

## **PARKING AND TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

**Minutes of May 23, 2007**

### **COMMISSIONERS**

Michael Benbow, Chairman  
Richard Kaufman, District 1  
Vacant, District 2  
Charles Coronado, District 3  
Jose De La Torre, District 4

### **STAFF MEMBERS**

William Barnett, Senior Transportation Planner  
Patrick Lui, Acting Senior Transportation Engineer  
Barbara Gilbert, Secretary

- I. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Michael Benbow at 7:00 p.m.
  - a. Roll-Call: All Commissioners were in attendance for roll call.
  - b. Approval of Minutes: Commissioner De La Torre moved that the minutes of February 28, 2007, be approved. Commissioner Coronado seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 4-0 vote.
- II. Referrals from City Council or City Departments: None
- III. Public Hearings: None
- IV. Other Business:
  - a. Policy for Block Party Street Closures. William Barnett, Senior Transportation Planner described the proposed changes to the requirements for allowing residents to close off their streets to conduct a neighborhood block party. He explained that it will now be a requirement to obtain petition approval from 75 percent of the residents, comparing this percentage with those required in other cities that are typically higher. He also explained that some streets could not be used for block parties, that block parties must be sponsored by the local Block Club. He further discussed the other provisions listed on the information sheet that was included in the agenda.

Commissioner Kaufman asked if a street can be blocked for a private party and Mr. Barnett responded that it can only be a Block Club function, adding that if a neighborhood has not formed a Block Club, this would be the perfect opportunity to do so.

Commissioner De La Torre asked how many times a year a Block Club may close off the street, noting that Hawthorne allows block parties only during three specific days each year. He expressed concern that Block Party events being held in the same neighborhood twice or more often a year would create an

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inconvenience for him and his neighborhood. Mr. Barnett responded by reminding the Commissioner since 75 percent of the neighbors must approve the event, it is unlikely the event will be approved if the neighbors find it to be inconvenient.

In response to a query from Commissioner De La Torre about his street, Mr. Barnett explained that Doty Avenue was an example of a collector street that would not be closed off for a block party. Commissioner De La Torre asked about 112<sup>th</sup> street and Mr. Barnett replied it is not a collector street and could be closed if enough resident signatures were obtained. Commissioner De La Torre asked, what if he wanted to have a block party and a neighborhood three blocks away is also having one and also another neighborhood in a different place, would not the closures of so many streets cause a great inconvenience for all? Mr. Barnett replied that, in past years, the City has not had any large number of block parties taking place that close together on the same day, but that any possible cluster of parties at the same time would be questioned by Public Works and all may not be approved.

Commissioner Coronado complained about lack of police response to private parties in his neighborhood where parents consume alcohol while children are attending, and coming and going. Mr. Barnett responded these are private parties involving no street closure by the City.

Commissioner Kaufman explained that if it comes to disturbances of the peace, the Police must be called and the neighbors should take the matter up with their Council representative because the Commission is not responsible for disturbances caused at private parties.

Chairperson Benbow suggested contacting the ICOP Center to alert the Watch Commander ahead of time in case a disturbance might arise later.

Chairperson Benbow asked if 15 days is enough time to review an application. Bill Barnett responded, in the past, just 10 business days were required. He added that block parties are less frequent in apartment neighborhoods compared to single dwelling or duplex neighborhoods.

Chairperson Benbow asked for a motion to approve the resolution to establish requirements and procedures for block parties.

Commissioner De La Torre moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Coronado seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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b. Code Revision to Implement Parking Time Limits. Mr. Barnett described the purpose and function of parking time limits posted along many streets. He said that, while investigating the possible installation of time limits on Arbor Vitae Street, problems with the current provisions in the Municipal Code were found. He said the current Code section just makes reference to some very obscure ordinances which require going into the City Clerk's office and retrieving old ordinances, most of which date from the 1950's. He then read an example of one of the old ordinances which had a lengthy description of street segments. He explained that the proposed Code revision would replace such difficult descriptions with the use of zoning classifications along the streets to establish which streets could have parking time limits.

Chairperson Benbow asked if parking time limitations could help exclude large trucks from parking in front of a local church.

Mr. Barnett responded that it may help if the maximum parking time limit of four hours would not be a problem for church activities, and that parking time limits could also be imposed on specific days of the week. He added that the effectiveness of such signs is still a matter of parking enforcement.

Chairperson Benbow asked who has authority to put up time limitation signs. Mr. Barnett answered that the California Vehicle Code gives local cities the authority if they enact an ordinance.

Mr. Barnett noted that the City Attorney's office has requested that the word "usurping" in the draft resolution be changed to "domination."

Commissioner Kaufman moved that the resolution, with the wording change, be approved. Commissioner De La Torre seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. Public Comments: There were no comments from the public.

VI. Commissioners Initiatives: There were no initiatives by the Commissioners.

VII. Adjournment: Chairperson Benbow adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.