

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRAFFIC COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 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, Commissioner Sloane, Vice-Chair Ballard, and Chair Kurata. Also present were Public Works Director Dillon, Sheriff's Deputy Despot, and L.A. County Traffic Engineer Guilmette

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

Absent: None

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

a. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – March 17, 2021

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

MOTION CARRIED by the following vote:

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

SCHEDULED MATTERS

4. UPDATE OF CITY GOALS RELATED TO PUBLIC SAFETY & TRAFFIC

Public Works Director Dillon presented the update as outlined below:

Maintain and Enhance Public Safety Efforts, Traffic Enforcement and Community Involvement

Potential Measurements/Tactical Deliverables:

- Traffic Enforcement
 - Implement Supplemental Traffic Enforcement Program (in discussion with PSTC)
 - Complete updated Speed Survey
 - Explore traffic calming on streets where appropriate
 - Provide Quarterly updates to the PSTC regarding traffic collisions
 - Number of tickets issued relative to accidents recorded (Traffic Safety index)
- Safety
 - Finalize Safety Element
 - Plan for Deputy Turn Over (CORE Deputy)
 - Provide Quarterly Public Safety updates
 - Monthly crime data reported by the Sheriff department
 - Council to receive a quarterly update from the LASD Captain on crime and related enforcement matters in the city
 - Implement more extensive, yet reasonable, code enforcement measures in the city
- Community Involvement and Neighborhood Watch
 - Increase Social Media connection between City and LASD
 - Plan for and conduct a National Night Out event with Neighborhood Watch groups
 - Conduct Drug/Gang Free Walk
 - Track the number of active Neighborhood Watch groups in the community
 - Count of executed community outreach campaigns and programs accomplished each year

Commissioner Sloane asked that staff periodically update the Commission on the progress of each item.

Brief discussion was held relative to illegal fireworks in the City, traffic calming, and Lomita Sheriff's Station deputy turnover. The timing of the traffic lights at the intersection of Crenshaw and Lomita Boulevards was also briefly discussed. As the City of Torrance controls the timing, Director Dillon stated that she would reach out to them.

Commissioner Cozzolino made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Ballard, to receive and file the update.

MOTION CARRIED by the following vote:

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

ABSENT: None

5. QUARTERLY REPORT FOR TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

Administrative Analyst Contreras presented the quarterly report. She stated that she would include data from the previous three quarters, for comparison purposes, at the next update, to identify trends and hotspots, if any. She would also work on obtaining more detailed maps for that purpose.

Deputy Despot stated that an annual compilation provides a more accurate record of trends because there are seasonal and other factors at play.

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

MOTION CARRIED by the following vote:

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

6. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO CHANGE FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

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

Brief discussion was held relative to driving apps routing, and possible consideration of reclassification of two other streets in the City.

Jake Raden, a Lomita resident, expressed concerns regarding speeding on Pennsylvania Avenue and challenges he faces exiting his driveway due to speeding cars and cars parked right up to the edge of his driveway, impeding his view.

Vice-Chair Ballard suggested that Mr. Raden install a bubble mirror.

Brief discussion was held relative to whether more speed limit signs are needed on Pennsylvania Avenue, and increased Sheriff's Department monitoring of speeding traffic on that street.

Commissioner Cozzolino made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Ballard, to recommend to the City Council to change the functional classification of Pennsylvania Avenue from a collector street to a local street.

Commissioner Carmody asked staff to look into reclassification of other streets for discussion at a future meeting.

MOTION CARRIED by the following vote:

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

7. DISCUSSION OF NON-CONFORMING VEHICLES

Director Dillon presented the staff report as per the agenda material. Ticketing and towing of such vehicles parked for extended periods of time is the current practice. If visibility issues occur due to frequent parking of non-conforming vehicles in certain areas, red curbs have been extended or added.

Brief discussion was held relative to past consideration of a City ordinance requiring permits for such vehicles as a result of resident complaints of people living in vehicles or using them for storage.

Deputy Despot stated that the City's current practices are largely effective.

Commission consensus was to continue with current practices but to ask staff to evaluate as social conditions change, such as when pandemic-related rent/mortgage payment protections end. If adverse changes occur, staff is asked to return to the Commission with recommendations for discussion.

In response to a question from Vice-Chair Ballard, Director Dillon stated that a section of Palos Verdes Drive North, where signs were not recently installed, is a hotspot for parking of non-conforming vehicles. She added that Commission discussion will be agendized on that soon.

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

Deputy Despot reported on the following:

- Free catalytic converter etching event, Saturday, April 24, in the City Hall Parking lot
- Los Angeles County-sponsored Food Drive, Tuesday, April 27, in the City Hall parking lot
- Anti-Gang/Drug-Free Virtual Event, Friday, May 7 at 10:30 a.m.
- Attempted burglary at Federal Credit Union today

Traffic Engineer Guilmette arrived via Zoom at 7:11 p.m.

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

Director Dillon stated that a virtual Community Workshop regarding the Safety Element will be held on April 29.

10. UPDATE ON THE ANNUAL ANTI-GANG AND DRUG FREE WALK - Informational only, no staff report.

Deputy City Clerk Abbott gave the update. Appearances will be made by special guest speakers, Deputy Despot, and K-9 units. President Avenue Elementary will also be participating this year. The Commission will select the winners and honorable mentions, and the winners will read their essays during the event, which will take place virtually Friday, May 7 from 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

OTHER MATTERS

11. COMMISSIONER ITEMS

Vice-Chair Ballard stated that he had submitted a request to Director Dillon about adding right turn arrows to Lomita Boulevard, on the street, heading to Narbonne Avenue in both the north and south directions. She stated that the Technical Traffic Advisory Committee (TTAC) will review his request at their next meeting.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cozzolino, Director Dillon stated that she will take a look at the intersection of Walnut Avenue and 255th Street to see if a modification should be made to make the turning lane more clear.

Chair Kurata stated that the following items were among those discussed at last night's City Council meeting:

- City reopening plans, including Founders Day Fireworks Saturday, June 26
- National Night Out on August 3

Commissioner Carmody stated that the following items were among those discussed at the April 6 City Council meeting:

- Support for the Lomita Chamber of Commerce's Sunday Farmers Markets
- Off-leash dogs in the City
- Sheriff's Department cleared robbers from a house in the City
- \$50,000 allocation to the Sheriff's Department for additional traffic control efforts in the City
- Council is conducting hybrid (both virtual and in-person) meetings now

12. COMMISSIONERS TO ATTEND CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, May 4, 2021 – Commissioner Cozzolino

Tuesday, May 18, 2021 – Chair Kurata

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.



Linda E. Abbott
Deputy City Clerk/PSTC Secretary