MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION COMMISSION MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2008, 4:00 P.M. City Council Chamber, City Hall

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: J. Michael Cochran

Edmundo Duvignau

Azim Ghafoori (arrived at 4:15 p.m.)

Rob Hallstrom Stephen Hall Lesley Mahaffey

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Johnnie Simmons

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Miller, City Traffic Engineer

Dave Langstaff, Traffic Engineering Analyst Lt. Kevin Hamilton, Fullerton Police Department

Teri Carlson, Engineering Aide III

Janelle Pasillas, Administrative Assistant

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cochran at 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one from the public wished to speak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION made by Vice Chair Duvignau, SECONDED by Commissioner Cochran, and CARRIED unanimously, that the Minutes of the October 6, 2008 meeting be APPROVED as written.

NEW BUSINESS

<u>Disabled Person's Parking – 1343 E. Union Avenue</u>

Mark Miller, City Traffic Engineer, explained the request. Staff had reviewed the site and all conditions had been met for this request.

MOTION made by Commissioner Cochran, SECONDED by Commissioner Mahaffey, and CARRIED unanimously that said request be recommended to City Council for approval.

Disabled Person's Parking – 402 N. Highland Avenue

Mr. Miller explained the request. The property address was on Highland Avenue, but the blue curb would be on Whiting Avenue. Staff had reviewed the site and all conditions had been met for this request.

MOTION made by Vice Chair Duvignau, SECONDED by Commissioner Mahaffey, and CARRIED unanimously that said request be recommended to City Council for approval.

Disabled Person's Parking – 1253 Paseo Dorado

Mr. Miller explained the request. Staff had reviewed the site and all conditions had been met for this request.

Commissioner Hallstrom asked if the blue curb was for an indefinite period, and Mr. Miller responded that the approval was for the specific property owner. Typically, when a property was sold, the new owner would request removal of the blue curb.

Vice Chair Duvignau asked if the property owner was aware that it was a public handicapped space, and Mr. Miller responded affirmatively

MOTION made by Vice Chair Duvignau, SECONDED by Commissioner Mahaffey, and CARRIED unanimously that said request be recommended to City Council for approval.

Rescind Overnight Parking - Whiting Avenue

Mr. Miller noted a correction in the staff report; the correct area was Whiting Avenue, between Highland Avenue and Ford Avenue.

Mr. Miller explained the neighboring areas that were already exempt and indicated that 58% of the property owners had signed the petition. Based on staff's observation, the majority of the properties on Whiting Avenue were deficient in parking, although many properties had long driveways, driveways with boats and vehicles stored, and dilapidated garages. It was staff's opinion that changes could be made to many of the properties to allow for parking, or the property owner could apply for a hardship permit. Lt. Hamilton explained that the hardship permits were issued by the Police Department, and the application fee was \$250.00 per vehicle.

Mr. Miller commented that the property owner at 331 Whiting Avenue had sent an email opposing the exemption, and the property owner at 308 Whiting Avenue was in favor of the exemption. There had also been one property owner opposed that did not give their name or address.

Vice Chair Duvignau asked the requirements for a hardship permit. Lt. Hamilton explained they would meet with the property owner to see if there were other alternatives. They would verify that existing parking was utilized, that the garage was not being utilized for storage, and that there were not an exorbitant number of cars per driver in the household.

Public Comment

Michael Francis, 312 Whiting Avenue, had put the petition together and made the request. He was concerned with the number of restrictions and the cost of a hardship permit. He did not understand the purpose of the law; this was a preservation area with small homes, and many owners needed to use their garage for storage. There was a true hardship on this street, and alley parking was difficult. Several homes did not have front driveways. Neighboring streets had a similar situation and they had been exempted. He currently did not have a garage due to a construction project, and would have to park in a dirt area until his project was complete.

Marlene Lewis, 329 Whiting Avenue, explained the difficult parking situation at her home. She had a studio apartment that she tried to rent, but there was not enough parking available.

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Neighboring streets had larger driveways, but they had the exemption. Chair Hall asked Ms. Lewis if she had parking in her driveway and if the garage was being used for parking, and Ms. Lewis responded that the driveway had a van and boat that were being stored, and the garage was full of books.

Eden Ferrer, 331 Whiting Avenue, clarified that Ms. Lewis had a number of vehicles stored on her property, along with numerous trucks that are parked throughout the neighborhood. If this restriction were removed the street would be lined with these trucks. Her parents actually lived at this property, and had submitted a letter to the Commission.

Maria Ponce, 347 Whiting Avenue, commented that she needed to park on the street. She had a rental property on her lot, and people from nearby apartments took the parking on Ford Avenue. Chair Hall explained that the exemption would allow other people to park in front of her home, and that the exemption would probably make the situation worse.

Bill McKinley, 306 Whiting Avenue, stated his garage was too small for his car and truck, but he stored his motorcycles in the garage. He had a difficult time when he had guests, and Chair Hall recommended he obtain a temporary "No Cite" permit from the Police Department when he had guests.

Public hearing closed.

Commissioner Hallstrom asked why, when the majority of property owners were in favor of this request, and the surrounding streets had the exemption, staff was recommending against it. Mr. Miller explained that Council had directed staff to ensure that available parking was being utilized for parking, not storage, prior to approving any exemptions.

Vice Chair Duvignau sympathized with the property owners difficulties, but would deny the request. Approval would open parking to people utilizing the downtown, which may have a negative impact on the properties.

Chair Cochran commented on Council's outlook at the requirements for the restrictions. The overnight parking exemption had gone to the voters two times, and was approved both times. He would vote to deny the request.

Mr. Miller commented that a 30-day exemption would be available for Mr. Francis during construction. Lt. Hamilton explained the process for obtaining the exemption

MOTION made by Commissioner Cochran, SECONDED by Vice Chair Duvignau, and CARRIED unanimously that said request be denied.

No Stopping Anytime – Orangethorpe Avenue

Mr. Miller explained that this segment was one of two segments of Orangethorpe Avenue within the City boundaries that still had parking. Staff wanted to implement the parking restriction prior to any new owner coming in, so that they would be aware of the restriction. Orangethorpe Avenue is designated to be a six lane road with bike lanes, and this parking restriction is needed to make this change.

Public hearing opened.

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Edward Brown, Fox Service Center, 1028 W. Orangethorpe Avenue, explained the limited parking available at the business. The back lot behind them did not belong to them; therefore they were not able to use this lot. There was no parking in the alleys, and the only parking available to their customers was on Orangethorpe Avenue. Emergency vehicles occasionally used their driveway to access the back lot, and if they parked there it would limit this access. On average, they utilized eight to ten spaces, but the number and length of time varied. On street sweeper days the parking on Orangethorpe Avenue was filled. They did park vehicles in their alley at night, but had to keep the area open during business hours.

Mr. Miller was sympathetic to Mr. Brown's issues, but explained it would not serve the purpose to allow several spaces to remain on Orangethorpe Avenue.

Chair Hall asked if it was possible to park in the back lot, and Mr. Brown said it depended on the manager of American Tires. He had previously been given a key, but people from the neighboring apartments took advantage of the lot if it was unlocked.

Mr. Miller suggested Mr. Brown determine who the property owner of the nearby vacant lot was and try to arrange a parking agreement. On street parking was not meant to meet property owner's deficiencies. Lt. Hamilton suggested contacting the property owners across the street at the new shopping center about possibly using some of their lot.

Mr. Miller commented that this was not an immediate need, but it needed to go before Council to get it approved, so that any new property owner would know there was no parking. It would probably be some time before the area was painted, and staff would include a request to delay implementation in the Council's staff report.

MOTION made by Commissioner Cochran, SECONDED by Commissioner Mahaffey, and CARRIED unanimously that said request be recommended to City Council for approval.

No Stopping – Student Loading/Unloading – Ladera Vista Jr. High School

Mr. Miller commented that this item was brought to the TC&C to get it on the books; the signs had already been changed.

MOTION made by Commissioner Cochran, SECONDED by Vice Chair Duvignau, and CARRIED unanimously that said request be recommended to City Council for approval.

COUNCIL REVIEW

City Traffic Engineer Miller gave an update on recent traffic-related Council actions.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Lt. Hamilton commented on the fatal traffic accident on Rosecrans Avenue and Emery Ranch Road earlier in the day. Witnesses claim they heard a vehicle skidding and then the collision of the vehicle and the light standard and signal boxes, although there were no skid marks. There was only one victim.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Transportation and Circulation Commission adjourned at 5:05 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting of January 5, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.