

LAPD West Bureau Police Advisory Traffic Committee

A Partnership Between the Community and the LAPD

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MINUTES

West LA Community Police Station

Roll Call Room

September 8,, 2009

8:30am-10: 30am

Attendees

Robert A. Ringler, Chairman, President, Bel-Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
Lt. Tony Carranza, LAPD WLA Division
Officer Mike Toth, LAPD WTD
Sgt. Toni Bowie, LADOT WST
Jim Horwitz, CD 11
Ellen Isaacs, Assemblyman Mike Feuer's Office
Haeyoung Kim, Assemblyman Mike Feuer's Office
Jay Greenstein, CD 5
Evelyn Alexander, Residents of Beverly Glen
Debbie Nussbaum, WHPOA
Pauline Chan, LADOT
Ernest Cowell, Mandeville/USAR
Allyn Rifkin, RTPG
Barbara Broide, WSSM, WNC
Carol Spencer, Comstock Hills
Ernie Frankel, Mountaingate
Robert Davenport, USAF
Nickie Miner, Benedict Canyon Association, BABCNC
Stan Arcader, Cheviot Hills
Sheldon Sloan, Santa Monica Canyon
Chuck Kahn, BCC
Ken Chotiner, BCC
Patricia Bell Hearst
David Espinoza, Transcribing Secretary, Executive Director BABCNC

Meeting called to order by the Chair, Robert A. Ringler at 8:45 a.m.

Item I – Introductions of Guests

Chair Robert A. Ringler welcomed the committee members and reminded the meeting was being audio taped.

Item II – Approval of August 11th Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes. Motion made. Motion seconded. Discussion held. Correction to Item II, should state “Approval of July 14th Minutes”.

LAPD West Bureau Police Advisory Traffic Committee

A Partnership Between the Community and the LAPD

- Motion to approve as corrected. Motion made. Evelyn Alexander seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Item III – West Los Angeles Area Commanding Officer, Captain, Evangelyn Nathan

No report.

Item IV – West Los Angeles Area Patrol Captain, Capt. Ruben De La Torre, Sr.

No report.

Item V – West Traffic Division Commanding Officer, Capitan Nancy Lauer

No report.

Item VI – Police Department Reports

A. West L.A. Division

Lt. Carranza commented on his position and working with crime control. He stated the there are different watches, which include the Patrol Officers. Their primary goal is crime reduction. The Officers also respond to traffic locations provided by West Traffic Division that are determined dangerous. He stated the Officers recently assisted with the brush fire in the Valley.

West LA has the lowest number of violent crimes in Los Angeles. Recent crimes of a suspect stealing women's wedding rings were targeted has ceased for over 8 weeks,

He stated two incidents (one on Cashio St and the other on Oakhurst Dr) recently targeted elderly women. The suspect knocked on the door and presented himself under false pretenses to gain access inside the home. Once inside the suspect attacked the women by force to obtain property.

He advised every one of these types of crimes and encouraged to educate others in their community.

He stated the majority of property crime is burglary from motor vehicles, which accounts of half of all the crime in the division. GPS devices, laptops, iPods and other property are a major target.

Robert Davenport asked if what against the law to place a video camera at an apartment community for vehicle security. Lt. Carranza stated it is not against the law, however, he did not know if that was grounds for eviction.

Nickie Miner asked about the LAPD on the State government releasing prisoners due to budget concerns. Lt. Carranza stated LAPD will continue to prevent crime and enforce the law.

LAPD West Bureau Police Advisory Traffic Committee

A Partnership Between the Community and the LAPD

Chair Ringler stated representatives from the 42nd District were present to address that concern.

Chair Ringler asked how many traffic citations have been written in West LA. Lt. Carranza stated there have been 1051 citations.

Ernie Frankel praised Senior Officer Philip Embody and the job he is doing in his community. Lt. Carranza stated he would advise the Commanding Officer of his comments.

B. West Traffic Division – Sergeant Chris Kunz, et al

Officer Toth stated he conducted a complaint investigate at Cherokee Lane and El Roble Lane for vehicles not stopping at a stop sign. During the investigation, the officer does not issue citations to get an accurate study. The intersection will be classified as a complaint location.

He reported 6 serious traffic accidents for the month of August located at Motor and Pico; Sunset and Brooktree; Westwood and Santa Monica Blvd; Wilshire and Thayer; Venice and Charleston Way; Sunset and Monument. There was one fatality accident at Corning and Guthrie.

Jim Horwitz asked how closing of Coldwater in the Valley would impact the traffic area for the officers in the Canyon. Officer Toth stated Beverly Glen may have more traffic.

Sheldon Sloan asked what the next steps were once, now that the complaint investigation is completed. Officer Toth stated Sgt. Kunz receives the report, followed by a letter to the complainant with the outcome of the investigations. Officers in the area will follow-up at the location to issues citations.

Barbara Broide asked if there is a record of past complaint investigations. Officer Toth stated to contact Sgt. Kunz, 213-473-0215, for information.

Chair Ringler passed out information regarding California Vehicle Code 40802 regarding “speed traps”. The issue will be discussed at the next meeting, when Sgt. Price is available.

C. UCPD, University of California Police Department

No report.

D. California Highway Patrol (CHP)

No report.

Item VII – Department of Transportation Report (LADOT)

A. Community Programs Division – Pauline Chan

LAPD West Bureau Police Advisory Traffic Committee

A Partnership Between the Community and the LAPD

1. Community updates & reports

Barbara Broide asked how many staff members are left in the Western District Office. Pauline Chan stated there are 3 Engineers down from 5 last year.

Patricia Bell Hearst asked for an update on the traffic signal modification funded by special funds. Pauline stated the locations funded by the Recovery Act Money will be constructed by LADOT. She did not have information on the schedule for the construction. The other funding source, West LA Transportation Mitigation Program and Coastal Corridor Transportation Specific Plan, is being used to install left turn phasing, approved traffic signals and upgrades to bring current traffic signals up to standard. The 35 intersections that are being approved under the Coastal Corridor Transportation Specific Plan went out to bid and the lowest bid came in at \$1 million dollars. Construction will begin this month and completed April 2010.

Evelyn Alexander asked if there were monies for areas North of Sunset. Pauline stated there were no Specific Plans for that area.

Pauline stated the speed trap law has not changed. The law had been placed in the early 1900s and protected by the motoring advocates. The code states if law enforcement uses radar or an electronic device, there must be an object standard to set a speed limit on certain streets, listed on the Federal Aid Map. Any street considered a local street or school zone on the Federal Map are exempt from the code. There have been previous legislative attempts to make changes in the law, recently in Pasadena. The legislative measure failed in the Senate.

The speed trap law requires the use of radar, the speed limit has to be set in accordance at or below 85% below of the speed at which drivers are traveling.

Evelyn Alexander asked if curvature and/or grade of the road apply to circumstances the driver is may be unaware of. Pauline stated there a section in the Code, Section 22358.5, that states, "It is the intent of the Legislature that physical conditions such as width, curvature, grade and surface conditions, or any other condition readily apparent to a driver, in the absence of other factors, would not require special downward speed zoning, as the basic rule of Section 22350 is sufficient regulation as to such conditions."

Pauline stated there are only two absolute speeds, the maximum speed and school zones. All other limits are *prima facie*.

Barbara Broide asked how LADOT works with LAPD regarding speed limits. Pauline stated factors need to be quantified. The issue is before LADOT because of the change in Engineering Manual which now states the speed must be rounded to the nearest five mile increment. With this new guideline, speed limits may increase in certain areas.

Robert Davenport asked if there is procedure to have a recent four way stop changed back to a two way. Pauline stated the process is object and usually a safety measure. The conditions that originally warranted a stop would have to cease to exist to have the stop signs removed.

B. Parking Enforcement Division – Captain LaTonya Allen, WST, et al.

Stan Arcader commented on the lack of enforcement for the 2 hour parking on Cheviot and Motor. Sgt. Bowie stated she would report the information to their office.

Evelyn Alexander commented on homes on Delfern Drive that are posting no parking signs. Sgt. Bowie stated she would look into the matter.

Barbara Broide asked if unhitched trailers are enforcement. Sgt. Bowie stated when reported, the trailers are issued a citation or towed if restricted. To report the unhitched trailers, contact 213-485-4184.

Chair Ringler asked about the policy for advertising trailer hitches. Sgt. Bowie stated she would send him information on their policy.

Ernest Cowell commented on overnight parking in his area. Sgt. Bowie advised to contact their office to report if in a no over parking area.

Item VIII – Mayors Office Report – West District Officer Jennifer Badger

No report.

Item IX – Council District Reports

A. Council District 11 – Jim Horwitz

Jim Horwitz commented on an individual on Via Dolce, who is parking cars for sale along the street and causing an over flow due to the no parking restrictions. Restricting parking overnight would be a problem for the rest of the area and asked if there was anything that can be done. Pauline stated she the situation was difficult to address since over night and other restrictions would be a course of action, but not wanted. She will get back to Jim with any information that would be useful.

Jim asked if there was a law that stated if there are no sidewalks, that Code 225F does not apply. Residents are removing sidewalks to avoid the code violation. Jay Greenstein suggested a meeting with street services to discuss the situation.

B. Council District 5 – Jay Greenstein

Jay Greenstein commented on the 405 HOV Lane Project. He will attend a meeting with CD 5 & 11, Metro and CalTrans to discuss issues related to the project. The project is scheduled to be completed by 2012. Outreach for the project to the community is vital and will be followed by the Council Offices.

Debbie Nussbaum commented on information being received regarding construction notices and misinformation being sent out. Jay stated to report the information to Olga Arroyo, Community Relations contact for the I-405 Sepulveda Pass Widening Project.

LAPD West Bureau Police Advisory Traffic Committee

A Partnership Between the Community and the LAPD

Barbara Broide suggested a Citizens Advisory Committee be created. Jay stated Olga should be contacted to discuss the possibility of a committee.

Barbara Broide commented on a EXPO meeting with LADOT and the Councilman's Office. LADTO stated the project is fine, though there has been no community discussion. She asked how the project could be move forward as is, when the final EIR has not complete. Jay stated there are some concerns from the Council Office and will continue to update on any new information.

Jay stated the Councilman is now on the Transportation Committee and will work with him on major issues.

Item X – Office of State Assemblymember Mike Feuer, 42nd District – Ellen Isaacs & Haeyoung Kim

Ellen Isaacs introduced herself and Haeyoung Kim. She discussed the passage of AB2321 that allowed Metro to place the half-cent measure on ballot last November. The measure passed and will raise over \$40 billion dollars over the next 30 years for transportation projects in the community.

She stated the State Legislative has removed \$4 billion dollars from transportation funding to help balance the general fund over the past 10 years. The California Transit Association filed a lawsuit, which resulted that the removal of funding was illegal. The case is being appealed to the Supreme Court.

She commented on the Assemblymember's availability to speak to communities during the next several months. If anyone is interested, contact their office.

She stated the prisoners that will be release due to budget constraints, will be elderly, disabled and prisoners with less than a year to serve for a non-violent crime.

Barbara Broide asked if their office would work with LADOT regarding legislature to allow for more discretion for the setting of speed limits. Ellen stated she would discuss the issue with LADOT.

Chair Ringler commented on automated speed radar enforcement in residential area and school zones. He and asked for the Assemblyman's support to assist with change of the 40802 State Law regarding the issue.

Item XI – Metropolitan Transportation Authority Report (MTA) – Jody Litvak

No report.

Item XII– CALTRANS – Joe Brazil/ Otis Jackson

LAPD West Bureau Police Advisory Traffic Committee

A Partnership Between the Community and the LAPD

B. Update on local Projects

No report.

Item XIII – FAST – Hilary Norton

No report.

Item XIV – Community Traffic Reports

Community Traffic Reports:

A. Benedict Canyon – Nickie Miner, Joanna Brody

No report.

B. Bel-Air Association – Paulette DuBey

No report.

C. Bel-Air Crest – Irene Sandler

No report.

D. Beverly Glen

No report

E. Comstock Hills Homeowners Association – Carol Spencer

No report.

F. Pacific Palisades – Richard Cohen

No report.

G. Brentwood - Raymond Klein, Brentwood Homeowners Association

No report

H. Brentwood Park – Larry and Anita Miller

No report

I. Crestview Neighborhood Association – Bill Clarkson

No report.

J. Glenridge, HOA -- Dan Weingart

No report

K. Holmby Hills

No report

L. Holmby/Westwood -- Paul Verdon

No report

M. Mountaingate – Ernie Frankel

No report.

N. Roscomare – Steve Twining

No report.

O. Santa Monica Canyon/BOCA – Leslie Hope

No report

P. UCLA Government and Community Relations – Vincent Wong

No report

Q. Westwood Hills – Debbie Nussbaum

No report

R. Westwood Homeowners Association – Renee Korn

LAPD West Bureau Police Advisory Traffic Committee

A Partnership Between the Community and the LAPD

No report

S. Westwood South – Barbara Broide

No report.

T. Wilshire Corridor – Marilyn Lewis

No report.

Item XV – Neighborhood/Community Council and other City’s Reports

A. Bel-Air/Beverly Crest – Steve Twining & Robert A. Ringler

No report.

B. Brentwood Community Council – Chuck Kahn

No report

C. Pacific Palisades Community Council – Patti Post

No report.

D. South Robertson Neighborhood Council – Jon Liberman

No report

E. Westside Neighborhood Council – Annette Mercer/Barbara Broide

No report.

F. WLA Neighborhood Council

No report

Item XVI – Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 13 at 8:30 am, WLA Community Police Station.

Motion to end the meeting. Motion made. Motion seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.