

MINUTES OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

REGULAR MEETING – February 14, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Traffic Commission met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, Chair Murphy presiding.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners: Chair Murphy,
Vice Chair Mejia
D. Hill, R. Hill, Marchese, Patz, and Rojas

Present: Staff: Ron Noda, Development Services Director
Chris Kelley, City Engineer
B. Malatesta, Sergeant
Vandine Ouk, Department Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Marchese led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATION

Chair Murphy opened oral communications.

Chair Murphy closed oral communications.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

All Consent Calendar items may be acted upon by one motion unless a Traffic Commissioner requests separate action on a specific item.

A. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of January 10, 2024.

Motion/Second: Patz/Mejia

Carried 7/0: Traffic Commission approved the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2024, with noted revisions.

6. STAFF REPORTS

A. Neighborhood Permit Parking and Street Sweeping Survey

Development Services Director Noda summarized the staff report.

Commissioner Patz asked and received clarification from Development Services Director Noda that parking permits are valid for one calendar year and need to be renewed.

Commissioner R. Hill and Commissioner Marchese requested the survey results to be broken down by neighborhood.

During Public Comments, Los Alamitos Resident Peter Peltz discussed the following concerns in his neighborhood:

- Not enough parking due to the following reasons:
 - Commercial and oversized vehicles
 - Cars parked in the same spot over 72 hours
 - Vehicles with expired registration
 - Vehicles parked illegally in the alleyway
 - Catalytic converter theft
- Mr. Peltz also commented on coyotes wandering in the streets.
- Mr. Peltz suggested instituting permit parking for his neighborhood.

Commissioner R. Hill recommended vehicles park in the garage.

Commissioner D. Hill asked and received clarification from Mr. Peltz that each household has assigned parking other than their garage.

Sergeant Malatesta informed that personnel will not cite cars with registration expiration of less than two months and will not tow until expiration has surpassed six months. He suggested Mr. Peltz call the Police Department to report any vehicles whose registration had expired over six months or parked in the same spot for more than 72 hours so the issue could be addressed.

Development Services Director Noda clarified that when identifying vehicles that are parked in the same spot over 72 hours, the marking is done on the pavement around the vehicle's tire.

Commissioner R. Hill stated the primary reason permit parking is issued in the City is in response to high school students and parents parking in the area.

Mr. Peltz informed Commissioner R. Hill that he lives two blocks from Katella Avenue, so student parking is not an issue.

Commissioner Patz stated that if a garage is not used for its intended purpose, the City cannot address that problem.

Commissioner Patz explained the process for applying for permit parking in his neighborhood. He informed Mr. Peltz that it is decided by a majority vote from the residents in the area, and if Mr. Peltz wanted to start the process, the City could provide the details and the necessary number of resident signatures.

Commissioner Marchese stated she drives through the neighborhood and understands Mr. Peltz's concerns and there will need to be multiple solutions to address his concerns fully.

Mr. Peltz suggested driving down the alleyway at night to see that there were cars blocking the fire lane at night because no parking was available.

Vice Chair Mejia stated that he understands the parking issue because he lives in the area. He recommends focusing on illegal parking and expired registration to help with the issue.

Mr. Peltz inquired about the new daylighting law and wanted to know if it is applicable to all driveways and crosswalks.

Development Services Director Noda informed Mr. Peltz that the Development Services Department would review the law.

Chair Murphy stated that permit parking will not change the scenario if the regulation of the number of cars per household is not set.

Commissioner Patz clarified that the vehicle and address on the driver's license must match the property address.

Los Alamitos Resident Steve Hickox inquired about the issuance of permits to commercial vehicles.

Sergeant Malatesta clarified that if a vehicle is personally owned, insured, registered and the owner lives in the area and is parking the vehicle to go home, it is not illegal.

Development Services Director Noda informed Mr. Hickox that the City has strict parking rules, and if the residents in the household do not utilize their assigned parking area for parking, the City cannot address that.

Mr. Hickox suggested street marking for parking in the neighborhood.

Commissioner D. Hill asked and received clarification from Development Services Director Noda that the address on the driver's license and vehicle registration must match in order for a resident to apply for a permit.

Commissioner Marchese suggested separating the Apartment Row neighborhood issue separately.

Commissioner Patz asked and received clarification from Development Services Director Noda that if the City does not meet the tonnage for street sweeping, they can be fined or restricted in future state funds.

Vice Chair Mejia inquired about a rental car rental business in his neighborhood. Sergeant Malatesta stated that those vehicles can be considered commercial vehicles, and Code Enforcement can investigate.

Vice Chair Mejia inquired about retrieving data on how many street sweeping tickets are issued by area. Sergeant Malatesta stated he would advise.

Sergeant Malatesta confirmed a ticket would not be issued if the street sweeper had passed already.

Development Services Director Noda informed that anonymous reports to Code Enforcement can be submitted on the MyLosAl phone application.

Commissioner Rojas asked and received clarification from Development Services Director Noda that the municipal code requires the City to look at the permit and street sweeping program every five years.

Commissioner Rojas inquired if there is a municipal code for a vehicle to be parked in the garage. Development Services Director Noda stated that he will advise.

B. Traffic Commission Status Log

The Traffic Commission reviewed the status log and no additions or changes were made.

8. FROM THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Development Services Director Noda discussed the following:

- February City Council Meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 20th
- Race on the Base is scheduled on April 13th
- Additional red-light cameras will be installed at the intersection of Katella Avenue & Los Alamitos Boulevard and Katella Avenue & Bloomfield Street.
- Los Angeles County Sanitation District emergency work for sewage repairs to start in March.

Commissioner Patz asked for and received clarification from Development Services Director Noda that the red lights will be installed next week, and the cameras will be live at the end of March.

9. TRAFFIC COMMISSION INITIATED BUSINESS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second: R. Hill/Patz

Carried 7/0: The Traffic Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting until March 13, 2024.

The Traffic Commission adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

Bruce Murphy

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Bruce Murphy, Chair 7/19/2024

Attest:

DocuSigned by:

Vandine Ouk

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Vandine Ouk, Department Secretary 7/22/2024