

Parking and Traffic Commission

Minutes of August 25, 2004

COMMISSIONERS

Lynette Lewis, Chairperson
Richard Kaufman, District 2
Jose De La Torre, District 4

STAFF MEMBERS

Patrick Lui, Asst. Transp. Engineer
William Barnett, Transportation Planner
Talai Smith, Secretary

I. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lynette Lewis.

a. Roll Call: The above Commissioners were in attendance.

b. Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Kaufman moved that the minutes of April 28, 2004, held over from the June 23, 2004 agenda, be approved. Commissioner De La Torre seconded it. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioner Kaufman moved that the minutes of June 23, 2004 be approved. Commissioner De La Torre seconded it. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

II. Referrals from City Council or City Departments: None

III. Public Hearing:

a. Public hearing for permit parking on 10th and 11th Avenues was canceled at the request of the City Administrator.

b. Request for One-Way Traffic on Imperial Highway Frontage Roadway

Transportation Planner William Barnett stated staff received a request from the Hawthorne Department of Public Works requesting that the frontage roadway on the south side of Imperial Highway between Casimir and Van Ness Avenues be converted from two-way to one-way due to congestion caused by church activities. He said notices were sent out to all properties that would be impacted by this one-way request, including the church, and that staff has received no communication from anyone on this matter. Barring any testimony to the contrary, Mr. Barnett said staff recommends approval for making this street one-way from Casmir Avenue eastward towards Van Ness Avenue. Mr. Barnett also said the cities of Inglewood and Hawthorne are entering into discussion about possibly transferring this frontage roadway from Inglewood to Hawthorne.

Commissioner De La Torre made a motion to approve the one-way traffic on Imperial Highway Frontage Roadway. Commissioner Kaufman seconded it. Motion was approved by a 3-0 vote.

IV. Other Business: None

V. Public Comments:

Michael Benbow, resident of District 1, described a problem about large trucks parking overnight and on weekends on local residential streets including Seventh Avenue and Hardy Street. He said he has discussed this with the Police and believes the problem is that it is less costly for the drivers to pay parking citations than to use commercial truck lots. Mr. Benbow recommended the City should significantly increase the fines for truck parking violations.

Mr. Barnett stated this is a Code Enforcement action but staff can inquire from the Police Department and the City Attorney's office which options are available to increase the parking penalty.

Commissioner Kaufman agreed that this subject should be discussed with the Police Department and the City Attorney's Office and brought back to the Commission.

Commissioner Kaufman thanked Mr. Benbow for bringing this to the Commissioner's attention.

VI. Commissioner Initiatives:

Commissioner Kaufman asked if parking spaces are not too small for business patrons. He mentioned Costco's as an example of having ample parking spaces for SUVs and would like to see the same at other businesses in the City.

Mr. Barnett explained that the City standards are minimum, which means that they are not necessarily what is recommended but inevitably most property developers go straight to the minimum standards to maximize the amount of structure they can put up because the structure is income-producing and parking is not.

Following further discussion, Mr. Barnett stated that this will be addressed in more detail at the next meeting and staff will consult with the Planning Division.

Commissioner Kaufman expressed concern about the Brazilian Night Club that has valet parking. Mr. Barnett stated they are operating valet parking without proper permits and are in violation. Mr. Kaufman thinks this is a serious problem particularly when they offer no protection for their patrons.

Chairperson Lewis said the City should ensure that this club has proper permits for this valet parking.

Commissioner Kaufman stated that on July 4, 2004, the Police Department initiated a full-scale watch-program for fireworks violators around Centinela Park. He said the police officers worked all day, and in that terrible environment of harassments they should be commended for doing a superb job. Commissioner Kaufman said he would like the Commission to host a luncheon for the Traffic Division of the Inglewood Police Department. Mr. Barnett suggested Commissioner Kaufman discuss this with Assistant City Administrative Officer Jerry Givens.

Commissioner De La Torre asked about the status of his request in the June 23, 2004 meeting for posting of a speed limit sign on Lemoli Avenue near Imperial Highway for 25 miles per hour. Mr. Barnett stated he will pass on Commissioner De La Torre's request to the Senior Transportation Engineer Charng Chen.

Commissioner De La Torre asked about big rig trucks coming into residential neighborhoods. Commissioner De La Torre requested weight limit signs be posted at 112th and Prairie Avenue and at 104th Street and Yukon Avenue to stop these vehicles from driving on these streets.

Chairperson Lewis suggested a public hearing to have a four way stop sign installed at 6th Avenue and 108th Street. Mr. Barnett said staff will investigate at it and could do it administratively without a hearing.

Commissioner De La Torre had additional questions about the red light violation cameras, to which Commissioner Kaufman suggested that he visit the Traffic Division for a demonstration of the camera process that should satisfy his questions.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.