



**CITY OF BELL GARDENS  
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2023, 5:30 p.m.  
AGENDA**

**LOCATION:** CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 7100 GARFIELD AVENUE, BELL GARDENS, CA 90201

The meeting will be held at Bell Gardens City Hall in the Council Chambers. The public may attend the meeting in-person or virtually as instructed below. You may view the meeting live on the City's website at <https://www.bellgardens.org/i-want-to/watch-commission-meetings>. Agendas are available at <https://www.bellgardens.org/government/city-departments/city-clerk/bell-gardens-commissions/traffic-and-safety-commission>.

**ACCESSIBILITY:** If requested, the agenda and backup materials will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Any person who requires a disability-related modification or accommodation, in order to observe and/or offer public comment may request such reasonable modification, accommodation, aid, or service by contacting Veronica Sanchez, Commission Secretary by telephone at 562-806-7770 or via email [vsanchez@bellgardens.org](mailto:vsanchez@bellgardens.org) no later than 72-hours before the scheduled meeting.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** The members of the public may address the Commission on any item listed on the agenda or on matters which are not listed on the agenda but are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Traffic and Safety Commission. Public comments are limited to three (3) minutes per person. Public comments for non-agenda items will be limited to a total of 30 minutes. Public comments can be made by any of the following ways:

**IN-PERSON:** Members of the public can provide in-person comments at the podium in the Council Chamber. The Council Chamber will have seating available for members of the public to attend the meeting in-person. For your safety, space is currently limited to 50 members of the public. Masking is required for all in attendance. Public comments are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker, unless a different time is announced by the presiding chair.

**BY TELEPHONE:** Phone Number: [\(669\)900-9128](tel:(669)900-9128) Webinar ID: [818 0091 8706#](#) Passcode: [\\*2021#](#)  
To address the Commission press [\\*9](#) to raise your hand then [\\*6](#) to unmute yourself when instructed.

**VIRTUALLY:** Zoom Meeting ID: [818 0091 8706](#) Passcode: [2021](#)  
Comments may also be made via the Zoom app by using the "Raise Hand" feature when it is your turn to speak the host will unmute you. \*Comments will not be accepted in the QandA Chat function of the zoom app.

**WRITTEN COMMENTS:** Public comments may be submitted electronically by emailing them to [vsanchez@bellgardens.org](mailto:vsanchez@bellgardens.org) or mailed to the Department of Public Works, 8327 Garfield Avenue, Bell Gardens, CA 90201. To ensure distribution to the members of the Commission prior to

consideration of the agenda, please submit comments no later than one (1) hour prior to the meeting. Those comments, as well as any comments received after, will be distributed to the members of the Commission and will be part of the official public record of the meeting.

For more information, you may contact the Department of Public Works during regular business hours 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday at (562) 806-7770.

**TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMISSION**

Chairperson David Heredia  
Commissioner Hugo Alvarado  
Commissioner Carlos Jose Barrera  
Commissioner Jayson Gavilanes

**CITY STAFF**

Bernardo Iniguez, Director of Public Works/Facilities  
Douglas Benash, P.E., City Engineer  
Veronica Sanchez, Secretary



**CITY OF BELL GARDENS  
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING  
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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2023, 5:30 p.m.  
AGENDA**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**INVOCATION**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Hugo Alvarado, Commissioner  
Carlos Jose Barrera, Commissioner  
Jayson Gavilanes, Commissioner  
David Heredia, Chairperson

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

During this time, members of the public may address the Commission regarding any agenda items or non-agenda items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the commission. Public comments are limited to 3 minutes per person. Public comments for non-agenda items are limited to an overall 30-minute period and will be heard after all comments for agenda items have been heard. Government Code Section 54590 prohibits the Commission from taking action or engaging in discussion on a specific item unless it appears on the agenda.

**CONSENT CALENDAR (Item No. 1)**

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF August 1, 2023**

**Brief Summary:** August 1, 2023 – Traffic and Safety Commission Meeting Minutes

**Recommendation:** It is staff's recommendation that the Commissioners approve the attached minutes.

**DISCUSSION (Item Nos. 2-3)**

**2. TRAFFIC SAFETY ANALYSIS – REQUEST FOR DISABLED PARKING SPACE AT 5863 WATCHER AVENUE**

**Brief Summary:** The Public Works Department received a request from the resident at 5863 Watcher Avenue for the installation of a disabled parking space fronting the residence.

**Recommendation:** It is staff's recommendation that the Commission deny the request for a disabled parking space at 5863 Watcher Avenue, based on the reported findings that Condition No. 3 of the Guidelines for On-Street Parking for Disabled Persons in Residential Areas ("Guidelines") is not met

**3. TRAFFIC SAFETY ANALYSIS – REQUEST FOR RED CURB PARKING RESTRICTIONS  
ADJACENT TO 6021 FLORENCE AVENUE**

**Brief Summary:** The Public Works Department received a request from Community Development staff for the installation of red curb parking restrictions along the easterly side of Jaboneria Road, north of the northerly driveway adjacent to the commercial facility at 6201 Florence Avenue.

**Recommendation:** It is staff's recommendation that the Commission approve for City Council consideration the request for the installation of red curb parking restrictions on the easterly curb, a distance of 20 feet north of the northerly driveway on Jaboneria Road, adjacent to 6021 Florence Avenue.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**ADJOURNMENT TO NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING OF OCTOBER 3, 2023**

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF BELL GARDENS  
TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING**

**August 1, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Heredia called the Traffic & Safety Commission Meeting to order at 5:36 pm.

**ROLL CALL:** Ms. Sanchez took roll call.

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Alvarado, Commissioner Barrera, Commissioner Gavilanes, and Chair Heredia were present. Bernardo Iniguez, Director of Public Works/Facilities, Douglas Benash, City Engineer and Veronica Sanchez, Secretary were also present.

**INVOCATION:** Mr. Iniguez led the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner Gavilanes led the pledge of allegiance.

**PUBLIC AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** No comments were received.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 6, 2023:** Commissioner Barrera made the motion and Commissioner Alvarado seconded the motion. AYES: Alvarado, Barrera, Gavilanes, and Heredia.

**TRAFFIC SAFETY ANALYSIS REQUEST FOR THREE WAY STOP SIGN AT LOVELAND STREET AND SUVA STREET:** Mr. Iniguez briefly summarized. The request is for a three-way stop sign at the intersection of Loveland Street and Suva Street. The recommendation is for City Council consideration of the following improvements: Install two 30-inch stop signs, install limit lines and legends, install stop ahead legends on Suva Street and refresh all striping, legends, and signage at the intersection. Mr. Benash provided the full report. The crossing guard assigned to the intersection of Loveland and Suva reached out to a Councilmember about the installation of a three-way stop at the intersection of Loveland Street and Suva Street. Subsequently, the City Manager and the Police Chief also inquired about an assessment of the intersection. Loveland Streets meets Suva Street as a three-legged intersection and Suva Street is not controlled. The City follows the guidance from the California Manual on Uniform Traffic

Control Devices (CA-MUTCD) for all traffic control devices, since the use of the CA-MUTCD provides liability protection. There are three different warrants, collisions, staff checked SWITRS and there are no reportable accidents, vehicle volumes and sight distance and that is not an issue here since Suva curves away and provides more sight distance. More recently the MUTCD added additional criteria that can be considered, they are: A) The need to control left turn conflicts, B) The need to control vehicles/pedestrian conflicts near locations that generate high pedestrian volumes, in this case the school, C) Locations where a road user, after stopping, cannot see conflicting traffic and is not able to negotiate the intersection and D) An intersection of two residential neighborhood collectors (through) streets of similar design and operating characteristics where a multi-way STOP control would improve traffic operational characteristics of the intersection. Based on Criteria B, the adjacent location of Suva Intermediate and Suva Elementary Schools and engineering judgement, it has been determined that the installation of an all-way STOP controlled intersection is recommended for this location. Commissioner Gavilanes made the motion to approve staff's recommendation and Commissioner Alvarado seconded the motion. YES: Alvarado, Barrera, Gavilanes and Heredia.

**TRAFFIC SAFETY ANALYSIS  
REQUEST FOR SAFETY  
IMPROVEMENTS AT FLORENCE  
AVENUE AND TOLER  
AVENUE:**

Mr. Iniguez briefly summarized. The department received a request for an evaluation of the intersection of Florence Avenue and Toler Avenue for safety improvements. It is staff's recommendation that the Commission receive and file and direct staff to continue monitoring the intersection for future issues.

Mr. Benash provided the full report. The Department received a request from Officer Perez of the Bell Gardens Police Department, to evaluate Florence Avenue and Toler Avenue for improvements due to safety concerns with vehicles exiting onto Florence Avenue from Toler Avenue. Florence Avenue is a curved roadway from Darwell Avenue to Toler Avenue when exiting from Toler Avenue. There is an existing red curb from eastbound Florence Avenue going 250 feet westerly from the intersection of Toler Avenue. Officer Perez reported a vehicle crossing the eastbound lanes of Florence Avenue waiting in the median island area

for traffic to clear before proceeding westbound on Florence Avenue. The existing conditions at the intersection show that the sight distance exiting Toler Avenue is approximately 200 feet. On-street parking along the eastbound curb lane is already restricted by red curb for adequate sight distance visibility. Following the MUTCD and since there is no accident history, no further action is recommended since there are no obvious safety issues.

Chair Heredia acknowledged that there is a Do Not Block Intersection sign in place and inquired if the center median had an opening to make a left turn. Mr. Benash confirmed that there is an opening.

Commissioner Alvarado made the motion to approve staff's recommendation and Commissioner Barrera seconded the motion. AYES: Alvarado, Barrera, Gavilanes, and Heredia.

**COMMENTS FROM STAFF:** Mr. Iniguez updated the Commission on the July 11th Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee meeting with the Calwalks team at Ross Hall. There was good participation that included our Chair and currently the Calwalks team is gathering the information and recommendations and will be presenting them soon.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:** Commissioner Gavilanes hopes everyone is having a great summer, staying safe and cool.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Heredia adjourned the meeting at 5:49 p.m. to the next scheduled meeting of September 5, 2023.

**APPROVED BY:**

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**David Heredia, Chairperson**

**Submitted by:**

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**Veronica Sanchez, Secretary**



**CITY OF BELL GARDENS  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**AGENDA REPORT  
Item No. 2**

**TO:** Honorable Chair and Members of the Traffic and Safety Commission

**FROM:** Bernardo Iniguez, Director of Public Works/Facilities  
**BY:** Douglas Benash, P.E., City Engineer

**SUBJECT: TRAFFIC SAFETY ANALYSIS – REQUEST FOR DISABLED PARKING SPACE AT 5863 WATCHER AVENUE**

**DATE:** September 5, 2023

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is staff's recommendation that the Traffic and Safety Commission deny the request for a disabled parking space at 5863 Watcher Avenue, based on the reported findings that Condition No. 3 of the Guidelines for On-Street Parking for Disabled Persons in Residential Areas ("Guidelines") is not met

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

Ms. Rosalinda Diaz (the "Applicant") applied for a disabled persons on street parking space fronting his residential property at 5863 Watcher Avenue. In accordance with the City of Bell Gardens' Policy for On-Street Parking for Disabled Persons in Residential Areas, each disabled person parking space application is reviewed on a case-by-case basis and submitted to the Traffic and Safety Commission for review and consideration.

The following information summarizes some of the key points reviewed during the evaluation process by the City Engineer and/or City Traffic Engineer.

*"The intent of this policy is to prevent the proliferation of special parking stalls that may be installed for a short-term purpose but later seldom used. Unjustified installation of such parking stall designations unnecessarily increases the City's maintenance and operation cost, reduces available on-street parking for the general public and detracts from the overall effectiveness of the disabled persons parking program.*

*Exceptions may be made in special hardship cases, provided all of the following conditions exist:*

- 1. Applicant (or guardian) must be in possession of valid plates for "disabled person" or "disabled veterans" issued by the California Department of Motor Vehicles.*
- 2. The proposed disabled parking spaced must be in front of the disabled person's place of residence.*



3. *The applicant must not have an off-street parking space, garage, carport or other available alternative to them that may be used for disabled parking.*
4. *Applicant must provide a signed statement from a medical doctor that specifies the disabled person is unable (even with the aid of crutches, braces, walker, wheelchair or similar support) to travel more than 50 feet between his or her home and automobile without assistance of a second person. “*

**INVESTIGATION AND DISCUSSION:**

In response to the request, the City Engineer reviewed the application and documents submitted. The Applicant states the property is owned by her parents. There is an existing one-car garage the Applicant states is assigned to the tenants at 5861 Watcher Avenue. There is an existing gate adjacent to the carport parking area at the rear of the property with a listed address of 5863 Watcher Avenue. Given this finding, one can presume that the Applicant has access to the rear carport parking area.

**CONCLUSION:**

The Applicant does not meet Conditions No. 3 of the Guidelines; therefore, staff is recommending denial of the requested on-street disabled parking space.

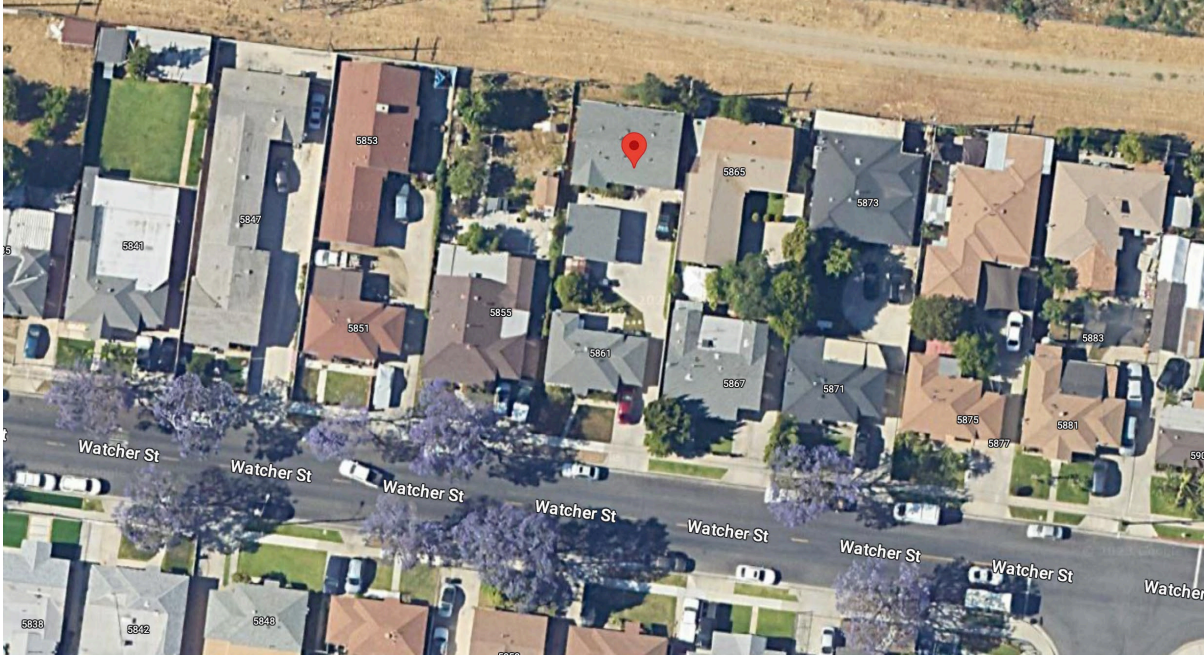
**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None.

**ATTACHMENTS –**

Attachment No. 1 – Aerial and Street View of Subject Property

**Attachment 1- aerial and street view of subject property**





**CITY OF BELL GARDENS  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**AGENDA REPORT  
Item No. 3**

**TO:** Honorable Chair and Members of the Traffic and Safety Commission

**FROM:** Bernardo Iniguez, Director of Public Works/Facilities  
**BY:** Douglas Benash, P.E., City Engineer

**SUBJECT: TRAFFIC SAFETY ANALYSIS – REQUEST FOR RED CURB PARKING RESTRICTIONS ADJACENT TO 6021 FLORENCE AVENUE**

**DATE:** September 5, 2023

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is staff's recommendation that the Traffic and Safety Commission approve for City Council consideration the request for the installation of red curb parking restrictions on the easterly curb, a distance of 20 feet north of the northerly driveway on Jaboneria Road, adjacent to 6021 Florence Avenue.

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

A request was received from Community Development staff for the installation of red curb parking restrictions along the easterly side of Jaboneria Road, north of the northerly driveway adjacent to the commercial facility at 6021 Florence Avenue.

**INVESTIGATION AND DISCUSSION:**

In response to the request, the City Engineer reviewed the application and documents submitted. In accordance with City policy, a field review of the site has been conducted and determined that site distance conditions for vehicles exiting the northerly driveway onto Jaboneria Road can be improved with the addition of red curb parking restrictions.

The additional red curb will allow vehicles exiting the commercial center improved site distance entering Jaboneria Road, a collector street with greater traffic volumes than a local residential street.

**CONCLUSION:**

After a review of field conditions, the City Engineer recommends approving the request for painting red curb parking restrictions on the easterly curb, a distance of 20 feet north of the northerly driveway on Jaboneria Road adjacent to 6201 Florence Avenue, based on the reported findings.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The estimated cost for the installation of red curb is approximately \$500 and is available in the current Street Maintenance Budget.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment No. 1 – Proposed Improvements

# Attachment 1- Proposed Improvements

