Parking and Traffic Commission

Minutes of March 24, 2004

COMMISSIONERS

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

STAFF MEMBERS

Jerry M. Givens, Assistant City
Admin Officer/Public Works
Charng Chen, Transp. Engineer
William Barnett, Transp. Planner
Patrick Lui, Assistant Transp. Engineer
Sgt. Damian Stafford, Police Dept.
Pearlie A. White, Secretary

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson pro tem Richard Kaufman. On behalf of the Commissioners and staff, he offered condolences to Commissioner Willie Wilson on the recent loss of his wife.
 - a. Roll Call: The above Commissioners attended.
 - b. <u>Approval of Minutes</u>: The minutes of January 28, 2004 were approved without revision.
- II. Referrals from City Council or City Departments: None
- III. Public Hearing: None
- IV. Other Business:
 - a. Continued Discussion: Parking Study in Lockhaven Neighborhood

Transportation Planner William Barnett stated this item was carried over from the February 25th agenda and was originally discussed at the January 28th meeting where the Commission received testimony from several residents in the neighborhood about their experiences with the two-sided parking on 106th Street. He said they asked about permit parking and making the streets into one-way streets. He discussed these comments, complaints and the information presented in the staff report. Mr. Barnett summed up three options for the Commission to consider:

a. Terminate the study altogether on 106th Street and restore it back to one-side parking;

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- b. Expand the trial to 105th Street and 107th Street and install some traffic calming measures.
- c. Use 105th, 106th and 107th Streets for a trial one-way system of streets.

Commissioner Kaufman then requested any comments from the audience.

- 1. <u>Elaine Baker, 3712 West 107th Street</u>. She stated she would like the parking to go back to the way it had been as the parking problem was caused by residents converting garages into homes. She said it has become a hazardous situation with additional trash on the streets and more break-ins of autos. She also described problems with sight lines at the corner of 107th Street and Yukon Avenue.
- Mr. Barnett stated he received a telephone call from a Mrs. McMann at 3615 W. 106th Street who said she is over 80 years old and has lived at that location for over 50 years. She said she and other residents were responsible for petitioning and receiving one-sided parking apparently before this was Inglewood because this neighborhood had no sidewalks and children had to walk in the narrow streets. By removing parking from one side, she said the children could walk on a clearer roadway and be seen. Mr. Barnett said this could explain why other streets in Inglewood have two-sided parking with the same narrow width.
- 2. <u>Sandra Roberts</u>, 3503 W. 113th Street. She stated the situation in Lockhaven has grown considerably worse because the City has failed to enforce codes and laws so residents are doing whatever they want to do with their property and bringing in more people, more traffic and more cars. She said residents do not want to park in their driveway, saving them for their guests. She commented about speeding on 113th Street and the need for more police enforcement.
- 3. <u>Fernando Mesa, 3246 113th Street:</u> He recommended making the street wider to accommodate two-sided parking. He said there are too many cars parked at one residence.
- 4. <u>Benjamin Okolo, 3509 W. 113th Street</u>. He said he thinks the problem would become worse with two-sided parking. He said there is a medical building on Imperial Highway that uses 113th Street for parking, so he would like permit parking. He also said residents turning their garages into rentals are causing parking problems and that two-sided parking will just make residents buy more cars and add to an already bad situation.
- 5. <u>Luis Pena, 3873 W. 113th Street</u>. He spoke about traffic and speeding on 113th Street and that children on scooters and motorbikes add to the problem. He said code

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enforcement is not strong enough and should be considered first and that two-sided parking will not improve the situation but make it worse.

- 6. <u>Gwen Taylor, 3545 W. 113th Street.</u> She complained that residents do not park their cars in their garages because they have turned them into rentals thereby adding more cars to the street. She said she opposes parking permits because if one has company, there is no place for them to park.
- 7. <u>Frank Knoll, 3533 W. 113th Street.</u> He said the garages being turned into living space are the major problem. He said street parking makes it difficult to get into his garage so he has requested red curbs to help get out of the driveway. After Mr. Knoll described speeding on 113th Street, Mr. Barnett asked of those who are speeding, is there a greater number heading west toward the freeway? Mr. Knoll answered the greater number is heading east.

With no one else rising to speak, Commissioner Kaufman thanked the audience for their comments.

Staff discussed issues about garage conversions and how a city cannot legally limit the number of persons living in a residence.

Commissioner Kaufman spoke about problems with speeding and the need for more traffic enforcement personnel.

Commissioner De La Torre said he has previously considered parking needs and has come to the conclusion that one-sided parking is not the problem, but the problem is the issues that have been discussed by others. He said oversized vehicles often drive down the streets that are over 6,000 pounds.

Commissioner Wilson asked about zoning being enforced to prevent additional units, and Mr. Barnett said because of the lot depths, additional units are permitted. Commissioner Wilson said he believes insufficient code enforcement is the key problem regarding garage conversions.

Mr. Barnett said improved code enforcement would mitigate the problem somewhat, but if all the converted garages were corrected, there still would be a parking problem. Mr. Barnett reminded the Commissioners that while they are hearing comments opposing two-sided parking, the majority of the residents who responded to the survey favor it.

Commissioner De La Torre suggested the residents could decide by voting for two-sided or one-sided parking.

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Commissioner Wilson replied he doesn't think this would be a good idea to make it a referendum. Mr. Barnett said such a vote would not be legally binding, and that staff had already requested a form of vote from the residents on 106th Street with the survey. He said if there would be a vote in the entire neighborhood, there is a risk that those who have not experienced two-sided parking would probably vote yes but, after experiencing it, might change their minds as was the case following the first letter in January. Mr. Barnett said staff suggests expanding the trial to two more streets and with mid-block circles to see if the benefits outweigh any problems.

Commissioner Victorino said that in her neighborhood they have two-sided parking, and it has caused the traffic to move slower. She said the Commission should weigh the options as presented and come up with a solution.

Assistant City Administrative Officer/Public Works Jerry Givens stated their input is very important. Mr. Givens suggested that the Commission recommend what they would like to see happen. He said there is nothing to preclude passing a resolution to the City Council advocating needed corrective changes.

Mr. Givens stated he understood Commissioner De La Torre's position, but he reminded the Commission that they adopted a traffic calming policy that would not rely on a single solution. Mr. Givens suggested that the City's policy on illegal conversions could change, while experimenting with other parking alternatives. Mr. Givens stated he believed at some point that the experiment should be expanded to trying one-way couplets.

Following further discussion on various alternatives, Commissioner Wilson proposed that staff proceed with two-way streets with the median circles and other streets one-way. Mr. Barnett suggested 107th Street would have two-sided parking and two-way traffic with the median traffic circles, and 105th and 106th Streets would be the one-way couplet with two-sided parking.

In response to a question from Commissioner Victorino, Mr. Barnett explained why the shorter Lockhaven streets were selected for these trials.

Commissioner De La Torre asked how long this study would go on. Mr. Barnett recommended approximately four to six months for these next trials.

Commissioner Wilson made a motion that the trials be expanded to 105th, 106th and 107th Streets, and that the study run for at least four months.

Commissioner Victorino seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3 to 1 vote, with Commissioner De La Torre voting against.

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Commissioner Wilson requested that staff draft a resolution for the Commission to submit to the City Council directing them to have the Planning Commission and its staff look at the code violations and activities within the Lockhaven area that aggravate the parking problems.

IV (b) Crenshaw Boulevard Intersection Traffic Calming Reconfigurations

Mr. Barnett referred the Commission to diagrams in the staff report. He described the intersection problems with the frontage roads on Crenshaw Boulevard and staff's recommendations to redesign the intersections.

Mr. Givens concurred that pedestrians and motorists' safety incorporated in this plan far outweighs any inconvenience that residents along the frontage roads may have. He stated these intersections will be beautified and better aligned to provide a safe environment for all vehicles. He said a similar configuration can be seen on Crenshaw Boulevard just north of Slauson Avenue in the City of Los Angeles.

Commissioner De La Torre said he thinks it is a good idea because it would make a more efficient and safer intersection.

Commissioner Kaufman made a motion directing staff to prepare a draft resolution recommending approval of these improvements which the Commission can formerly adopt at its next meeting. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4 to 0 vote.

IV (c) Requirements for Motorized Scooters and Go-Carts

Mr. Barnett said that at the November meeting, Mr. Kaufman requested staff do some research on regulations about children using the motorized scooters and go-carts. Assistant Transportation Engineer Patrick Lui stated he received information from the Traffic Division in the Inglewood Police Department, which is presented in the staff report and attached memo.

Commissioner Kaufman said he has talked to the parents of some of the children who use these dangerous scooters and their response was that their children have to have somewhere to ride their scooters. Commissioner Kaufman stated he wish there was more that could be done.

Commissioner Wilson asked Sgt. Stafford if he saw this as a problem, and Sgt. Stafford said he does, but primarily parents need to be educated.

Commissioner Kaufman suggested mailing information to residents or putting on an educational program possibly using the Race Track parking lot. He asked Sgt. Stafford to take this suggestion back to the Police Department.

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Commissioner Kaufman asked if something could be offered at the schools. Mr. Barnett suggested that Commissioner Kaufman discuss this option directly with the Unified School District. Commissioner Kaufman stated he would consider discussing this with school authorities.

- V. Public Comments: None
- VI. Commissioner Initiatives:

Commissioner Wilson thanked the audience for coming out and encouraged them to attend the Council meetings as well.

VII. Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

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