

**MINUTES
OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY OF COMMERCE TRAFFIC COMMISSION
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 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 6:37 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 None.

**SCHEDULED
MATTERS**

**1. APPROVAL OF
MINUTES** Chairperson Caldera moved and Commissioner Maravilla
seconded the motion to approve the Minutes of the regular
meeting held on July 10, 2019. The motion carried by the
following vote:

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

ABSENT: None

**2. INSTALL
“ONCOMING TRAFFIC
DOES NOT STOP”
SIGNS ALONG THE
MEDIAN ISLAND AT
WASHINGTON
BOULEVARD & ARCO
GAS STATION / BANK
OF THE WEST
DRIVEWAY
LOCATIONS**

Liaison Yang addressed the Commission and provided a brief background on this item. He reported that the City has embarked on the installation and operation of a fully equipped traffic signal at Washington Boulevard (near Fidelia Avenue) in front of the entrances of the ARCO gas station and the Bank of the West driveway locations. But currently, this traffic signal is not yet installed, and traffic incidents (i.e., accidents) have occurred at the median left turn lanes, which are not traffic controlled by either signals or signs. Dedicated left-turn lane pockets were installed during the Washington Boulevard street widening and improvement project to allow for left turns, but during times of high traffic, collisions have occurred as vehicles are making left turns without realizing the presence of oncoming traffic. Therefore, in order to remedy the situation, Staff proposed that “ONCOMING TRAFFIC DOES NOT STOP” signs be installed along the median island at Washington Boulevard & ARCO gas station / Bank of the West driveway locations to adequately warn drivers of oncoming traffic.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Maravilla moved, and Vice-Chairperson J. Hernández seconded the motion to approve the request to install “ONCOMING TRAFFIC DOES NOT STOP” signs along the median island at Washington Boulevard & ARCO gas station / Bank of the West driveway locations. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

ABSENT: None

**3. STAFF REPORT
UPDATES**

Liaison Yang gave first the Public Safety staff update report in which flyers were given to the commissioners to be certified as a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) member, if they choose to do so. CERT certification provides training to administer basic care and assistance during times of emergencies. In addition, the commissioners were notified about registering with NIXLE, a mass notification platform, via texting, to alert those who are registered of any emergency alerts.

Moreover, the Neighborhood Watch meeting was announced to the commissioners, which is to be conducted on August 22, 2019 at Cowlin Avenue and Harbor Street. It is a forum and workshop for community members to voice their concerns about safety, traffic, and other matters within their community.

Liaison Yang then proceeded to give the Public Works staff report. He announced the retirement of former Public Works and Development Services Director, Maryam Babaki, who officially retired on August 21, 2019.

**3. STAFF REPORT
UPDATES (Continued)**

Furthermore, the Finance Director, Vilko Domic, will serve as the Acting Public Works and Development Services Director, in addition to his current role as the Finance Director.

Liaison Yang reminded the commission that there will be a commission re-organization to nominate and appoint a new chairperson and vice-chairperson. The commission also has the discretion to keep the current appointments as they are.

Liaison Yang distributed forms from the City Clerk's office regarding the re-affirmation of the oath of office for the commissioners. It was initially reported that the oath had to be taken again, but it was later corrected that taking the oath again was not necessary.

Liaison Yang reported that the City Council on August 5, 2019, approved the installation of a new phase of NO OVERNIGHT PARKING and NO DWELLING signs along more streets in the City. The initial installations have now "pushed" the RV vehicle owners to park along different streets that do not have these signs. As a matter of public safety, the Council decided to install this new batch of signs along these newly affected streets.

Also reported is the continual process of construction along Atlantic Boulevard. New medians have been installed and pavement construction have commenced. The projected date of completion is expected to be in November 2019.

Another construction project that was reported is the AltaMed six-story parking structure near the Mixmaster intersection. The facility is to accommodate more vehicles that are now supporting AltaMed (i.e., patients, workers, vendors, etc.). In addition to AltaMed, this new facility will help alleviate traffic during the Citadel's Black Friday sales event.

Lastly, Liaison Yang reported the progress of the new JFC Foods warehouse along Bandini Boulevard, adjacent to the I-5 freeway. The building façade has been constructed and what remains are the mechanical, plumbing, electrical, water, and sewer fixtures.

4. SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sergeant Jiménez distributed the latest monthly Traffic Analysis Report to the commissioners and to staff.

He reported that a new traffic enforcement motor deputy is being trained now, since the current one got promoted and is no longer doing traffic enforcement duties. Sgt. Jiménez is also actively seeking to procure another traffic enforcement deputy so that the City will have two deputies on patrol in Commerce.

4. SHERIFF'S REPORT (Continued)

He also reported that an arrest was made concerning the tragic accident late last year in 2018, which involved the traffic collision of a postal carrier that led to his passing. The District Attorney will now proceed as appropriate with regard to this case.

Sgt. Jiménez plans to do further training regarding "racers" who speed exhibit on City streets. The training will be for deputies and also for the CSO's in combating incidences and handling cases that involve street racing.

5. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Betancourt reported that she attended *National Night Out* and that it was a successful event. It was a time to share with residents' concerns and issues related to parking, homelessness, etc. She also commended the park concerts and that no major issues occurred.

Vice-Chairperson J. Hernández did not present a report.

Commissioner R. Hernández reported that residents at Washington Blvd. and a nearby street have complained about emanating paint fumes from a business. Also reported was the traffic signal at Washington Blvd. & Atlantic Blvd. in front of Starbucks was operating unusually. Staff responded that it will look into it. Lastly, Commissioner R. Hernández shared his experience in attending *National Night Out*. He stated that *National Night Out* was a "very nice event."

Commissioner Maravilla reported that *National Night Out* was a success. He enjoyed talking with the other residents regarding issues that are affecting the City. He also heartily recommended that others participate in this worthwhile event.

Chairperson Caldera mentioned about her participation in the General Plan Oversight Committee. She asked Liaison Yang what parameters are considered in terms of regulating parking. Liaison Yang responded that different policies govern the actions at different cities. He mentioned that "supply and demand" largely govern the availability of parking. Safety and public policy concerns are also other concerns that can dictate the availability of parking on city streets.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Caldera moved and Commissioner Betancourt 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

Meeting Adjourned at 7:19 p.m.