

**MINUTES OF THE
TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING**

September 3, 2019

- CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Gavilanes called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 7100 Garfield Avenue, Bell Gardens.
- ROLL CALL:** Secretary, Veronica Sanchez took roll call.
- PRESENT:** Chairperson Jayson Gavilanes, Commissioner Victor Barbosa and Commissioner Rosa Galvan were present. Chau Vu, Director of Public Works, Cesar Roldan, Associate City Engineer, Doug Benash, City Engineer and Veronica Sanchez, Secretary were also present. Vice-Chairperson David Heredia arrived shortly after.
- INVOCATION:** Ms. Vu led the invocation.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner Barbosa led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- POSTING OF AGENDA:** The agenda was posted as prescribed by law.
- PUBLIC AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** No comments. A motion was made by Commissioner Galvan and second Commissioner Barbosa to close public participation.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 6, 2019:** Vice-Chairperson Heredia made the motion to approve and Commissioner Barbosa second the motion.
- SYSTEMIC SAFETY ANALYSIS REPORT PROGRAM PRESENTATION:** Chau Vu explained that the Systemic Safety Analysis Report is the binder that sits at the podium. The report is hours of work totaling \$150,000 compiled into this binder. It was paid for by a competitive Call-for-Projects grant by the State. Cesar Roldan gave the report, the SSARP is a priority list based on the severity of collisions occurring at intersections, both signalized and non-signalized. The report compiles data from the Police Department. All 37 intersections were evaluated conducting a High Accident Location Analysis and intersections were prioritized for improvements using the Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System. The signalized intersections level 1 priority are Eastern/Florence, Florence/Perry,

Eastern/Clara, Garfield/Florence, Florence/Ira, Garfield/Loveland. Eastern/Florence having the highest collisions over the past 3 years at 64. Having these identified will allow the City to seek funding for upgrades to signals, controllers, make modifications to timings including safety measures such as ADA ramps and pedestrian friendly setting. The top three non-signalized intersections are Muller/Garfield with a few fatalities and now scheduled to be signalized, Gallant/Garfield being second on the list with one fatality and the last being Emil/Suva.

This report and this information is compiled and is now ready for when funding becomes available.

Ms. Vu added that the cost to signalize an intersection is \$500,000, Garfield/Muller is already on the CIP list and \$3.2 Million has been awarded for a widening project at Florence/Eastern.

Chairperson Gavilanes asked how recent these accidents were. Mr. Roldan explained that it is 3 years of data.

Commissioner Barbosa asked for the cause of the accidents. Mr. Roldan explained that the report has very specific details of each accident and the cause.

Commissioner Barbosa added that during rush hour Florence and Eastern is horrible.

Vice-Chairperson Heredia asked how staff determines which intersection is next for addressing.

Ms. Vu explained that Florence and Eastern is already funded, Garfield and Muller also secured. Staff will go down the list in seeking funding for the next intersection and so on and so on.

Commissioner Barbosa made the motion to approve, receive and file and Vice-Chairperson Heredia second the motion.

**RED CURB REQUEST
5927 CLARA ST:**

The City of Bell Gardens received a written request for commercial business at 5927 Clara Street. The request was for installation of red curb citing visibility concerns. The business has delivery trucks attempting to coming in and out of the driveway and when vehicles are parked on both sides of the driveway approach visibility is blocked. Based on field observations and the engineering analysis conducted in August it is recommended that the Commission approve for City Council consideration the installation of approximately twenty-three (23) feet of red curb 'no parking' between the existing red curbs east of the driveway approach. This will eliminate one parking space.

Chairperson Gavilanes agreed and has been a little puzzled as to why it had not been done earlier.

Chairperson Gavilanes opened public participation. Mr. Steve Chun approached the podium, he is the business owner and has been here for 4 years, the street is very narrow and he has trucks that he needs to load and parked cars at both sides of the driveway makes it very difficult. Because of this, trucks are being loaded in the middle of the street 90% of the time. Even regular cars block the view when exiting the driveway, red curb will also help trucks have a better turn radius to get in and out.

Mr. Roldan explained that staff is only recommending red curb on one side, eastbound traffic being the direction with the issue. This only eliminates one parking space and it is less impact to adjacent businesses. Staff can always revisit eastbound traffic at a later time.

Commissioner Barbosa asked if installing green or white curb for loading and unloading would aid. This would stop the loading trucks in the middle of the street.

Ms. Vu explained that it would eliminate additional parking to the surrounding businesses and the visibility issue would not be addressed.

Mr. Roldan added that when a new business comes in the Planning Department issues them a conditional permit based on operating procedures and loading trucks in the middle of the street is not standard practice and should not be done.

Vice-Chairperson Heredia made the motion to approve and Commissioner Barbosa second the motion.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF:

Ms. Vu informed the Commission that staff has been directed by Council to begin the process for the installation of speed humps on Quinn. Staff just wrapped up a neighborhood meeting on Chalet, 25 residents attended and now staff is sending out a survey to make sure we have 51% support.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Barbosa thanked staff since on a Sunday two weeks ago; a truck on Quinn struck a resident on a skateboard. Luckily, he will be ok after being hospitalized. Requested an update on the visibility issue on Ira and Priory. Commented that trash being left in parkway devaluates property.

Commissioner Galvan asked for status on Specht Avenue.

Vice-Chairperson Heredia asked about the cameras in alleys to deter graffiti and illegal dumping being recently relocated because of activity on Specht alley by Gage and Agra. Also asked about the graffiti hotline or were residents can call to report anonymously.

Chairperson Gavilanes asked if that information is included in the newsletter or flyers.

Ms. Vu explained that a neighborhood meeting is be scheduled soon for Specht Avenue. Concurrently the Complete Streets Plan will also include recommendations to address cut through traffic there.

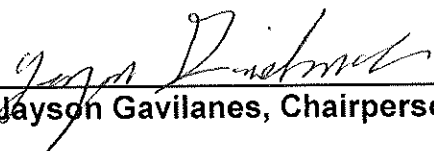
Mr. Roldan explained that he is evaluating Ira and Priory.

Ms. Sanchez also added that the newsletter sometimes includes a section regarding abatement. Athens sends out a newsletter of their own twice a year, for the annual clean up and Christmas tree disposal and those include instructions on proper disposal of bulky items. Additionally, Council may have magnets that include the graffiti hotline number and Athens Services number for scheduling large items for trash removal. The abatement schedule for large bulky items and trash is as follows: Athens Services goes by the day after regular trash pick- up for bulky items that are scheduled and the City's abatement crew goes by the next, takes a picture and cites property owners.

ADJOURNMENT:

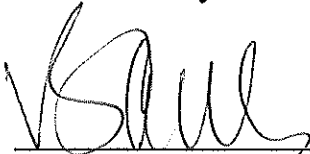
Commissioner Barbosa made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Vice-Chairperson Heredia second the motion. Chairperson Gavilanes adjourned the meeting to the next scheduled meeting of October 1, 2019 at 6:27pm.

APPROVED BY:



Jayson Gavilanes, Chairperson

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Sanchez', written over a horizontal line.

Veronica Sanchez, Secretary