

# LAPD West Bureau Police Advisory Traffic Committee

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*A Partnership Between the Community and the LAPD*

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## TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MINUTES

West LA Community Police Station

Roll Call Room

August 11, 2009

8:30am-10: 30am

### Attendees

Robert A. Ringler, Chairman, President, Bel-Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council  
Captain Ruben De La Torre, LAPD WLA Patrol  
Captain Nancy Lauer, LAPD West Traffic Division  
Lt. Michel R. Burdett , LAPD WLA Division  
Lt. Tony Carranza, LAPD WLA Division  
Sgt. Chris Kunz  
Jim Horwitz, CD 11  
JP Zhou, UCLA Transportation  
Mark Davis, CD 5  
Jody Litvak, Metro  
Olga Arroyo, Metro  
Hilary Norton, FAST  
Love Stone, WWHO  
Irene Sandler, Bel-Air Crest  
Evelyn Alexander, Residents of Beverly Glen  
Emile Levisetti, Santa Monica Civic Association  
Debbie Nussbaum, WHPOA  
Pauline Chan, LADOT  
Annette Mercer, WNC  
Walter Kaufman, WWHO  
Allyn Rifkin, RTPG  
Richard Cohen, Pacific Palisades Community Council  
Steve Twining, RVA, BABCNC  
Barbara Broide, WSSM, WNC  
Nickie Miner, Benedict Canyon Association, BABCNC  
Ernie Frankel, Mountaingate  
Jim Nelson, Laurel Canyon Association, BABCNC  
Stan Arcader, Cheviot Hills  
Ken Chotiner, BCC  
Thurston Reese, Vice Chairman, LA County Highway Safety Commission  
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.**

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### **Item I – Introductions of Guests**

Chair Robert A. Ringler welcomed the committee members and asked for the attendees to introduce themselves. He reminded the meeting was being audio taped.

Chair Ringler congratulated Officer Craig Lally on his promotion from Sergeant to Lieutenant. He thanked him for his service to West LAPD as he is now at West Valley.

He welcomed Lt. Mike Burdett and thanked him for the bagels and Nickie Miner from BCA for the donuts.

### **Item II – Approval of July 14<sup>th</sup> Minutes**

- Motion to approve minutes. Motion made. Motion seconded. Discussion held. Correction to Item IX – Council District Reports, A. Council District 11 – Jim Horwitz, should state “No report.”
- Motion to approve as corrected. Stan Arcader made motion. Steve Twining seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

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

Captain De La Torre updated on the traffic statistics for West LA. There have been several fatality accidents and above last year’s numbers.

He stated he and Capt. Nathan visited with Ernie Frankel of Mountaingate HOA and toured the community in response to evacuation preparedness for the area.

He stated the LA County Sheriff’s Office has implemented a Reverse 911 Notification System for residents of LA County. Residents can sign up at can sign up on line at [www.alert.lacounty.gov](http://www.alert.lacounty.gov) to add their information for notification of emergencies in your neighborhood. The system notifies resident of emergencies and evacuations in case of a Fire or other emergencies by telephone, emails and texts messages. LAPD will contact the Sheriff’s Office to send out information in such an emergency exists.

Barbara Broide asked if the system would be used to notify neighbors of a search in their area and to remain indoors. Capt. De LA Torre stated he would check with the Sheriff’s Department if the system could be used in such events. He stated the system is to notify resident of evacuation in case of a Fire or other emergency.

Chair Ringler stated the system is similar to the Red Flag Day notifications by LAFD.

Allyn Rifkin asked the status of the 511 system for traffic. Jody Litvak stated she would find out and report back to the committee.

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Captain De La Torre stated he visited the Pacific Palisades for an update on crime, traffic, pedestrians and other issues. He is working on the issues related to the area and will update the committee.

He briefed on Chief Bratton's resignation as of October 31 and the selection committee would have a replacement in office by November 1. He commented on LAPD's need to live up to the motto of "To Protect and To Serve".

He invited Lt. Caranza to the committee meeting, since he will be reviewing Crime and Traffic in the area to provide updated information the Officers.

He stated a robbery suspect is in custody that was preying on individuals near the station. Another armed robbery suspect is in custody after two committing armed robbery on Pico Blvd.

Nickie Miner asked about a suspect who has been attacking women in the 90025 area. Captain De La Torre stated he was not aware of an incident involving bodily force, but will get more information if available. He stated there is a suspect who is targeting women and taking their wedding rings.

Irene Sandler asked if LAPD is working with LAFD in response to fires and coverage. Captain De La Torre stated he and Capt. Nathan have brush fire training in two weeks. He will update the committee regarding the training.

Steve Twining asked if West LA will be getting more cameras. Captain De La Torre stated communities are using them and Capt. Nathan is working on a project to coordinate the camera in West LA.

Barbara Broide commented previously Captain Carol Aborn had been waiting for the department to make recommendations on which type of camera systems to use. Those recommendations have been made and the committee was waiting for a report what is needed for infrastructure in the stations.

Captain De La Torre stated the project needs organization. Lt Caranza stated if there is camera near a commission of a crime, the officer will request to review the video. Pole cameras can also be used if there is a series of crimes in an area. Certain districts have cameras in their community and LAPD can access those videos.

### **Item IV – West Traffic Division Commanding Officer, Capitan Nancy Lauer**

Captain Lauer provided square footage information on the carpet request made last month.

She stated GPS devices would be helpful to the Officers and provided information on the devices that were being requested.

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She reported traffic accidents are down 6% compared to last year. Serious conditions accidents are at 30, same as last year and there have been 6 fatality accidents this year. DUI related collisions are down 33% this year; Hit and runs are down 6%; Pedestrians collisions down 22%.

She reported on a fatality accident occurred on August 5<sup>th</sup> in the alley adjacent Guthrie and Corning St around 11 pm. The vehicle ran over the individual who was urinating in the alley. The particular accident is unusually and officers do not patrol alleys for enforcement.

She stated the Traffic Work Plan that was passed out is part of a detailed three year analysis of the major thoroughfares in each of the commands in the West Bureau.

She stated a detail ran on Aug 7 & 8 in the Pacific Palisades. 12 drivers were issued citations and a drunk driver was arrested on the 8<sup>th</sup> during the detail.

Evelyn Alexander asked what is done when an individual under 21 is arrested for DUI. Sgt. Chris Kunz stated the individual will be taken to jail and the driver's license will be taken away and reported to the DMV.

Irene Sandler suggested the formation of sub-committee to provide a Wish List to the entire committee of what is needed by West LA Traffic.

Patricia Bell Hearst commented on an incident on Sepulveda Blvd, July 24<sup>th</sup> with a damaged water hydrant. She stated LADOT Traffic Division was not very responsive to the incident and traffic issue. Jim Horwitz stated the Councilman's Office is aware of the incident and is addressing the issue.

### **Item VI – Police Department Reports**

#### **A. West L.A. Division**

Lt. Burdett introduced himself to the committee and passed out a Traffic Work Plan where certain traffic areas are targeted. He stated traffic issues are a major concern and will work with the committee on issues.

Lt. Carranza commented on traffic enforcement in the area and the concerns of the issues are a priority to the division. He stated a recap program has begun to determine effectiveness of the officers.

Evelyn Alexander asked information is documented or plotted by specific areas. Lt. Caranza stated the information is not plotted on map, though the recap reviews the areas specific to the Traffic Work Plan.

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

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Sgt. Kunz commented on the Division's priorities and the response to traffic concerns from the community. He stated the committee's division represents half of the entire Bureau with 3 officers assigned.

He reported of a fatal traffic accident at Santa Monica and Wellesley last May. A periodic task force assessed the area and accident and determined the accident was due to poor vehicle operation.

He stated statistics are not kept with the Department but new software and programs are being purchased to maintain information. Normally statistics are not released to the public.

Stan Arcader asked how their community's traffic trailer is place out for operation. Sgt. Kunz stated the trailer gets placed as often as possible. Two of the trailers are damaged and since they are purchased by grants, repair is difficult.

### **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**

#### **1. Community updates & reports**

Pauline Chan updated on signal improvements at 35 intersections.

She stated ATSACS improvements in the Pacific Palisades/Brentwood area. Signals almond Sunset, between 405 and the end of Sunset will be improved. Speed feedback signs will be included in the project.

She stated LADOT would continue to apply for School Safety Grant Funds from the State and Federal Government. She stated the standard application for feedback sign placements and must be placed in advance of the schools zones.

She stated speed limit engineering surveys studies will be expiring and LADOT is in the process of reviewing the studies. The surveys are required to allow LAPD to use radar enforcement for speeding. 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. Current surveys are needed and may change some speed limits.

Barbara Broide asked that the issue of traffic surveys is addressed by the committee. Chair Ringler asked Thurston Reese to get the issue on the agenda for the LA County Highway Safety Commission, so the Board of Supervisors can pass a resolution on the issue.

Irene Sandler asked who the contact is for the Sepulveda Blvd in relation to the 405 Project. Pauline Chan stated it may be part of the Reversible Lane Project and Ken Husting.

Emile Levisetti asked about LADOT's involvement with the California Incline Project. Pauline Chan stated Mo Blorfroshaa is attending the task force meetings and has reviewed and provide comments to the plan. They have asked for a traffic detour management in the plan.

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

No report.

**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 the PCH Task Force meetings. He suggested the Santa Monica Canyon be one way streets in each direction with two lanes during the construction.

**B. Council District 5 – Jay Greenstein**

Mark Davis stated Jay Greenstein was not able to attend the meeting and introduced himself to the committee.

**Item X – Metropolitan Transportation Authority Report (MTA) – Jody Litvak**

Jody Litvak passed out information on Westside Subway Extension, with quarterly meetings continue. There is a meeting this evening at the Beverly Hills Public Library and tomorrow at Westwood Presbyterian Church at 6 pm.

She stated MTA's budget depends heavily on the sales tax, which is down due to the economy.

She commented on the new CEO, Art Leahy. The Long Range Transportation Plan is still being reviews by the Board. Major projects must be included in the funded portion of the plan to move forward.

Olga Arroyo introduced herself to the committee as the Community Relations contact for the I-405 Sepulveda Pass Widening Project. She has been sending out information about lane closures on Sepulveda and Wilshire. She provided her email address, [arroyoo@metro.net](mailto:arroyoo@metro.net), to receive updates on the project.

She stated the contractor is developing a construction schedule and final design. Once the information is finalized they will share it with the community by holding meetings.

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Stan Arcader asked about Expo Phase II Project related to grading. Jody Litvak stated the Construction Authority has selected their locally preferred alternative for Phase II. The Final EIR is in the process.

Barbara Broide commented on the lack of priority for the 405 with regards to the Long Range Plan. Jody Litvak stated with the assistance of Measure R, the Plan is more favorable than a year ago.

Patricia Bell Hearst stated with the expansion of the 405, there is an opportunity for the north and south bound lanes. Jody Litvak stated the car pool lane is needed northbound. There is money for a project on the 405, though there is no project assigned.

### **Item XI – CALTRANS – Joe Brazil/ Otis Jackson**

#### **B. Update on local Projects**

A handout was passed out in place of a report.

### **Item XII – FAST – Hilary Norton**

Hilary Norton briefed on their work with signal synchronization and Prop 1B money that has not been sold through Bond sales.

She commented on working with Coalition for Clean Air and the LA Chamber for employer based incentives.

### **Item XIII – 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**

Richard Cohen reported on several meetings regarding a PCH Task Force. The Bluff Stabilization Project, which drills into the bluffs to place hydrogers that drawn water out, will begin within the next year. The project would close a northbound lane from 9 am – 1 pm. The contractor could not complete the project in the time allotted so a more extended work day of 8 am – 3 pm was decided.

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After the Bluff Project is completed the California Incline Project will begin, which will removing the old incline road and build a new bridge. Access from southbound PHC into Santa Monica will be affected.

There is concern with the traffic detours commuters will use when the projects begin. He asked for the committee's assistance in contacting the City of Santa Monica and shorting the lengths of the projects.

Chair Ringler asked Richard Cohen to provide information via email to send out to others. Richard Cohen stated he would provide the Chair with information to be distributed.

**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**

No report

**S. Westwood South – Barbara Broide**

Barbara passed out a form for Century Plaza Development Environment Impact Report Comments. She encouraged everyone to comment on the EIR due 8/13/09.

She stated comments were due 8/12/09 for a project at 11024 Strathmore Drive. She encourages everyone to submit comments regarding the lack of parking.

**T. Wilshire Corridor – Marilyn Lewis**

No report



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**Item IX – 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 XV – Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at 8:30 am, WLA Community Police Station.**

**Motion to end the meeting. Steve Twining made motion. Ernie Frankel seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.**