

**MINUTES
OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY OF COMMERCE TRAFFIC COMMISSION
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019, AT 6:30 P.M.
IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
5655 JILLSON STREET, COMMERCE, CA 90040**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Caldera at 6:38 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE &
INVOCATION**

Commissioner Betancourt led those present in the pledge of allegiance and gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Commission:

Chairperson Caldera, Vice-Chairperson J. Hernández, Commissioners Betancourt, R. Hernández and Maravilla

Staff:

Traffic Commission Liaison Seung Yang
E.L.A. Sheriff's Sergeant Abel Jiménez

Absent:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Johncito Peraza who resides at 5005 Astor Avenue addressed the Commission regarding the need to have a four-way STOP controlled intersection at Cowlin Avenue and Farrar Street. He raised concerns about traffic safety and sight distance issues at this intersection and provided exhibits to illustrate the need for STOP control. He mentioned the need for having the clear lines of sight at all legs of this intersection. He noted that obstruction of views by parked cars near the intersection can be mitigated by the installation of the four-way STOP controls.

**SCHEDULED
MATTERS**

Chairperson Caldera moved and Commissioner Betancourt seconded the motion to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting held on February 13, 2019. The motion carried by the following vote:

**1. APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

AYES: Commissioners Betancourt, R. Hernández, Maravilla, Vice-Chairperson J. Hernández, and Chairperson Caldera (5)

ABSENT: None (0)

**2. PROPOSED STOP
SIGN INSTALLATIONS
AND RED CURB
MARKINGS AT THE
INTERSECTION OF
COWLIN AVENUE &
FARRAR STREET**

Liaison Yang provided a background presentation regarding a request from resident Johncito Peraza for an all-way or four-way STOP controlled intersection at Cowlin Avenue and Farrar Street.

Liaison Yang explained to the Commission that the installation of STOP signs at any intersection is governed by the guidelines or "warrants" set forth in the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD).

Liaison Yang went through the warrants and explained that the primary warrants were not satisfied based on measured and collected traffic data, such as accident data, traffic volumes, etc.

However, based on secondary data, these warrants were met, primarily based on sight distance, traffic safety, and controlling conflicts.

Liaison Yang then responded to questions from the Commission and also resident Johncito Peraza addressed the Commission and answered questions.

Another issue that was brought up was the alternative solution of painting red curbs instead of installing STOP signs. Mr. Peraza dissented that the painting of red curbs takes away unnecessarily parking spaces and that the installation of the four-way STOP is a better alternative.

Commissioner Maravilla also noted that the two-way STOP is adequate and that the intersection next over is also STOP controlled. Therefore, actual safety and sight distance concerns can be better addressed by painting the red curbs, and this suggestion was concurred by Commissioner Betancourt.

After some discussion, Commissioner Maravilla moved, and Commissioner Betancourt seconded the motion to approve the painting and extension of the red curbs around the intersection of Cowlin Avenue and Farrar St in order to improve sight distance. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Betancourt, Maravilla, Vice-Chairperson J. Hernández, and Chairperson Caldera (4)

NOES: Commissioner R. Hernandez (1)

ABSENT: None (0)

Motion passed by a vote of **4 to 1**.

3. STAFF REPORT UPDATES

Liaison Yang reported that the Atlantic Boulevard Corridor Improvement Project will begin in late March 2019 and that notices to all the residents and businesses have been notified. The project is an effort to rehabilitate and improve the street in terms of both safety and aesthetics.

Liaison Yang also mentioned the upcoming Commerce Way improvement project and the first step of removing the railroad spur tracks have begun. Like the Atlantic Boulevard Corridor Improvement Project, the Commerce Way improvement project seeks to improve both safety around the area, as well as increase its visual appeal.

4. SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sergeant Jiménez provided for the Commission and staff the L.A. County Sheriff's Department E.L.A. Station "Traffic Analysis Report" for the month of February 2019, and the March 2019 statistics will be available in April 2019. He briefly explained the statistics that consisted of citations issued and also DUI arrests and enforcement. In addition, he mentioned ongoing investigations, such as the tragic accident at Atlantic Blvd. and Como St. He mentioned the newly appointed Captain for the East Los Angeles Sheriff's station, Capt. Ernie Chávez.

5. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Betancourt mentioned about the traffic and turning situation, especially left turns, at the ARCO gas station near the I-5 freeway and that collisions or near ones happen frequently. Liaison Yang responded that a new traffic signal will be installed at that location which should improve the turning situation for all drivers.

Vice-Chairperson J. Hernández reported that the tires of his neighbor's 2018 Honda Accord were stolen and that a report was filed with the Sheriff's Department. Another issue that the Vice-Chairperson brought to the Commission's attention is that vehicles are not being cited for those who violate the hours on street sweeping day. Liaison Yang responded that he will contact Public Safety Manager Ralph Vivero regarding this.

Commissioner R. Hernández brought up the issue concerning that vehicles are not being cited along Washington Blvd. heading east to the I-710. Liaison Yang responded that the hours of parking along Washington Blvd. were determined in order to allow greater travel of trucks during rush hour traffic. Parking violations that may have occurred will be brought to the attention to Public Safety. In addition, for the ARCO station near the I-710, he mentioned that he often travels the back way along Sheila St.

Commissioner Maravilla asked Staff to review and assess the STOP signs at Jillson Ave., Travers Ave., Gaspar Ave., and Bartmus Ave.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Caldera expressed a request to give a presentation to the Commission about a topic concerning traffic theory.

Commissioner R. Hernández moved and Chairperson Caldera seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Betancourt, R. Hernández, Maravilla, Vice-Chairperson J. Hernández, and Chairperson Caldera (5)

ABSENT: None (0)

Meeting Adjourned at 7:41 p.m.