

MINUTES
REGULAR TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
CITY OF SANTA FE SPRINGS
November 21, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Romo called the Traffic Commission meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Romo; Vice Chairperson Coca; Commissioners Collins; and Miranda

Absent: Commissioner Vallejo (Excused)

Also Present: Tom Lopez, Consultant Traffic Engineer; Vivian De Léon, Secretary; Sergeant Sam Reed, WPD Traffic Division; Michelle Norwood, Management Analyst, II; Dino Torres, Director of Police Services, Noe Negrete, Director of Public Works

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Chairperson Romo announced that this is the time when comments may be made by interested persons on matters not on the agenda having to do with City traffic related business. There being no one person to address the Commission, Oral Communications were closed at 6:01 PM.

PRESENTATION

4. Whittier Police Officer Traffic Enforcement Detail

Ms. Norwood provided a presentation of the Whittier Police Officer overtime detail six-month traffic enforcement pilot program that went in effect in June 2018. The main goal of the pilot program is to improve traffic safety and reduce traffic collisions for areas of concern identified by the community, the City Council, City Staff, and Santa Fe Springs collision data. The presentation provided a detail account of the following: Monthly Citation Activity (June 2018 to February 2019), Traffic Violations by Category (Disobeying Road Signage-491), Intersection Citations (Telegraph Road and Orr & Day Road-536), and Citations by Residency (9% Santa Fe Springs residents, 16% Whittier Residents, and 75% Other-Cities).

Commissioner Collins asked if there was a reduction in the number of collisions.

Ms. Norwood indicated that there was a 50% reduction in collisions for Telegraph Road/ Orr & Day Road; Florence Avenue/Orr and Day Road; and Florence Avenue/Pioneer Boulevard.

Vice Chairperson Coca wanted to know if the citations issued generate revenue for the City.

Mr. Torres indicated that while not received immediately, the City does receive approximately \$25 from a \$400 ticket issued. Currently, there is an average of 200 citations issued per month.

Mr. Negrete informed the Commissioners that he reads the traffic commission minutes and is aware of the traffic issues and concerns raised. He indicated that this is a subject that is included in the annual budget every year.

Sergeant Reed provided additional information regarding the training and the physical demands required of the motorcycle traffic enforcement officer in addition to the other 30 duties he is assigned.

The report provided is informational only and does not require any action from the Traffic Commissioners.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Traffic Bureau Report – October 2019

Sergeant Reed reviewed the Traffic Bureau Report for the month of October 2019. The report reflects sixty collisions (60), which is a decrease of nine (9) compared to sixty-nine (69) in October, 2018. There was one (1) Fatality, twenty (20) Injury and thirty-nine (39) Property Damage collisions for October, 2019. The Collisions to Date for October, 2019, reflect three (3) Fatal, one hundred ninety-five (195) Injuries, and three hundred-thirty six (336) Property Damage. There were two (2) collisions involving persons driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs; one (1) pedestrian and three (3) bicycle collisions. There were nineteen (19) hit-and-run collisions and ten (10) collisions involving damage to city property reported. The three high collision intersections for the month were Florence Avenue / Shoemaker Avenue-3 (Speed/Auto ROW); Telegraph Road/Laurel Avenue-2 (Auto ROW) and Alondra Boulevard/ Freeway Drive-1 (Improper Turning).

Vice Chairperson Coca inquired on having staff look into the cost of and options for changing the current 6,000 pound weight limit to the Municipal Code for industrial areas.

Sergeant Reed noted that current Municipal Code wording makes parking citation enforcement for long-term parking difficult on Smith Avenue. A vehicle can either move a few feet or be driven a mile without their knowledge, therefore, making ticket enforcement difficult for the officer.

Commissioner Miranda made a motion to receive and file the Traffic Bureau Report for October 2019; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins and was approved by the Traffic Commission by the following roll call vote:

Ayes:	Romo, Coca, Collins and Miranda
Noes:	None
Absent:	Vallejo

Abstain: None

6. Request for Parking Restriction on Bora Drive west of Marquardt Avenue

Mr. Lopez provided a brief presentation for the parking restriction request received from six business owners along Bora Drive west of Marquardt Avenue for vehicles over 6,000 pounds. The businesses are experiencing long-term parking on Bora Drive by large out-of-area trucks and semi-trucks with trailers. Employees and customers exiting the business parking lots on Bora Drive are unable to see on-coming traffic, and there is the issue of the unavailability of street parking. There is speculation that the trucks may belong to the residents of the adjacent residential areas located east of Marquardt Avenue, as the streets in this area, which are in the City of La Mirada, have a 3-Ton weight limit.

Commissioner Collins made a motion that the Traffic Commission recommend to the City Council to approve the request to install a "No Parking Vehicles Over 6,000 Pounds" parking restriction with a provision for the towing of vehicles that violate the restriction on the both sides of Bora Drive west of Marquardt Avenue be approved; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Miranda and was approved by the Traffic Commission by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Romo, Coca, Collins and Miranda
Noes: None
Absent: Vallejo
Abstain: None

7. Street Sweeping Parking Restriction on Florence Avenue west of the Hathaway Drive

Mr. Lopez provided a brief presentation for the request received from PS Business Park for the installation of a street sweeping restriction on the north side of Florence Avenue between Hathaway Drive and a point 400 feet west of Hathaway Drive on Tuesdays between the hours of 11:00 am and 4:00 pm. The business owners indicate that as a result of vehicles parking long-term as well as the storing of inoperable vehicles in this area, they restrict access to the street sweeper.

Commissioner Collins made a motion that the Commission recommend to the City Council to approve a street sweeping parking restriction on the north side of the Florence Avenue from Hathaway Drive to a point 400 feet westerly on Tuesdays between the hours of 11:00 am and 4:00 pm.; the motion was seconded by Chairperson Romo and was approved by the Traffic Commission by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Romo, Coca, Collins and Miranda
Noes: None
Absent: Vallejo
Abstain: None

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chairperson Coca made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted for October 17, 2019; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Miranda and was approved by the Traffic Commission by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Romo, Coca, Collins and Miranda
Noes: None
Absent: Vallejo
Abstain: None

9. COMMUNICATIONS

Commission

Commissioner Collins indicated that he needs to contact the City Council to express his concerns about overtime patrol.

Commissioner Miranda inquired to see if the City Council can expedite the process to amend the Municipal Code for the current 6,000 weight limit in the commercial zones.

Mr. Negrete indicated that we can begin this process at the staff level first.

Vice Chairperson Coca inquired on the status for the crosswalk lights at Pioneer Boulevard and Whiteland Street.

Mr. Negrete informed the Commissioners that as a result of only one company supplying the parts, there is a shipment delay.

Staff

Mr. Negrete provided updates for the following items:

- Painter Avenue Street Improvement project is complete.
- Santa Fe Springs Road Street Improvement is semi-complete. The Gas Company will make the necessary improvements to their gas line and the City will repave that section.
- Greenstone Avenue Street Improvements is 90% complete.
- Rivera Road Street Improvements project will begin in January 2020.
- Florence Avenue Widening will begin in 2020 to coincide with the Bridge construction.
- The Rosecrans/Marquardt Avenue Grade Separation project is a \$155 million project. City Staff met with the State Secretary of Transportation, David Kim, at the intersection for an overview of the project.

The City will relocate a water main beginning next year, and Edison will relocate nine power poles in June/July 2020. The actual grade separation is scheduled to begin construction in fall 2021.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Traffic Commission, Chairperson Romo adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m.


for NANCY ROMO, CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:


VIVIAN DE LÉON, SECRETARY