



## **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION – 7:00 PM**

### **A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

A Special Meeting of the Redondo Beach City Public Safety Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Carmichael in the City Hall Council Chambers, 415 Diamond Street, Redondo Beach, California.

### **B. ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Gaul, Escontrias, Skiba, Chair Carmichael

Commissioners Absent: Klainbaum, Wodnicki

Officials Present: Kyle Lofstrom, Police Officer  
Brian Long, Police Lieutenant

### **C. SALUTE TO FLAG**

Chair Carmichael led in the Salute to the Flag.

### **D. APPROVE ORDER OF AGENDA**

Motion by Commissioner Gaul, seconded by Commissioner Skiba, and approved by voice vote, to discuss Item J.1 before Item I.

The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Wodnicki and Vice Chair Klainbaum were absent.

Motion by Commissioner Gaul, seconded by Commissioner Skiba, and approved by voice vote, to continue Item I.1 to the next meeting of the Public Safety Commission.

The motion carried 4-0. Commissioners Wodnicki and Vice Chair Klainbaum were absent.

### **E. BLUE FOLDER ITEMS - ADDITIONAL BACK UP MATERIALS - None**

#### **E.1. BLUE FOLDER – None**

### **F. CONSENT CALENDAR**

#### **F.1. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

There were no public comments on this item.

Motion by Commissioner Gaul, seconded by Commissioner Skiba, and approved by voice vote, the Consent Calendar, as presented.

The motion carried 4-0. Commissioners Wodnicki and Vice Chair Klainbaum were absent.

**G. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – None**

**H. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**H.1. For eComments and Emails Received from the Public**

John Perchulyn, District 1, thanked the Commission for its efforts in addressing his concerns.

Grace Peng (via Zoom) expressed appreciation for the safety improvements made on Grant Avenue and McKay and talked about needed improvements on Kingsdale and more bulb outs in South Redondo Beach.

Melissa Desaun, District 1, gave an overview on the recent news regarding the cannabis industry; explained how it affects the youth; urged the Commission to review and discuss the documents she provided.

Motion by Chair Carmichael, seconded by Commissioner Gaul, and approved by voice vote, to receiver and file the documents submitted by Melissa Desaun.

The motion carried 4-0. Commissioners Wodnicki and Vice Chair Klainbaum were absent.

Jim Mueller, District 5, stated he believes this Commission is here to support the Council and provide the Council with ideas and strategies to promote public safety; noted that the City Attorney is never present during public communications despite being an elected official; displayed large images of two existing smoke shops and claimed it is a public safety issue as North Redondo is known as the place to acquire drugs now and as the bright and colorful lights entice youth; urged the Commission to provide the Council with strategies to keep these businesses off main street.

Chair Carmichael made note that the gentleman shown in one of the pictures is Nipsey Hustle and not Snoop Dogg.

Chair Carmichael moved to Item No. J.2.

**I. ITEMS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS AGENDAS**

**I.1. DISCUSSION REGARDING REQUESTING CITY MANAGER/CITY STAFF TO PRESENT INFORMATION ON ITEMS IN 24/25 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET THAT PERTAIN TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

This item was continued to the next Public Safety Commission meeting.

**I.2. DISCUSSION REGARDING LIST OF TOPICS PROVIDED BY COUNCILMEMBER NILS NEHRENHEIM DURING NOVEMBER REGULAR MEETING**

Motion by Chair Carmichael, seconded by Commissioner Gaul, and approved by voice vote, to continue this item to the next Public Safety Commission meeting agenda.

The motion carried 4-0. Commissioners Wodnicki and Vice Chair Klainbaum were absent.

Chair Carmichael moved to Item No.

## **J. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION PRIOR TO ACTION**

### **J.1. DISCUSSION ON PALOS VERDES BOULEVARD AND PROSPECT, CAMINO REAL, TORRANCE, DEL AMO TRUCK ROUTE, TRAFFIC SITUATION & SPEEDING ISSUE AND POSSIBLE ADVISORY ACTION TO CITY COUNCIL**

Public Works Director Winje introduced Principal Transportation Engineer Ryan Lou and stated they were here to address the concerns regarding the truck routes in the Palos Verdes Boulevard and Prospect Avenue corridors and to explain what tools and resources they have for traffic calming and safety measures.

Principal Transportation Engineer Lou narrated a PowerPoint Presentation, detailing truck routes, traffic safety/calming, and bicycle lanes on Palos Verdes Boulevard and Prospect Avenue.

In response to questions from the commission, Principal Transportation Engineer Lou detailed speed tables and reported he did not analyze the traffic survey study performed by RBPd.

In response to questions from Commissioner Escontrias, Principal Transportation Engineer Lou stated he did not analyze the traffic survey study performed by RBPd and explained that a proper data collection and analysis would require a consultant and funding from the City, not just a police study, has been to the area of concern numerous times; listed the roads with speed tables and said the City of Los Angeles has seen substantial speed reductions due to the speed tables, but cautioned that there have not been studies done in Redondo Beach yet and reported the City Prosecutor will not be prosecuting truck speed violations in that area.

Discussion followed on pedestrian bridges and related costs, traffic flow difference between Prospect Avenue and PCH during and after school hours.

In response to Commissioner Gaul's questions, Director Winje spoke about challenges in communicating with the City of Torrance.

Discussion continued on how to address the matter of low and ineffective communication between Redondo Beach and Torrance, collaborating were possible and the possibility of citing trucks on weight violations instead of speed violations.

Chair Carmichael invited public comments.

Grace Peng (via Zoom) stated her support for putting in concreted protected bike lanes on Palos Verdes Boulevard and Camino Real and Prospect Avenue because they are wide streets and studies have shown concrete protection makes the bike lanes safer. Additionally, the

narrower streets may dissuade trucks from driving that route.

John Perchulyn, District 1, reported that since March of 2024, there have been over 30,000 trucks that have gone down the corridor, several traffic violations by these trucks such as running red lights, speeding, failing to adhere to stop signs and extreme noise pollution; suggested installing signs saying, "this is not a truck route" and enforcing the speed violations and opined this is nothing to do with Torrance.

In response to questions from the Commission, John Perchulyn referenced pictures he has of the trucks going down the corridor and talked about how he acquired them.

In response to Chair Carmichael's questions, Public Works Director Winje explained it is a State statute and not City ordinance that allows trucks to be on a road as long as they have business on it and stated it's up to the interpretation and skill of an officer and lawyer to enforce violations.

Melissa Desaun, District 1, stated how happy she is that the Commission is addressing this issue; cited her own personal experience being a part of a walking school bus for an elementary school and mentioned how scary it still is for the kids and adults crossing intersections where large trucks travel.

Councilmember Nehrenheim, District 1, acknowledged this is the first time Public Safety and Public Works have worked on an issue like this; shared he has received concerns from Mr. Perchulyn since August of 2023; reported he has made several attempts to contact and discuss this issue with a Torrance Councilmember, but despite limited response Councilmember Mattucci indicated Torrance may be willing to give back the annex land, which would be helpful and listed and discussed the three key focus areas of education, enforcement, and engineering.

Motion by Commissioner Gaul, seconded by Commissioner Gaul, and approved by voice vote, to extend Councilmember Nehrenheim's time for comments.

Motion carried 4-0. Commissioners Wodnicki, and Vice Chair Klainbaum were absent.

Councilmember Nehrenheim reported having a meeting with the affected residents and staff today in which the issue was discussed in depth for increased clarity; noted that over \$500,000 has been allocated to the traffic safety program and is there to be used; called for recommendations by the Commission related to creating solutions and road safety improvements; highlighted the importance of education and suggested a reporting process providing the public with details on the number of citations issued, the locations, and reasons for enforcement.

Commissioner Escontrias expressed his frustration in how the City is in a municipal paralysis and how it seems that if something cannot be done immediately it just doesn't get done at all, noting there is a demand by the people to address these issues.

Chair Carmichael agreed with Commissioner Escontrias' sentiments; noted that having representatives from Public Works and a Councilmember at the meeting is a step toward alignment and therefore, progress and spoke about the difference between knowledge and wisdom.

Councilmember Nehrenheim noted how this issue has developed and progressed into new issues; talked about process and creating a template in the system for problem solving in all areas of the City and urged the Commission to write a letter of recommendations to the City Council and Public Works Commission to solve this problem, long term.

Discussion followed on frustrations about lack of progress and the length of time it takes to respond to issues of concern.

Lieutenant Long rebuked the idea that RBPd is ignoring issues; reported issuing over 263 citations last year in the subject, two-block area and noted the Department has a limited number of resources and cannot focus all its efforts on this one concern.

Commissioner Escontrias mentioned that he has had reports of RBPd not responding to the area when asked to.

Lieutenant Long reiterated that the RBPd has a finite amount of resources and has to make judgment calls about which issues are prioritized; stated he has sent officers out, but they have other duties such as responding to emergency issues that take precedent and reported RBPd will continue to address the issue.

Commissioner Skiba mentioned observing a motor officer on Helberta and in response to her inquiry, Lieutenant Long stated he was probably there to identify violations and write citations and said he does not have the data on how many citations were written between Blossom and Artesia, Mackay and Artesia but will report back.

Commissioner Gaul requested an equal distribution of resources for North and South Redondo Beach.

Liam Walsh, District 5, applauded the work the City has been doing with bike lanes and curb extensions; suggested the solution lies in engineering and design, for example by making Prospect Avenue look less like a highway via lane narrowing, adding turning lanes, street parking or bike lanes, people may slow down and supported a corridor study being conducted.

Motion by Commissioner Escontrias, seconded by Commissioner Gaul, and approved by voice vote, to extend Liam Walsh's speaking time.

Motion carried 4-0. Commissioners Wodnicki and Vice Chair Klainbaum were absent.

Liam Walsh reported an increase in popularity of eBikes and reported that the amount has doubled at Redondo Union High School.

Rob Schuler, District 1, voiced his support for the ongoing studies and to his neighbors John Perchulyn and Tony, who are active participants and reminded the audience that this issue affects everyone, not just the residents of that neighborhood.

Officer Lofstrom reported receiving two eComments and read each into the record.

There were no other public comments.

Chair Carmichael moved to Item No. I.2.

## **J.2. DISCUSSION OF RECENT FIRE EVENTS**

Officer Lofstrom reported that Chief Reagan was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Chair Carmichael voiced his appreciation to Darren Flores of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department for his service.

Officer Lofstrom reported there was one eComment and read it into the record.

## **J.3. DISCUSSION OF CRIME RECAP/COMMUNITY POLICING/VOLUNTEERS**

Officer Lofstrom provided a recap of Crime, Community Policing Events, and Volunteers in the City including details of two Press Releases regarding a shooting and a non-permitted car show, current and upcoming events, and reported Volunteers in Policing hours in December were 274 and 3,796 hours for the year total.

Discussion followed on how the police discovered the non-permitted car show.

Chair Carmichael invited public comments.

Jim Mueller, District 5, for a status update on the matter of the proliferation of smoke shops in the City.

Lieutenant Long responded Officers have performed inspections and there were products removed, but the issue is still ongoing.

There were no other public comments on this item.

## **J.4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ADVISORY MEMO TO CITY COUNCIL REGARDING TRUCK ROUTE MATTER WITH THE CITY OF TORRANCE**

Discussion ensued regarding tabling this item to April due to the active communication, albeit limited, with the City of Torrance.

Motion by Commissioner Escontrias, seconded by Commissioner Gaul, and approved by voice vote, to continue Item J.4 until the April Public Safety Commission meeting.

Motion carried 4-0. Commissioners Wodnicki and Vice Chair Klainbaum were absent.

## **J.5. DISCUSSION OF RECENT UPDATES ON ENHANCED RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS**

Chair Carmichael explained this item used to involve updates from the City Attorney (Prosecutor), but he has not attended a meeting since November 2023, so he had his team put together a report of all homelessness data from City Council meetings and Public Safety Commission meetings from December 2023 to the present day and divided the information into different categories. He suggested continuing this to a future meeting after the Commission

has reviewed the documentation.

In reply to Chair Carmichael's question, Officer Lofstrom read a note from IT Director Mike Cook stating he will need to purchase more hardware to have Wi-Fi installed at the pallet shelter but should have it in time for a Q2 implementation.

Discussion followed on why this of relevance to the Commission, the need for more audits, the Public Safety Commission's areas of responsibility and contractual obligations for this Commission to receive regular monthly updates from CityNet.

## **K. MEMBER ITEMS AND REFERRALS TO STAFF**

### **K.1. PENDING ITEMS APPROVED BY COMMISSION**

Officer Lofstrom announced one of the documents attached to the agenda that was intended for Item J.5 was incorrectly attached to K.1.

In response to Commissioner Wodnicki's previous request for data, Officer Lofstrom reported there were 2,943 citations written in 2023, 4,781 written in 2024, the top three violations were for failing to stop at a stop sign, speeding and failing to obey traffic signals. He added that at the intersection of Artesia and Rindge in 2023, there were eight collisions and in 2024, after the implementation of a protected left turn, there was one.

Motion by Commissioner Gaul, seconded by Commissioner Skiba, and approved by voice vote, to invite the head of Speed Racing Kills to share their expertise as a discussion item at an upcoming meeting.

The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Wodnicki and Vice Chair Klainbaum were absent.

Motion by Chair Carmichael, seconded by Commissioner Gaul, and approved by voice vote, to invite the homeless project manager from South Bay COG to give a presentation on Redondo Beach reaching Functional Zero.

The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Wodnicki and Vice Chair Klainbaum were absent.

Chair Carmichael invited public comments.

Jim Mueller, District 5, stated a future agenda item should be on smoke shops and the cannabis industry, and described possible strategies the Commission can take to combat the concerns relating to public safety.

Motion by Chair Carmichael, seconded by Commissioner Gaul, and approved by voice vote, to agendize a discussion on cannabis prior to advisory action to City Council at a future Commission meeting.

The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Wodnicki and Vice Chair Klainbaum were absent.

Melissa Desaun, District 5, reminded the Commission that the documents she provided will help the Commission understand the matter and made a distinction between smoke shops and

cannabis dispensaries.

Officer Lofstrom interrupted and said that having public comments at this time is in violation of the Brown Act.

Motion by Chair Carmichael, seconded by Commissioner Gaul, and approved by voice vote, to agendaize a general discussion on smoke shops.

The motion carried 4-0. Commissioners Wodnicki, and Vice Chair Klainbaum were absent.

## **L. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Commissioner Gaul, seconded by Chair Carmichael, and approved by voice vote, to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

Motion carried 4-0. Commissioners Wodnicki and Vice Chair Klainbaum were absent.

The next meeting of the Redondo Beach Public Safety Commission will be a Regular meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M. on February 17, 2025, in the Redondo Beach Council Chambers, at 415 Diamond Street, Redondo Beach, California.

All written comments submitted via eComment are included in the record and available for public review on the City website.

Respectfully submitted:

  
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Joseph Hoffman  
Police Chief