

Parking and Traffic Commission

Minutes of January 28, 2004

COMMISSIONERS

Lynette Lewis, City at Large
Willie L. Wilson, District 1
Jose De La Torre, District 4

STAFF MEMBERS

Jerry M. Givens, Assistant City
Admin Officer/Public Works
William Barnett, Transp. Planner
Patrick Lui, Assistant Transp. Engineer
Pearlie A. White, Secretary

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lynette Lewis.
 - a. Roll Call: The above Commissioners attended.
 - b. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of November 19, 2003, were approved without revision.
- II. Referrals from City Council or City Departments: None
- III. Public Hearing: None
- IV. Other Business:
 - a. Proposal to Expand Parking Study in Lockhaven Neighborhood

Transportation Planner William Barnett described the ongoing study of parking in the Lockhaven neighborhood and of the survey that was taken about parking on both sides of 106th Street for a trial period. Mr. Barnett went over the breakdowns of the survey and described some of the comments received from the residents. Staff then proposed additional calming measures in response to the comments and suggested expanding the trial to 105th Street and 107th Street.

Assistant Administrative Officer/Public Works Jerry Givens introduced himself and stated that staff had taken considerable time to thoroughly evaluate this survey. Mr. Givens emphasized that these parking changes are not set in concrete, and if they do not reach their goals, Staff will go back to the drawing board.

The following are comments from persons in attendance at the meeting:

1. **Councilman Ralph L. Franklin**, District 4, discussed his concerns regarding the traffic flow in his district. He said he is interested in what Staff comes up with that will make it safer to drive. He stated he lives on 111th Place and he wants to concentrate on what is best for the community. He said he supports extending the two-sided parking to these other streets proposed by Mr. Barnett. He asked that parking regulations be enforced on such large trucks as five-ton vehicles so they cannot remain on the streets overnight.
2. Andrew Brown, 106th Street, stated that in the beginning he preferred two-sided parking but has since changed his mind. He believes most of the vehicles parked are SUVs that make it difficult to drive down the street and cause lots of fender-benders. He said SUVs make two-sided parking hazardous for driving and many garages are empty because people do not use them and instead park on the street. He suggested a better idea would be to have the street going one way. He expressed his concern about the traffic circle turnouts because of the poor parking enforcement in front of fire hydrants. He also suggested a parking sticker on residents' vehicles to keep other people from parking on these streets. In response to a question from Mr. Barnett if many students or school staff park on his street since it is adjacent to the school, he said he is located in the middle of the block, but there is plenty of stopping in the middle of the street due to the handicapped children being picked up from their residences and also by ice cream vehicles being double parked. In response to a question from Mr. Givens about garages not being used and why, Mr. Brown stated it was more convenient to park on the street and many residents have two or more cars. In response to a question from Commissioner Wilson if the parking near the school is for loading and unloading or just people stopping and talking, Mr. Brown stated it was mostly just people stopping and talking, and that loading and unloading occurs directly in front of the school.
3. Mark Johnson, 3919 West 106th Street, stated he, too, thought two-sided street parking was initially a great idea, but SUVs are make it too hazardous, and emergency and other vehicles arrive and must stop in the middle of the street because there is no parking. He felt with more slowing and stopping on the street as vehicles wait to pass, motorists who are playing loud music are more irritating than before because they pass more slowly. Mr. Johnson said overcrowding in homes causes there to be more cars on the street, and the City needs to consider more alternatives. In response to questions, Mr. Robinson did not think a one-way street was a good

idea, and the only problem he saw with permit parking would be if one had guests.

Mr. Barnett responded that the City allows up to four parking passes per household and they could be used by the guests, and if one were having a large party, the Police Department should be informed a couple of days in advance so they will not ticket anyone during that event time. Commissioner Wilson asked how long do buses remain and if they are picking up people. Mr. Robinson stated they are picking up the handicapped children, and it takes time to take them from their homes to the bus. Commissioner De La Torre asked if he noticed cars for sale on the street. Mr. Robinson said no, but that there is church and business parking on the street as well.

4. Clarice McCass, Doty Avenue at 106th Street, stated parking is worse than ever. She said there is now a dent in her car and one motorist broke the mirror off her car when it passed by. She said residents have turned their garages into residences; she and her husband return home from work and must drive a considerable distance to find parking space and then to walk to their residence because there is no parking space near their residence. She stated on occasions, they are unable to get into their carport due to a parked car in front of their driveway, so they must knock on doors to try and find the person to move the vehicle. Living at the corner, she said drivers do not respect the four-way stop traffic signs.
5. Maria De La Torre, 112th St. and Doty Avenue, stated it is difficult to pass on the street, and the SUVs cause additional problems.
6. Hilliard McCass, Doty and 106th Street, stated he agrees with earlier comments by those who were initially for the two-sided parking, but since the street has become so congested he is totally against it. He also said SUVs are a real problem.

Commissioner Wilson stated this may have been a good idea to solve a multitude of problems but from these comments and discussions, it may no longer be such a good idea. He agreed there is a need for more concerted traffic enforcement and perhaps someone can see who are the motorists blocking driveways. He said he is not sure what the right solution is and perhaps a one-way street would be the best decision. He stated some of these problems are from driver behavior and other City departments would have to get involved. He said people living in the garages should not be allowed.

Commissioner De La Torre said from the beginning he has been against two-sided street parking for various reasons, and that it is not a solution to the parking problem. He said he believes it brings down the value of properties and contributes to the deterioration of the neighborhood and perhaps parking permits for residents may be a solution. He cited the problem of the person who takes up much parking with his Volkswagens.

Chairperson Lewis stated this was a four-month temporary study and thanked the people that came out to give feedback. She said Staff would revisit these issues and maybe propose something different. She said the Commission will also look at some alternatives and will continue to study to see what works.

Mr. Barnett asked if he could respond to a couple of the questions and comments from the Commission. Regarding the utilization of what Mr. Givens calls one-way couplets, there would be alternating one-way streets. He said an example would be 105th Street being east-bound only and 106th Street being west-bound only and 107th Street east-bound, etc. He also said one-way streets could encourage motorists to drive faster, particularly on these long streets, and for those who stop in the middle of the street, a one-way street will not help. Mr. Barnett stated one-way streets could have some benefits but don't solve all issues, whereas permit parking would only be a benefit if the cars that one is trying to exclude from parking do not belong in that neighborhood. He said permit parking will not force people to park in their driveways nor lessen the cars in the neighborhood if they belong to residents in that neighborhood, and that permit parking would only be beneficial for keeping church or business parking off the residential street. Commissioner De La Torre responded that, if there are four permits per household, this would handle some of the parking problem, as residences with more cars would have to go somewhere else.

Mr. Givens stated 106th Street is symptomatic of a larger problem. Mr. Givens said the Commission might not support just one solution, as it may be necessary to combined solutions. Whatever is selected may have to do be accommodated with increased enforcement. Mr. Givens said he doesn't think it may be possible to rely on one method alone and one-way couplets can have merits, especially in high density areas like we are dealing with tonight. Mr. Givens stated Staff would go back and look at this further.

Commissioner Wilson asked if the Commission should continue the existing study with the additional suggestions or if they should look to do something different altogether. Mr. Givens stated staff recommends adding the additional streets, which will better help gauge how traffic is flowing in the neighborhood. He stated he would like to take the testimony that was heard in this meeting and return in a month with more details at the next Commission meeting on February 25, 2004. Commissioner Wilson asked if they could have some kind of proposal for Traffic Police to step up enforcement. Mr. Givens

stated Staff could put this request in their report to the Inglewood Police Department Traffic Control and have Special Enforcement Officers participate in demonstrating this effort. Commissioner De La Torre asked how much time would be needed for further trials, and Mr. Barnett stated Staff recommends at least a six-month period for people to get used to the situation and learn a new routine. Commissioner Wilson made a motion that the Parking and Traffic Commission request staff to take into consideration the testimony from the residents of the affected area and return in one month with further recommendations regarding this demonstration project. Commissioner De La Torre seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 3 to 0 vote.

IV. b. Requirements for Motorized Scooters and Go-Carts

Mr. Barnett suggested that this item be held over for Commissioner Kaufman, since he specifically requested it. Chairperson Lewis ordered this item to be held over to the next meeting.

V. Public Comments:

Ms. Laisa Woods, employee at the City of Inglewood asked on behalf of a friend if the City would provide a loading zone at 300 South La Brea and Nutwood Street. Mr. Givens said Staff will investigate this.

VI. Commissioner Initiatives: None

VII. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.