

Parking and Traffic Commission Meeting

February 22, 2006

COMMISSIONERS

Lynette Lewis, Chairperson
Richard Kaufman, District 1
Charles Coronado, District 3
Jose De La Torre, District 4

STAFF MEMBERS

Patrick Lui, Associate Transportation Engineer
William Barnett, Senior Transportation Planner
Officer John Knapp, Police Department
Pearlie A. White, Secretary

I. Chairperson Lynette Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

a. Roll Call: All four Commissioners were in attendance.

b. Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner De La Torre moved that the minutes of November 16, 2005, be approved. Commissioner Kaufman seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote, with Commissioner Kaufman abstaining.

II. Referrals from City Council or City Departments: None

III. Public Hearing:

a. Request for Permit Parking District on Burin Avenue, and to Include 102nd Street.

Senior Transportation Planner William Barnett discussed the Inglewood Municipal Code requirements and procedures for establishing permit parking districts as it pertains to the request from petition from residents on Burin Avenue; and to include 102nd Street. He said Staff monitored the parking to determine what was caused by businesses on Hawthorne Blvd. and determined approximately 25 percent of the parked vehicles were from businesses on Hawthorne Blvd.; so staff recommended that the Commissioners make a finding that permit parking would be warranted. Mr. Barnett explained the next step would be to send out one ballot per residence and must be 75 percent approval to establish the permit parking district.

Chairperson Lewis opened the hearing.

1. Rigoberto Madera, 10312 Burin Avenue. Mr. Madera described parking problems on his street and asked about residences with many vehicles.

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Mr. Barnett explained the permit parking district is a mechanism to keep outsiders out of the neighborhood, and if there are more than 4 vehicles registered at that address, they can get extra permits. He said a district does not regulate parking among residents.

2. Rudolfo Gonzalez, 10322 South Burin Avenue. Mr. Gonzalez stated he experiences the same problems as his neighbor Mr. Madera. He asked if he could park on the other side of the street, and Mr. Barnett answered that he could park on either side of the district and that all residents can do the same, because there are no reserved spaces in front of anyone's home.

Commissioner Coronado briefly explained in Spanish what was discussed to the audience.

The hearing was then closed.

Commissioner Kaufman agreed parking is a problem in this area and thinks that by sending ballots to the residents is the best way to address the situation.

Commissioner Coronado also agreed that votes be cast and to wait for the results.

Mr. Barnett stated notices did not go out to 104th Street and Grevillea Avenue because Staff is not proposing the district parking on these streets, both being on the City boundary.

Commissioner Kaufman asked Officer John Knapp if there is enough manpower to enforce parking. Officer Knapp stated the Department checks that part of the City anyway for other violations and he thinks Parking Enforcement could handle it.

Chairperson Lewis asked if this would be restricted times, and Mr. Barnett stated no, it would be at all times unless the Commission wanted to specify certain hours.

Commissioner Kaufman proposed putting a time frame on it from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Barnett suggested reopening the hearing to find out what the residents may prefer.

Chairperson Lewis expressed concern about one resident having more cars and it would not be fair to other residents. Chairperson Lewis stated the Commission should think about the impact the parking permits may have on situations where more permits are issued than there are available spaces.

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Mr. Barnett said there is no mechanism to allot parking spaces because it is a public street. He said the purpose of the district is to keep out those who do not live there, because it is a public street.

Commissioner Coronado stated he does not think the problem can be solved regarding the number of cars.

Commissioner De La Torre stated he agreed the Commission should consider a time period on permit parking.

Chairperson Lewis reopened the hearing to discuss imposing a time limit.

It was proposed by Commissioner Kaufman that a time period be set from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Chairperson Lewis asked if any of the residents wanted to comment on this recommendation. There was no response from the audience. The hearing was again closed.

Commissioner Kaufman moved that the Parking and Traffic Commission approve the draft resolution with the additional provision of a time from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. for permit parking.

Commissioner De La Torre seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Barnett stated Staff will generate a mailing list to send out the ballots and if there is 75 percent approval, this will then go to the Council Members. He said the ballots will be sent out to residents within 2 months.

III b. Consideration to Revise Permit Parking Hours on Manchester Drive and Osage Avenue.

Mr. Barnett stated that a resident had complained to the City Council about a parking problem on Manchester Drive purportedly generated by Sizzler patrons. Mr. Barnett discussed the parking problem in this area and showed photos on different days of the week that Staff found did not reveal any problem associated with the Sizzler Restaurant.

Chairperson Lewis opened the hearing for Manchester Drive and Osage Avenue.

1. Mike Stevens 720 East Manchester Drive, stated his neighborhood is impacted by Sizzler and Forum parking. Mr. Stevens questioned the accuracy of the photos and said they do not reflect an accurate picture of what really occurs on a daily basis. Mr. Stevens said it is difficult to find parking on the street due to the Forum and Sizzler patrons, and he complained about problems with numerous trash bins on trash days and the red curbs all contributing to a reduction of parking space. He also questioned providing new parking spaces on

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Manchester Boulevard in front of the Sizzler restaurant. He also offered to prepare his own photos of his street.

2. Novella Greene, 729 East Manchester Drive. Ms. Greene stated she lives at the corner of Prairie Avenue and Manchester Drive and said the parking stickers the residents put on their car windows mean nothing. She said patrons of Faithful Central and the Forum, with all its shows, park there illegally and Traffic Enforcement never gives out tickets. Ms. Greene also thinks the photos do not give a true picture of what actually occurs on their street, including trash containing diapers, bottles, cans and glass left by Sizzler and Forum customers. Ms. Greene asked if the street could have better parking enforcement. Officer Knapp responded the Police Department no longer handles parking enforcement as it is with the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department.

The public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Kaufman thanked both residents for their comments and stated he did not support residents taking their own photos. Commissioner Kaufman said he felt residents should make the decision on whether they want to change their permits or not.

Commissioner Kaufman asked if the residents could recommend a new time for permit parking. Mr. Stevens replied he would like 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. for permit parking.

Commissioner De La Torre stated the entire City has parking problems, and we are here to seek the best solution.

Chairperson Lewis said she understands the parking problem issues, and she does not see a 24-hour restriction, but maybe 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. would be satisfactory.

Mr. Barnett said, assuming the expansion of the permit parking is approved, it would not alter street sweeping days. He assured the Commission and residents the photos were not altered.

Commissioner Kaufman made a motion that based upon testimony from residents, the Commission does make the determination of expanding the scope of the permit parking district on Manchester Drive and Osage Avenue so that permit parking enforcement will commence at 11:00 a.m. and terminate at the existing 10:00 p.m. Commissioner De La Torre seconded it. The motion was approved with a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Barnett said a resolution will be prepared for the next Commission meeting and the ballots should be arriving in the neighborhood within the next two months.

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IV. Other Business: None

V. Public Comments None

VI. Commissioner Initiatives.

Commissioner Coronado asked Officer Knapp if the Police Department checks to see if motorists have car insurance. Officer Knapp stated the Police Department periodically stops traffic at various checkpoints to verify if motorists have drivers' licenses and, if they do not, their cars can be impounded.

Commissioner De La Torre reported an automobile in his district that has no license plates with only the dealer's business on them for 2 years, and he is concerned the owner is not paying taxes. Officer Knapp said he would look into this.

In response to a question from Commissioner Kaufman, Officer Knapp stated they give a "fix it" ticket to vehicles failing to display their license plates.

Commissioner Kaufman stated there is a growing amount of pedestrian-vehicle accidents happening in Inglewood, and asked Officer Knapp and Staff if something could be done to brighten up crosswalks with yellow paint instead of white paint.

Mr. Barnett stated normally yellow crosswalks are near schools, although some have been installed in other places, but he would pass his request on to the City's Transportation Engineer

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.