

Parking and Traffic Commission

Minutes of September 22, 2004

COMMISSIONERS

Lynette Lewis, Chairperson
Willie Wilson, District 1
Richard Kaufman, District 2
Leticia Victorino, District 3
Jose De La Torre, District 4

STAFF MEMBERS

Charng Chen, Transportation Engineer
William Barnett, Transportation Planner
Pearlie A. White, Secretary

- I. Chairperson Lynette Lewis called the meeting to order.
 - a. Roll Call: The above Commissioners were in attendance.
 - b. Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Kaufman moved that the minutes of August 25, 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: None
- IV. Other Business:
 - A. Size of Parking Spaces:

Senior Transportation Planner William Barnett discussed an item requested by Commissioner Kaufman at the previous Commission meeting regarding the Planning Commission's recent determination of the adequacy of the sizes of parking spaces in the City. He explained the Planning Commission's responsibility for zoning standards for parking spaces on private property. He said Public Works staff reviewed the staff report from the Planning Commission and could not determine any overt reason for the Parking and Traffic Commission to recommend overriding the determination of the Planning Commission on this matter. Mr. Barnett stated staff did note that the Planning staff report did address the issue of compact spaces, but the Planning Commission made no recommendation to keep or not to keep compact spaces.

Commissioner Wilson said he does not see the need for the Parking and Traffic Commission to pursue this matter or that it should be revisited. He stated he thinks consumers will cause businesses to make changes, if necessary, or they will adapt to using the current spaces.

Commissioner Kaufman agreed with Commissioner Wilson and stated that SUVs often take up two spaces when they park in compact spaces. Commissioner Kaufman thanked Mr. Barnett for the report.

Chairperson Lewis stated she was in agreement with the Planning Commission.

Mr. Barnett then briefly discussed the sizes of parking spaces on public streets.

Commissioner Wilson made a motion that the Commission desires to take no further action on either the sizes of parking spaces or compact spaces, but requested additional study regarding wider dimensions for on-street (diagonal) parking spaces. Commissioner Kaufman seconded it. The motion was approved with a 4-1 vote. Chairperson Lewis abstained.

B. Penalties for Truck Parking on Residential Streets

Mr. Barnett stated that this item was initiated when Mr. Michael Benbow, at last month's meeting, cited his concerns about large trucks parking overnight on residential streets due to small parking penalties. Mr. Barnett said he researched and had difficulty finding places for large vehicles to park, and since penalties for illegal parking are so small, they do not discourage trucks from parking on resident streets. Mr. Barnett stated that the Commissioners might want to recommend that the City Council consider an increase in fines after reviewing the list of penalties for various parking violations.

Commissioner Kaufman asked to have a resolution drafted for the next meeting recommending the City Council consider increasing fees to a sufficient amount to generate the type of response necessary to stop illegal parking.

In response to a question from Commissioner Wilson, Mr. Barnett said the City Council adopts the penalty fees by resolution.

Commissioner Victorino agreed that penalty amounts should be reassessed because Arbor Vitae Street, for example, is notorious for illegal parking.

Commissioner De La Torre stated he was concerned if trucks only park for a few hours, would it be a problem. Mr. Barnett stated any trucks making a delivery would not be considered a violation. He said mainly independent truckers are violating the law. Commissioner De La Torre said the City Council should consider a reassessment of the penalty fees.

Chairperson Lewis stated her concern about raising the penalty fees but then not having police personnel to enforce the parking restrictions.

Mr. Barnett stated that the resolution could address the lack of adequacy of the penalties as a deterrent and the need for increased parking enforcement.

Commissioner De La Torre said the Commission should also look at enforcing safety issues, such as a car that leaks oil being a risk.

Commissioner Kaufman asked if the Commission could also recommend changes in the California Vehicle Code Violations.

Mr. Barnett stated staff would look into the \$30.00 penalties for the California Code Violations and report back to the Commission.

The Commission directed staff to draft a resolution and present at the next Parking and Traffic Commission meeting.

Commissioner Kaufman suggested including vehicles without license plates that avoid being ticketed at cameras.

Chairperson Lewis asked what would be in the resolution, and Mr. Barnett replied it would be a resolution from this Commission to the City Council advocating and stating reasons why that the penalties for various parking violations are not adequate to be an effective deterrent from people committing violations, and advocating the need for an increase in enforcement for these violations.

V. Public Comments:

Ms. Adie LaRue, resident of Inglewood, explained a problem about a ticket received at 108th Street and Crenshaw Boulevard intersection with the red light cameras and getting the ticket dismissed.

Mr. Barnett suggested she go to the Police Department counter on the second floor of City Hall to discuss the dismissal of the ticket.

VI. Commissioner Initiatives:

Commissioner De La Torre first thanked staff for their prompt action on previous requests, and stated at 3650 112th Street is a car parked on the sidewalk on a daily basis that is not being cited and an RV may be parking in front of Morningside High School on Yukon Avenue for more than 72 hours. Mr. Barnett stated staff would look into these matters.

In response to a question, Senior Transportation Engineer Charng Chen stated Parking and Traffic personnel use a hand-held device with which the citation is written and printed. He said that the Police officers still use handwritten citations.

Chairperson Lewis asked whether the four-way stop sign she requested had been installed at 108th Street and Wilkie Avenue, and Mr. Barnett stated the work order has been submitted.

Chairperson Lewis asked for a breakdown of the revenue generated by the new red light cameras. Mr. Chen stated he would obtain this information from the Finance Department.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.