

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRAFFIC COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

1. OPENING CEREMONIES

- a. Call Meeting to Order

A regular meeting of the Public Safety and Traffic Commission was called to order by Chair Kurata at 6:02 p.m., in the Lomita City Hall Council Chambers, 24300 Narbonne Avenue.

- b. Flag Salute

Chair Kurata led the salute to the flag.

- c. Roll Call

The following Commissioners responded to the roll call by Deputy City Clerk Abbott: Commissioners Ballard, Cozzolino, and Sloane, Vice-Chair Carmody, and Chair Kurata. Also present were Public Works Director Dillon, Sheriff Deputy Despot, and L.A. County Traffic Engineer Guilmette

Present: Commissioners: Ballard, Cozzolino, Sloane, Carmody, and Kurata

Absent: Commissioners: None

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** December 18, 2019

Commissioner Sloane made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Carmody recommending the Commission approve the minutes.

MOTION CARRIED by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners: Ballard, Cozzolino, Sloane, Carmody, and Kurata
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
RECUSE: None

SCHEDULED MATTERS

4. MODIFY PARKING ON WALNUT IN FRONT OF FLEMING MIDDLE SCHOOL

Traffic Advisor Guilmette presented the staff report and responded to Commission questions. Director Dillon stated that the parking changes would be outlined in a future City newsletter.

Ernie Unland, a Lomita resident, shared some effective parking measures in place at a school in the San Fernando Valley. He stated that parents can volunteer to direct parking, and he suggested separate lanes for buses and cars.

Traffic Advisor Guilmette stated that the recommended actions have been successfully implemented on a trial basis.

Deputy Despot stated that he was there today after school and that double parking (by parents picking up their children) was the biggest problem. He added that the Sheriff's Department will continue to monitor the location for the next few weeks and will employ a zero tolerance stance, as that is most effective.

Commissioner Sloane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ballard that the Public Safety Traffic Commission recommend the following to City Council:

1. Establish a 30-minute parking zone between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., school days only on the west side of Walnut Street between the south curb line of 254th Street and the north curb line of 255th Street;
2. Establish a school bus stop zone on the west side of Walnut Street between a point 40 feet and 150 feet south of the south curb line of 255th Street; and
3. Establish a 30-minute parking zone between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., school days only on the west side of Walnut Street between a point 150 feet south of the south curb line of 255th Street and the north curb line of 257th Street.

MOTION CARRIED by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners: Ballard, Cozzolino, Sloane, Vice-Chair Carmody, and Chair Kurata
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
RECUSE: None

5. TRAFFIC REQUEST UPDATES

Director Dillon gave brief updates on two outstanding red curb requests, and stated that a curb ramp request is still in the evaluation stage.

In response to a question from Commissioner Ballard, Deputy Despot stated that there have been far fewer traffic complaints of late related to Popeyes on Pacific Coast Highway (PCH).

In response to a question from Commissioner Cozzolino, Director Dillon stated that the installation of “no parking” signs along PCH should be complete by the end of this month, while ticketing will take place in March and towing will begin in April.

6. SHERIFF DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Deputy Despot stated that Coffee with a Cop will take place Thursday, February 27, 2020, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., at Corridor Flow. He added that the Annual Anti-Gang & Drug-Free Walk will take place Thursday, May 28, 2020, and that the Sheriff’s Department will participate in Lomita Magnet School’s upcoming Career Day.

OTHER MATTERS

7. DISCUSSION AND UPDATE ON THE ANNUAL ANTI-GANG AND DRUG FREE WALK

Deputy City Clerk Abbott stated that the walk will take place on Thursday, May 28, 2020, at Lomita Park from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. She added that flyers will be distributed and sponsorship letters mailed out in the next couple of weeks.

8. DISCUSSION ON NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Chair Kurata suggested combining Neighborhood Watch outreach with the upcoming Coffee with a Cop event, and she stressed the advantage of establishing a relationship with the Sheriff’s Department. She then spoke about the process of forming a Neighborhood Watch block, and said that she would be happy to meet with interested parties.

Director Dillon stated that at last night’s Strategic Planning meeting, Council changed “Create a safer city/Neighborhood Watch” from a secondary goal to a primary one and replaced the word “Create” with “Maintain.”

Chair Kurata stated that perhaps a slightly different model for Neighborhood Watch is needed, which could involve the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). She added that knowing one’s neighbors and having a relationship with the City are both important factors to a successful block.

9. COMMISSIONER ITEMS

Vice-Chair Carmody asked about enforcement of handicapped parking in the City, and said it seems to be a low priority. Deputy Despot stated that the Sheriff’s Department can only enforce if there is no special plate or placard. He added that if there is a placard but it obviously is not assigned to anyone in the vehicle, the Department can investigate further.

Chair Kurata stated that she attended the Council’s Strategic Planning meeting of January 28, 2020, where a potential tax increase was discussed. She added that it was extremely interesting and very well-run, and she encouraged others to attend such meetings in the future.

Commissioner Cozzolino stated that he attended the January 21, 2020, City Council meeting. He said the Division 2 girls' volleyball team received certificates of recognition, Council approved conversion of 2018-2020 Lomita Boulevard to commercial condominiums, and Council approved an extension of the moratorium on vape-related shops in the City for another ten and one half months.

10. COMMISSIONERS TO ATTEND CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 3, 2020 – Commissioner Cozzolino

Tuesday, March 17, 2020 – Commissioner Sloane

11. STAFF ITEMS – ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.



Linda Abbott, Deputy City Clerk