## PARKING AND TRAFFIC COMMISSION

### Minutes of November 15, 2006

## **COMMISSIONERS**

#### STAFF MEMBERS

Lynette Lewis, Chairperson Richard Kaufman, District 1 Vacant, District 2 Charles Coronado, District 3 Jose De La Torre, District 4 Charng Cheng, Acting Transportation Engineer Manager William Barnett, Senior Transportation Planner Pearlie A. White, Secretary

- 1. Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lynette Lewis at 7:00 p.m.
  - a. Roll-Call: All four Commissioners were in attendance.
  - b. <u>Approval of Minutes</u>: Commissioner Kaufman moved that the minutes of August 23, 2006, be approved. Commissioner De La Torre seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 4-0 vote.
- II. Referrals from City Council or City Departments: None
- III. Public Hearing: None
- IV. Other Business:
  - a. Code Amendment for Changing Permit Parking Provisions

William Barnett, Senior Transportation Planner stated that this is a proposal to add provisions to the Municipal Code regarding permit parking districts. He explained the City had adopted very precise procedures for establishing a permit but did not include procedures and the criteria for amending an existing district, and that a request to amend a district was pending before the City. Mr. Barnett referred to an attachment showing how other cities manage establishing and revising their residents' parking permit districts. He noted that, like Inglewood, they require a super majority approval and typically require the same high percentage to amend their district. Mr. Barnett said he presented this information to the City Attorney's office which recommended that the Commission approve the same standard for amending a district that is used for establishing a district, which is a 75 percent approval. He added that if residents decide they no longer want a parking permit district and wish to return to free access parking on their street, staff recommends this should not require a super majority but a simple majority.

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Commissioner Coronado stated he saw no problem with this recommended provision.

In response to a question from Commissioner Kaufman about other cities, Mr. Barnett explained that whatever a city required, whether it was 2/3 or 75 percent to create a district, they had the same formula to amend it, with one exception – Beverly Hills.

Commissioner De La Torre stated he also agrees with the proposal, particularly the super majority rule.

Chairperson Lewis expressed her disfavor with permit parking because everyone pays taxes and she does not think parking should ever be restricted by anyone except for those neighborhoods inundated by business parking. She cited the problems if someone in a district has many guests such as during a party.

Mr. Barnett responded that Parking Enforcement, if notified in advance, will not enforce parking permits when a party is being held. He stated permit parking is not intended to regulate any competition between residents, including their guests, but to protect residential neighborhoods from being overwhelmed by parking from commercial and entertainment venues close by.

In response to a question from Chairperson Lewis about the percentage requirement, Mr. Barnett stated that the imposition of a permit district is to deny residents the right to freely park on their street without permission. He said cities are uncomfortable with a mere 51 percent denying this right to the other 49 percent, to there has to be overwhelming support in a residential neighborhood to impose such an imposition on the residents. He said he contacted other cities and these other cities require a super majority and not a simple majority.

Commissioner Kaufman stated parking by permit works well in his neighborhood.

Chairperson Lewis asked if there was a fee for the permit.

Mr. Barnett stated each residence automatically gets four free permits and if they have additional cars at that residence, then additional permits can be purchased.

Chairperson Lewis stated she was not aware that the City was to provide parking and asked what happen to garages and driveways?

Mr. Barnett said there is no assurance of on-street parking as the primary purpose of street is for accessibility to properties and emergency services. He said that, once a street is established with sufficient lanes for traffic, if there is still room for street parking then it will be provided. He also said the Municipal Code is very specific about requiring on-site parking for residences.

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Commissioner Kaufman suggested a public seminar explaining parking issues and maybe there might be less parking congestion in the City. He suggested the Commission sit as a panel so that these issues can be aired and worked out.

Commissioner Kaufman made a motion that the Parking and Traffic Commission adopt a resolution approving and recommending these Code amendments to the Mayor and Council Members. Commissioner Coronado seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 4-0 vote.

V. Public Comments – No comments were received from the public.

Acting Transportation Engineer Manager Charng Chen introduced Tod Scott to the Commissioners. The Commissioners welcomed Mr. Scott.

VI. Commissioner Initiatives.

Commissioner Kaufman restated his concern about illegal parking in Centinela Park during the weekends and holidays. Commissioner Kaufman showed photos to the Commissioners that showed the illegally parked cars in the park.

Mr. Barnett stated that parking in the parks is handled by Parks, Recreation and Community Services, and that he has passed this information to the Director, Mr. Hawkins and would do so again.

Commissioner Kaufman said he had contacted the Police Department to check into it and said he would also contact the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department.

Commissioner De La Torre stated the pedestrian signs on Crenshaw Boulevard and 112<sup>th</sup> Street sometimes fail to function properly Mr. Barnett said staff acknowledges those signs are not functioning as well as they had hoped. Mr. Chen stated those signs will be upgraded to have large flashing lighted signs.

Commissioner De La Torre stated cars are often parked on the streets with "for sale" signs. Mr. Barnett said he would inform Parking Enforcement.

In response to a question from Commissioner Kaufman about access problems at Food 4 Less on Century Boulevard, Mr. Barnett said staff has sent out an RFP to redesign Century Boulevard from La Cienega Boulevard to Prairie Avenue and Crenshaw Boulevard to Van Ness Avenue, and explained how the City will be installing a double left turn lane on Crenshaw Boulevard.

Chairperson Lewis asked if the signals could be better synchronized at 11th Avenue coming out of Home Depot. Barnett said staff would look into it.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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