

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRAFFIC COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021
6:00 P.M.
VARIOUS TELECONFERENCE LOCATIONS**

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 6:05 p.m. via teleconference pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 of March 17, 2020, and COVID-19 pandemic protocols.

b. Roll Call

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

Present: Carmody, Cozzolino, and Kurata

Absent: Ballard, Sloane

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

a. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – January 20, 2021

Commissioner Cozzolino made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carmody, to approve the minutes.

MOTION CARRIED by the following vote:

AYES: Carmody, Cozzolino, and Kurata

NOES: None

ABSENT: Ballard, Sloane

SCHEDULED MATTERS

4. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF PARKING RESTRICTION CHANGE AND INSTALLATION OF RED CURB ON A SECTION OF OAK STREET SOUTH OF PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY

Traffic Advisor Guilmette presented the staff report as per the agenda material.

Commissioner Cozzolino made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carmody, to recommend to the City Council to:

1. Remove R28 (CA) signs (NO PARKING, 7 A.M. - 9 A.M., MON – FRI) from the east side of Oak Street between Pacific Coast Highway and the first driveway south of Pacific Coast Highway.
2. Install 25 feet of red curb on the east side of Oak Street between the south crosswalk and a point 25 feet southerly.

MOTION CARRIED by the following vote:

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

5. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF INSTALLATION OF SPEED LIMIT SIGNS ON PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NEAR CHAPMAN STREET AND PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY

Traffic Advisor Guilmette presented the staff report as per the agenda material.

Lupe Grajeda, a Lomita resident, thanked the Commission for its consideration of this matter.

Commissioner Cozzolino made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carmody, to recommend to the City Council to:

1. Install a "SPEED LIMIT 25" sign (R2-1 (25)) on west side of Pennsylvania Avenue at a point 120 feet south of the south curb line of Pacific Coast Highway.
2. Install a "SPEED LIMIT 25" sign (R2-1 (25)) on east side of Pennsylvania Avenue near the intersection of Chapman Street.
3. Install a "SPEED LIMIT 25" sign (R2-1 (25)) on east side of Saddle View Drive at the north curb line of Chapman Street.

MOTION CARRIED by the following vote:

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

6. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT (LASD) PROPOSAL FOR 2021 SUPPLEMENTAL TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Public Works Director Dillon presented the staff report as per the agenda material.

Deputy Despot stated that the proposal allows for more targeted enforcement, such as near schools and on neighborhood cut-through streets used by commuters during rush hours.

Commissioner Cozzolino stated that he regularly witnesses drivers running stop signs in front of St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church on Eshelman Avenue, and that the location would benefit from targeted enforcement.

In response to a question from Commissioner Carmody, Deputy Despot stated that the supplemental enforcement can be tweaked as needed based upon patterns found, and that Sheriff's Department reports will be shared at upcoming meetings.

Chair Kurata made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cozzolino, to recommend to the City Council to implement the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department (LASD) proposal for Supplemental Traffic Enforcement, with the inclusion of the area near St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, within the approved budget.

MOTION CARRIED by the following vote:

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

7. PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRAFFIC COMMISSION ENDORSEMENT OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT (LASD) CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT PREVENTION EVENT OF APRIL 24, 2021

Public Works Director Dillon presented the staff report as per the agenda material.

Deputy Despot stated that this event is timely due to the rise in such thefts nationwide. Catalytic converters will be inscribed with the last eight digits of the vehicle's identification number to dissuade theft. Van Lingen Towing will be onsite to lift the vehicles for engraving, and the event is open to all residents in the Lomita Sheriff's Station's jurisdiction.

Commissioner Carmody made a motion, seconded by Chair Kurata, to endorse the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department (LASD) Catalytic Converter Theft Prevention Event.

MOTION CARRIED by the following vote:

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

8. SHERIFF DEPARTMENT UPDATES - Informational only, no staff report.

Deputy Despot stated that Lomita Station is preparing for the increased traffic due to business and school re-openings. He commended the Commission for recently approving the Palos Verdes Drive North (near Rolling Vista Drive) signage, which cured the problem of overnight parking in the area. He mentioned that there might be a need for the Technical Traffic Advisory Committee to consider extending such signage toward Harbor Hills where the street is still being used as de facto public vehicle storage.

In response to a question from Commissioner Carmody, Deputy Despot stated that there had been recent police activity near the intersection of Eshelman Avenue and Pacific Coast Highway, as there were reports of a suspicious person in that area. The individual ran when approached, so the Sheriff's deputies contained the area, but he eluded them. As no crime had been committed, there was nothing more to be done.

Commissioner Carmody commended Lomita Station's handling of the recent Tiger Woods traffic accident in Rancho Palos Verdes.

9. STAFF UPDATES - Informational only, no staff report.

Public Works Director Dillon stated that the City's virtual Safety Element brainstorming/goal-setting session will take place March 24. The City will have a booth at the April 25 Lomita Chamber of Commerce's Farmers Market to share information with, and receive input from, residents regarding the Safety Element, in preparation for a virtual community workshop to be held on April 29.

Director Dillon stated that she reviewed the City of Torrance's California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation regarding the new Amazon facility, and a modified plan did not reduce the levels of service at any intersections except for at Crenshaw Boulevard and Pacific Coast Highway. She clarified that online sales are taxed but such revenue goes to the County, which then redistributes it to cities in its jurisdiction according to a formula.

Director Dillon stated that she attended the City Council's virtual Strategic Planning meeting prior to this meeting, and one of the goals set was to maintain and enhance public safety efforts, traffic enforcement, and community involvement. She added that she told Council she would ask the Commission for input on specific metrics they would like to see related to this item, such as certain crime statistics and/or traffic incidents.

Director Dillon stated that she has added to the Public Works monthly reports to Council a specific item regarding the Commission's actions and activities.

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

Deputy City Clerk Abbott stated that the event is scheduled for Friday, May 7 at 10 a.m. Students will participate via Zoom and City staff and officials will meet at Lomita Park, where social distancing protocols will be followed. There will be an essay contest, as Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) fifth graders are learning how to write them. The Commission will select the winners, who will be announced during the event. The winners will share their essays and will receive gift card prizes. Deputy Despot will be on hand with a K-9 unit, and guest speakers will appear.

OTHER MATTERS

11. COMMISSIONER ITEMS

Commissioner Cozzolino spoke of his attendance at the February 16, 2021, City Council meeting, where an encroachment permit was approved for Picerne to utilize a portion of Crenshaw Boulevard north of Lomita Boulevard for more efficient deliveries to the project site.

12. COMMISSIONERS TO ATTEND CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 – Commissioner Carmody

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 – Chair Kurata

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.



Linda E. Abbott
Deputy City Clerk/PSTC Secretary