

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

February 10, 2009

8:15am-10:30am

Attendees

Robert A. Ringler, Chairman, President, Bel-Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
Officer Ward, WLA LAPD
Officer Perez, WTD CTSU
Officer Toth, WTD CTSU
Officer Smythe, WTD CTSU
Officer James Craig, WLA LAPD
Officer Craig Lally, WLA LAPD
Sgt. Podesta, LAPD
Lt. Sylvia Vasquez, LADOT WST
Capt. LaTonya Allen, LADOT WST
Lt. David McGill, WLA Detective
Jennifer Badger, Mayor's Office
Jim Horwitz, CD 11
Jay Greenstein, CD 5
Jody Litvak, METRO
Susan Strick, CA WLA
Debbie Nussbaum, WHPOA
Paul Meshkin, LADOT
Pauline Chan, LADOT
Stan Arcader, Cheviot Hills HOA, CPAB
Annette Mercer, WNC
Walter Kaufman, WWHO
Chuck Kahn, BCC
Lore Stone
Allyn Rifkin, RTPG
Carol Spencer, Comstock Hills
Richard Cohen, Pacific Palisades Community Council
Nickie Miner, Benedict Canyon Association, Bel-Air Beverly Crest NC
Ernie Frankel, Mountaingate
Jon Liberman, SORONC
David Espinoza, Transcribing Secretary, Executive Director BABCNC

Meeting called to order by the Chair, Robert A. Ringler at 8:40a.m.

Item I – Introductions of Guests

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Chair Robert A. Ringler welcomed the committee members and commented that the meeting was being audio taped. He stated that the minutes from the November 11, 2008 had been approved at the December breakfast.

Chair Ringler asked for new members to introduce themselves and welcomed the new Commanding Officer James Craig of West LAPD.

Detective David McGill introduced himself.

Item II – West Los Angeles Area Commanding Officer

No report.

Item III – West Traffic Division Commanding Officer Captain Nancy Lauer

Captain Lauer introduced Captain James Craig as the new Commanding Officer for the West LA Area.

She updated on the traffic accidents decreasing last year by 6% overall with a 22% reduction in serious injury accidents, 23% reduction in accidents involving death, 11 % reduction in hit and runs and 6% reduction in pedestrian collisions.

She commented on concerns with fatal collisions and D.U.I. incidents. DUI task force officers have been increased in West LA to 22 officers. She stated drunk drivers and speeding will be emphasized for the New Year.

She reported on a fatal accident January 31 on Palisades Drive, involving a teenager speeding. There will be a meeting Wednesday night involving the community, LADOT and LAPD. She stated that parental intervention, close supervision and consequences for the young adults is needed.

Annette Mercer asked if accidents are noted near digital billboards. Captain Lauer stated that is not something that is tracked.

Stan Arcader asked to work with the Captain's office on a time schedule and log of the placement locations for the speed trailer owned by Cheviot Hills. Captain Lauer stated Officer Smyth could assist with the request.

Chuck Kahn stated there have been complaints of speeding on Barrington and Saltair during rush hours and asked for enforcement in those areas. Captain Lauer stated resources could be placed in those areas and times.

Chair Ringler stated complaints could be given to the Community Traffic Service Unit at 213-473-0215.

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Richard Cohen asked if a volunteer training program for use of a speed radar was still in place. Chair Ringler stated the need for community involvement for the program. Captain Lauer stated she would support a group of community leaders (minimum of 2) to commit for six months and provide a schedule for the training.

Richard Cohen asked if the law permitted civilians to collect license plate information. Captain Lauer stated it does permit civilians to records the information and pass it along to LAPD.

Susan Strict commented on the need for funding for teenagers to take Morgue Tours. She stated the tour could be part of the punishment for teenagers speeding. Chair Ringler stated the funding request could be sent to the Neighborhood Councils in the area or through the schools in the areas.

Stan Arcader asked if training for the laser could be an option rather than the speed gun. Sgt. Podesta stated the purchase of a laser gun could be dedicated for the program. He also stated reserve officers could be part of the program.

Item IV –Department of Transportation Report (LADOT)

A. Community Programs Division – Pauline Chan

1. Community updates & reports

Pauline updated on a MOU between LADOT and Neighborhood Councils (NC) that were handed out to the committee. Pauline stated Carolyn Jackson is the NC liaison from DOT and the program was started after several USC forums that tracked conversations between City departments and NCs, in an effort to improve communication and outreach. LADOT participated in one of the forums with four NCs and discussed expectations and needs from the NCs and what resources LADOT had to meet those needs. The result was a draft individual MOUs that were not signed, but a general MOU was created for all NCs. LADOT is working with DONE to establish the general MOU. Improvements have been made including the creation of the liaison; a link on the LADOT's website for NCs, an established e-mail address, dotnc@lacity.org, for NC's to have direct communication to the liaison.

Chair Ringler stated the comments are due by February 15 to Carolyn Jackson and urged committee members and everyone to provide comments on the MOU.

Pauline stated Carolyn and the LADOT General Manager have met with different communities and announced a meeting with the West Harbor South Region on Saturday, February 14 to discuss the MOU.

Carol Spencer asked that Neighborhood Associations be included in the communication efforts and not just the Neighborhood Councils.

Jon Liberman commented that the MOU only provides one contact and response with LADOT and the ability to have a question revisited a second or third time is necessary. Pauline stated

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that reviews can be requested after an initial LADOT finding. She stated that part of the challenge with working with NCs was due to the lack of resources established by the Charter.

Chair Ringler stated the NCs were created as a resource and to encourage participate within the community.

Pauline commented on the City's budget and the LADOT's shortfalls in staffing due to the budget. The speed hump program will be impacted because of the lack of funding from the gas tax. Speed hump studies and approvals of construction will continue, but be placed on a waiting list. The signal crew is experiencing a 50% vacancy rate, so some of the left turn arrow project designated in Council districts 5 and 11 will be placed on hold.

She updated on the following construction feedback signs that will be placed near schools: Sunset – east of Udine Way; Sunset – east of Groverton Place; Olympic – west of Prosser Ave; Olympic – east of Sterns Dr; Palisades Drive – north of Sunset; Sepulveda – north of 77th St; Sepulveda – south of 78th St; Temescal Canyon – north and south of Bowdoin St. A diagonal crosswalk will be placed on Broxten Ave and Weyburn and one at Pacific and Windward Ave. A new signal was turned on at Mentone, National and Rose and one at Gayley, between Wayburn and Kinross. A signal at Westwood and Wilkins will be turned on soon and a new signal at Centinela and Nebraska Ave.

She stated the Sepulveda Blvd widening project will begin construction on April 2009, with completion on August 2010.

She stated the LADOT ADSAC center that monitors signals began its continuous seven day week operation in August 2008 with hours from M-F from 6 am to 10 pm and weekends from noon to 10 pm.

B. Parking Enforcement Division

Captain Allen briefed on the "One Officer One Beat" program. The program will assign officers to a specific area to be enforced. The program's goal is provide a better service to the community as a whole and reduce response time.

Annette Mercer asked the size of the area that would be covered by the officer. Captain Allen said the size would vary depending on the type of enforcement and area. 122 officers are assigned to the Western Parking Office, and each would cover about 20 blocks or so to be effective.

Richard Cohen stated there was concern with expired meters and delivery trucks parking in the red zones in the area and asked what officers are instructed regarding those trucks. Captain Allen stated officers are not instructed to wait for meters to expire, but are responsible for patrolling and enforcing the parking regulations. She stated that if the operator is in the vehicle, they given them the opportunity to move the vehicle. She stated the officers ask delivery truck to

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park legally and use discretion with each incident. She can be reached at Latonya.allen@lacity.org 310-312-3504 or the general number at 310-312-3500.

Walter Kaufman asked when enforcement of time restrictions begins. Captain Allen stated the posted time does have a grace period of about five minutes before enforcement begins.

Debbie Nussbaum commented on a delivery trucks on Sepulveda at Cashmere that are parked in the red zones and block traffic views and asked if the trucks could park in the alley. Captain Allen stated if the trucks have commercial plates and do not block an emergency vehicle from entering the alley, they are allowed to park. She stated the One Beat One Officer program could help communicate this information to the drivers.

Jon Liberman asked how the program will communicate to the communities which officer will be responsible for the area. Captain Allen stated the assignments will be rotated and the names will not be released.

Jim Horwitz commented on the support of the program, but cautioned that the officer should not become too friendly with the community and enforce the law to everyone. Captain Allen stated the rotation of the officers and Supervisors will be patrol the location to help with that concern.

Stan Arcader asked if there was night patrol to enforce restrictions. Captain Allen stated there is 24 hour enforcement and if provided information, she would notify the Night Lieutenant and AM Supervisor.

Item V – Council District Reports

Jennifer Badger introduced herself as a new West Representative for the Mayor and provided her e-mail address, Jennifer.badger@lacity.org.

A. Council District 11 – Jim Horwitz

Jim announced a meeting Wednesday night regarding the speeding on Palisades Drive. He stated there have been three fatality accidents on the street in the past 15 months.

He stated the “No Right Turn On Red” on Barrington and Sunset is on hold after being tested by LADOT and creating back up traffic.

B. Council District 5 – Jay Greenstein and Evan Gordon

Jay stated the Overland Gateway Committee is working on pedestrian safety issues pertaining to an exit off the 10 West freeway and cars turning right onto Overland. They are working with CALTrans to make changes to signage and improve visibility at the intersection.

He stated Officer Perez is assisting with community concerns pedestrians crossing Westwood Blvd at Missouri Ave.

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Stan Arcader asked the Century City NTMP work that was delayed. Jay stated the Council office assisted with funds, but there have been delays on the project. Pauline stated part of the delay was the need for water meters to be placed by DWP, but have BOE has stated the project will be completed soon.

Nickie Miner stated the need of paving on Westwood east near Missouri. Jay stated the Westwood South HOA has identified portions of Missouri Ave as a priority and their office will help impact the streets for service through the next fiscal year.

Annette Mercer thanked Jay for assisting with the repairs to Esther and Cushdon in the Westwood Gardens area. She asked if there was a schedule update for the DWP near National, Sepulveda and the 405. Jay stated DWP has almost finished the trenching work on National, though another round of work is scheduled. The 405 HOV Lane project is moving forward, but the scheduled has been move several times.

Walter Kaufman commented on poor conditions of the road on Ohio between Wellworth and the Mormon temple. Jay stated to contact Evan Gordon is their office to follow up on the issue.

Chair Ringler commented on the sign going north bound on Hillgard from Sunset stating the work would be completed by October 31; however, there is still construction. Jay stated to contact Evan Gordon.

C. Council District 10 – Elizabeth Carlin

No report.

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

Jody updated on Measure R going into effect on July 1. The funds of the initial year two may be low because of the State budget, but 15% will be returned to cities and Los Angeles will see a large portion. The Board of Directors formed a Measure R committee of Board Members to oversee the implementation of the measure.

She stated the Board of Directors certified the final EIR for the Canoga Orange Line Extension in January. They also authorized to move forward into formal full and environment review, EIR and EIS, for three projects.

The East Side Phase II – East side extension will open in several months from Union Station to East LA. The Regional Connector and downtown and the West Side Extension will be go to the public in late March or April with formal scooping.

Many projects are on hold due to the State's budget. The stimulus bill in Washington, if passed, may assist with transportation in cities.

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She stated the Service Sector Governance Council, which decides bus service changes, will hold a meeting tomorrow evening as part of its two a year public hearing to consider service changes.

There is a draft EIR for EXPO with public hearings beginning next week and she encourage everyone to visit the website for more information and to provide input. EXPO will be funded with out having to go through the Federal funding process.

Chuck Kahn asked what assurance can be given that the money given to the City for Measure R will go to transportation. Jody stated that the money must be for transportation, but not limited for transit.

Item VII – CALTRANS – Joe Brazil/ Otis Jackson

A. Update on local Projects

Community Traffic Reports:

A. Benedict Canyon – Nickie Miner, Joanna Brody

Nickie Miner commented on constant speeding in Benedict Canyon and the need for enforcement.

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 – Patti Post & Paul Satenstein

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

Ernie asked that the meetings start on time or be moved to 8:30 am.

Chair Ringler stated he would move the meeting start time 8:30 am.

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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

No report

S. Westwood South – Barbara Broide

No report.

T. Wilshire Corridor – Marilyn Lewis

No Report

Item VIII – 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

Annette Mercer stated Mike Feuer introduced Assembly Bill 109 and the City Traffic Committee will be hearing the bill tomorrow. She asked everyone to contact their Councilmember with comments on the bill.

The Westside Neighborhood Council is proposing a resolution before their Council on Thursday urging support for Assemble Bill 109 enacting a moratorium on placement of any new digital billboard and digital advertng, displace visible on State, County or City Highway until January 1, 2012.

F. WLA Neighborhood Council

No Report

Item IX – Police Department Reports

A. West L.A. Division –Sgt. Craig Lally and Officer Kirk Madison

Officer Ward stated his work on Sunset Blvd, Pacific Coast HWY, Palisades Drive, Temescal Canyon, Roscoe, Olympic, Pico Blvd and citations in these areas.

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

Officer Perez stated the recent complaints on traffic on Westwood and Missouri and his enforcement in the area.

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He reported on two new committees that have formed, the Traffic Enforcement and Safety and the Traffic Education and Outreach Committee

Stan Arcader commented on the constant rotation of Captains in the department.

C. UCPD, University of California Police Department

No report.

D. California Highway Patrol (CHP)

No report.

Item X – Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 8:15 am, WLA Community Police Station.

Motion to end the meeting. Motion seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:20 am.