

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MARCH 2, 2016**

The meeting was held in Conference Room A at the Department of Public Works Headquarters.

1. Call to order

At 9:03 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Recited.

3. Roll Call

Present:                      Chairperson Thurston T. Reese  
                                    Commissioner Marvin Estey  
                                    Commissioner Rhett Price  
                                    Commissioner Robert A. Ringler  
                                    Commissioner Guillermo Villalobos (chairperson for meeting)  
                                    Commissioner John Watkins

Absent but excused: Vice Chair Greg Knapp

Also in attendance were the following:

Dean Lehman, Assistant Deputy Director; Mary Reyes, Senior Civil Engineer; Guillermo Gonzalez, Associate Civil Engineer; Irena Guilmette, Supervising Civil Engineering Assistant; Joshua Lugavere, Senior Civil Engineering Assistant

4. Approval of September 2, 2015, Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the September 2, 2015, Highway Safety Commission (HSC) meeting were approved.

5. Citizen Appeal of Denied Request by Public Works

Denial of red curb at 616 Ditman Street; Appellant: Ms. Cerise Varela

Mr. Joshua Lugavere presented the attached powerpoint presentation and summarized Public Works' recommendations as follows:

- It is recommended not to install a red curb adjacent to Ms. Varela's driveway.

- It is recommended Ms. Varela contact County Sheriff's Parking Enforcement Detail since her concerns can be addressed by their Department.

Commissioner Guillermo Villalobos asked staff to clarify what a quality of life issue was in regards to red curb at a driveway. Mr. Lugavere indicated that red curb at a private driveway is not related to traffic operations for the public roadway. Mr. Lugavere indicated a blue curb would also be an example of a quality of life issue. Ms. Mary Reyes clarified that the term quality of life is not a defined term. Mr. Dean Lehman stated that whether there is a red curb or not, a vehicle should not be blocking a driveway per Section 22500 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC). Commissioner Rhett Price indicated that, technically, a motorcycle could fit within the curb space between the driveways. Commissioner Villalobos stated that Ms. Varela needs to contact the Sheriff's Parking Enforcement Detail for further enforcement. Commissioner John Watkins asked where the start of the driveway was considered and Mr. Lugavere physically pointed out the area on the power point slide. Commissioner Price informed Ms. Varela that she could post a sign on her own fence indicating that motorists cannot block a driveway and that they were in violation of Section 22500 of the CVC and were subject to being towed. Ms. Varela stated that she would consult her family and that she would be reluctant to post the sign in fear of retaliation from the neighbors because they would believe she was the party responsible for having their vehicles towed. Commissioner Price asked Mr. Lehman if the County ever posts signs indicating that vehicles blocking driveways were subject to being towed and Mr. Lehman informed him the County does not post those type of signs. Mr. Lehman informed the HSC that red curb can be costly in the long run because it becomes a continual maintenance issue and sets precedents for other residents to request similar treatments.

Commissioner Villalobos suggested signs that stated No Parking from here to there designated with arrows. Mr. Lugavere stated that due to the short curb length, posting signs would create sign pollution. Mr. Lehman stated it was more expensive to post signs than install red curb. Commissioner Villalobos suggested removing the curb completely and connecting the two driveways. Mr. Lehman indicated this would not be a good idea due to the block wall between the driveways.

Ms. Varela spoke and showed the HSC photos of vehicles parked in the small curb space and blocking both her driveway and the neighbor's driveway. Ms. Varela stated her son has medical issues and in the event of an emergency, she would not be able to get out of her driveway if a vehicle was blocking her driveway. Ms. Varela stated that the Sheriff told her to not contact them if the vehicle was blocking the neighbor's driveway and to only call if a vehicle was blocking her driveway. Ms. Reyes stated that Public Works' staff has spoken to the assistant head of parking enforcement for the Sheriff's Parking Enforcement Detail and they stated they would enforce Section CVC 22500 in front of Ms. Varela's house. Commissioner Price stated that 15 years ago, parking violations were decriminalized and that parking violations do not go to a judge any longer. Ms. Varela indicated she has been dealing with this issue since 2008. Commissioner Watkins asked Public Works' staff if a higher priority could be given to this area. Commissioner Robert Ringler asked if red curb at driveways is a common request. Mr. Lugavere stated that 60 percent of the red curb requests in the East Los Angeles/City Terrace communities are related to vehicles blocking driveways. Mr. Lugavere stated that Paul Vasquez of the County Sheriff's Parking Enforcement Detail stated that they are hiring an additional 50 parking enforcement deputies, and they will be deployed throughout the County.

Commissioner Villalobos stated that he believes red curb is a deterrent to motorists. Mr. Lehman restated that 50 new deputies will be deployed to aid in parking enforcement. Mr. Lehman stated that people park in front of red curbs also. Commissioner Villalobos suggested a bulb-out be installed between the driveways. Mr. Lehman indicated that this would not be the appropriate location for a bulb-out and that a bulb-out serves other purposes. Commissioner Ringler reiterated that the issue was truly an enforcement issue.

After hearing the testimony of both staff and Ms. Varela, the HSC made the following motion:

1. Deny the appeal to install red curb in front of the property at 616 Ditman Street.
2. Public Works to draft a letter on behalf of the HSC to the Sheriff's Parking Enforcement Detail to request increased parking enforcement.

3. Commissioner Villalobos will follow up with the First Supervisorial District to discuss the parking issues in the East Los Angeles/City Terrace communities.
4. HSC to bring the item back on the May 4th Agenda.

The Motion passed by majority.

Chairman Reese: Aye  
Commissioner Estey: Aye  
Commissioner Price: Aye  
Commissioner Ringler: Aye  
Commissioner Villalobos: Abstain  
Commissioner Watkins: Aye

There was a recess at 10:55 a.m. The meeting resumed at 11:05 a.m.

6. Report on Business Other Than Appeals

Crossing Guard Update.

Ms. Irena Guilmette stated that during the 6-month period since the September 2, 2015, HSC meeting, Public Works completed eight studies for crossing guard services, four in which new crossing guard services was recommended and four in which crossing guard services was not recommended. Also, Public Works is still evaluating 13 additional locations for crossing guard services.

Ms. Guilmette stated the total number of locations with crossing guard service is 222. Please note that the total number of crossing guards employed by the Los Angeles County Office of Education for these 222 locations is 229, which is due to some locations being served by more than one crossing guard. Ms. Reyes also informed the HSC that every denial for a crossing guard has a letter sent to the school principal and the school district.

7. Public Comments on Any Matter Not on the Agenda

None.

8. Reports from Special Committees

None.

9. Special Orders

None.

10. Unfinished Business and General Notes

There was no unfinished business or general notes.

11. New Business

Commissioner Villalobos stated that he had received a letter from Arroyo & Associates Group, who was retained by the County of Los Angeles to evaluate whether certain Commissions should continue to exist. He reminded the Commissioners to keep an eye out for this letter or e-mail and to respond to their questions.

12. Date for Next Meeting Announced and Adjournment

The next meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m. and the next meeting was tentatively scheduled for April 6, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,



IRENA GUILMETTE  
Executive Officer  
Highway Safety Commission

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Attach.