
- 3. He explained that the meter parking rates vary within the Library parking lot, and that the meter times are not posted.

Mr. Barnett responded that there used to be parking for City employees in Parking Structure No. 1, and the City had to free up spaces in the Structure, which caused the employees to be relocated below City Hall, and City vehicles then needed to be moved from below City Hall to park along these streets.

Mr. Barnett stated staff would also investigate the meters at the Library parking lot.

Ms. Herman Boykin, 11110 Ardath Avenue, discussed increased traffic problems in the residential neighborhood along Thoreau Street and Ardath Avenue. She stated that with all the new businesses opening in the neighborhood there is a lot of traffic, especially in the early morning hours and evening rush hours, that uses her street between Imperial Highway and 111<sup>th</sup> Street. She wanted to know if the City had noted this and whether there is a way to solve this traffic problem, which is creating other problems as suspicious activity is increasing in the neighborhood. She said there is a need for more traffic officers.

Sgt. Ragan stated he will look into this problem.

### VI. Commissioner Initiatives

Commissioner Kaufman requested that a resolution be prepared to honor Transportation Engineer Parviz Koupai by this Commission and previous commissioners.

Chairperson Lewis directed staff to draft such a resolution.

Commissioner De La Torre stated to Sgt. Ragan his concern about illegal parking of big rig trucks on the streets of the City.

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Sgt. Ragan informed Commission that due to budget cuts, the City did not currently have the manpower to enforce and ticket these violators. Sgt. Ragan said this may change in the near future, as the City plans to restore enough SEOs to cite these trucks vigorously. Commissioner Wilson asked could this program be self-sustaining if restored, and Sgt. Ragan stated it would be.

Commissioner Kaufman stated he was pleased to hear about increased enforcement on big-rig truck violators, as he had been requesting this for many years.

Commissioner De La Torre asked how many seconds at the red-light cameras when the light is yellow. Transportation Engineer Charng Chen said four seconds for the throughtraffic and 3.6 seconds for left turn traffic.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

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