

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRAFFIC COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020
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 6:03 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 Ballard, Commissioner Sloane, Vice-Chair Carmody, and Chair Kurata. Also present were Public Works Director Dillon, Sheriff's Deputy Despot, L.A. County Traffic Engineer Guilmette, Management Analyst Hernandez, and Administrative Analyst Contreras

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

Absent: Commissioner: Cozzolino

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

a. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** August 19, 2020 minutes

Commissioner Sloane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ballard to approve the minutes.

MOTION CARRIED by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners: Ballard, Sloane, and Carmody

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner: Cozzolino

RECUSE: Commissioner: Kurata

SCHEDULED MATTERS

4. COLLISION UPDATE

Administrative Analyst Contreras presented the staff report as per the agenda material.

In response to a question from Chair Kurata, Administrative Analyst Contreras stated that data regarding collision trends could be presented at the next meeting. Chair Kurata stated that she was surprised more accidents have not occurred near Popeyes on Pacific Coast Highway.

In response to Commissioner questions, Administrative Analyst Contreras stated that staff would discuss the possibility of providing recommendations based upon the analysis at future meetings, and that the placement of the red dots indicating collision sites could be made more precise at future meetings.

Commissioner Ballard made a motion, seconded by commissioner Sloane to receive and file the update.

MOTION CARRIED by the following vote:

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

5. SAFETY ELEMENT PROJECT – Lina Hernandez – Informational only, no staff report.

Management Analyst Hernandez stated that the City is in the process of updating its Safety Element which is part of the General Plan. It is required by the State to address a variety of natural and human-related hazards in the City before they can become serious problems. The proposed Safety Element update will include an evaluation of hazards identified in 2018 as well as a seismic evaluation of City facilities, and will make Lomita eligible for pre-disaster recovery assistance from the Federal government. The City was awarded a FEMA grant of \$63,526 for the update and has hired a consultant, Dudek, to do the work. It will take them approximately 11 months to complete it, at which time it will be sent to the California Office of Emergency Services and FEMA for approval, prior to Council adoption. Dudek will be providing opportunities for public input that will take place online due to the pandemic. Management Analyst Hernandez thanked Commissioners Sloane and Ballard and Deputy Despot for volunteering to participate in the Safety Element Planning Committee. Chair Kurata also volunteered to participate.

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

Deputy Despot commented on an automotive theft that took place recently on Chair Kurata's street. He stated that there has been a big uptick lately in stolen catalytic converters in the overnight hours. Many such thefts involve two-person crews who use battery-powered saws and can steal them in just 15 seconds and then sell them for \$100 on the black market. He recommended proactive measures such as parking in well-lit areas, or in driveways or garages, as well as installation of motion sensor lights. The homeless population Statewide has also seen a big increase. Lomita Station receives several calls per day regarding homeless persons but due to the pandemic the only option is to book them in the field and only for serious offenses. They then must be field released and not actually taken to jail due to current regulations. Deputy Despot also commented on the newly-elected Los Angeles

District Attorney and his actions to decriminalize a plethora of crimes. He stated that this will be a challenge for Sheriff's deputies as he expects to see an overall increase in crime as a result.

In response to a question from Commissioner Sloane, Deputy Despot stated that deputies will continue to enforce the law and make arrests, even though many charges will be dropped by the time the cases reach the District Attorney's Office.

7. STAFF UPDATES

Director Dillon stated that the City had recently implemented 36 feet of red curb on Andreo Avenue which was necessary for the Water Department to access a valve.

A few complaints were received regarding the parking queue at Popeyes so City staff, Deputy Despot and Traffic Advisor Guilmette took a recent field trip during lunch to view the site. The restaurant owners were open to making some changes and Code Enforcement sent them an email with the requested changes, although Director Dillon acknowledged that the City does not have the ability to force them to follow the recommendations.

At a recent meeting, City Council approved signage that was recommended by the PSTC on Palos Verdes Drive North west of Rolling Vista to limit parking from 2:00-6:00 a.m. The new signs should be installed soon if they have not already been put up.

The slurry seal project is wrapping up and will be formally closed out soon.

At the December 1, 2020 Council meeting the Regional Water Quality Control Board reported on the groundwater contamination investigation from Torrance into Lomita. There is an ongoing investigation to see if there is vapor intrusion in any residences in Lomita. Information will be sent out with the next water bills and is on the City's website.

OTHER MATTERS

8. COMMISSIONER ITEMS

Commissioner Ballard asked if there will be other work done on City streets once the slurry seal project is completed. Director Dillon stated that there is a project in design to address streets in zones C and F just north and south of Lomita Boulevard. More extensive repairs in those areas are needed and work should begin in late spring or early summer 2021.

Vice-Chair Carmody stated the former Costco in Torrance will soon be an Amazon warehouse and asked if any traffic studies had been done. Director Dillon stated that she would find out.

Commissioner Ballard stated that there will certainly be an increase in traffic at the intersection of Crenshaw and Lomita Boulevards, which is already horrendous.

Director Dillon stated that the Picerne project will also be starting work in that area soon.

9. COMMISSIONERS TO ATTEND CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 5, 2021 – this meeting has been cancelled

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 – Commissioner Sloane

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.



Linda E. Abbott, Deputy City Clerk