



**CITY OF HEMET**  
**Traffic and Parking Commission Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 10, 2006**  
**8:00 AM**

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City Council Chambers  
450 E. Latham Avenue  
Hemet, CA 92543

The meeting was called to order a 8:03 AM by Commissioner Modica.

**ROLL CALL:** Commissioner Michael Asher; Commissioner Don Berry; Commissioner Anne Marc- Aurele; Commissioner Gareth Modica; Commissioner David Oltman; Council Member Roger Meadows; Planning Commission Liaison, Eric McBride.

**Members absent:** *None.*

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mike Gow, Public Works Director/City Engineer; Julee Heckerman, Management Assistant; Megan Caines, Office Specialist; Richard Broos, Streets Superintendent; Lieutenant Heidi Roth, Hemet Police Department.

**FLAG SALUTE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Commissioner Modica

**Election of Commission Chairperson.**

Management Assistant Julee Heckermann informed the commission that a new Chair and Vice-Chair must be appointed for the new term. The floor was opened for nominations.

*Commissioner Asher nominated Commissioner Modica for the office of Commission Chairperson. Commissioner Marc-Aurele seconded nomination, and passed 5-0.*

*Commissioner Modica nominated Commissioner Asher for the office of Commission Vice-Chair. Commissioner Marc-Aurele seconded nomination, and passed 5-0.*

Commission returned to Agenda as presented.

1. **Approval of Minutes of March 8, 2006 and April 12, 2006.**  
*Commissioner Berry moved to accept the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Asher, and passed 5-0.*

2. **Report of Council Action on March 8, 2006 Meeting:**

*Informational.* Heckermann reported that the following items were submitted to the City Council by the Traffic Commission and were approved as recommended.

- A. Approved installation of red curb and "City Vehicle Parking Only" signs on Buena Vista - One way eastbound alley behind Covell Building from Buena Vista to Franklin.
- B. Approved installation of 3-Way stop sign at Garland/Whittier

- C. Approved of request to obtain permission from Caltrans to install “Do Not Block Intersection” signs
- D. Approval of the Commission’s denial of request to paint speed limit on pavement on Lincoln between Lake and New Chicago
- E. Approval to remove Tanya as a designated truck parking area

**3. Request for Installation of Directional Signs to First Southern Baptist Church**  
(First Southern Baptist Church)

Heckermann reported that the request specifies three different locations for signage: San Jacinto St. and Florida Ave., San Jacinto St. and Stetson, and Mayberry Avenue and State Street. The first two locations requested are outside of the City’s jurisdiction (CalTrans and County of Riverside, respectively), while the third location is not within the immediate vicinity of the church.

Commissioner Oltman inquired as to whom would pay for the sign. Heckermann reported that in such cases the private organization pays for the signs and the City crews perform the installation.

***Commissioner Berry moved that the Traffic Commission take no action on this issue until the First Southern Baptist Church has received approval from CalTrans. Commissioner Asher seconded, and motion passed 5-0.***

**4. Request for 4-Way Stop and Crosswalk at Garland/Rosemary**  
(Mary Stonebraker, 2197 Garland Way)

Heckermann reported that Garland Way has been reviewed many times, the last of which resulted in the recommendation of a stop sign to be installed at Whittier St. and Garland Way. This request is for an additional stop sign along Garland Way. Staff recommends a stop not be installed at Garland and Rosemary.

Commissioner Oltman asked if a stop sign meets the warrants as outlined by the State of California. Heckermann responded that this location fails to meet the warrants, and as such, Staff cannot recommend the installation of a stop sign at the specified location.

***Commissioner Oltman moved to not install a stop sign or crosswalk at Garland Way and Rosemary, until such time as it meets the warrants outlined by the State of California. Commissioner Asher seconded, motion passed 5-0.***

**5. Installation of “No U-Turn” signs along Sanderson Avenue Medians**  
(Traffic Commission Request)

Heckermann informed the Commission that this agenda item was held over from the March 2006 meeting of the Traffic Commission. Heckermann discussed the exhibits with the Commission detailing the areas that would restrict U-turns, and outlining the intersection adjustments required at the intersections of Sanderson and Devonshire, Florida and Acacia Avenues.

Council member Meadows reported that in one sitting, he personally witnessed seven (7) vehicles make U-turns through the medians on Sanderson Avenue.

Commissioner Oltman asked how many signs would be installed on Sanderson Avenue. Public Works Director/City Engineer Mike Gow, informed the Commission that each turn pocket between Devonshire and Acacia Avenues, not located at an intersection, would prohibit U-turns.

***Commissioner Oltman moved to approve the installation of “No U-Turn” signs along the Sanderson Avenue medians, between Devonshire and Acacia Avenues. Commissioner Asher seconded, and motion passed 5-0.***

**6. Request to Install 4-Way Stop at Buena Vista and Johnston.**  
(Kathleen Wroblewski, 507 Montecito #A)

Heckermann reported that this item has come before the Commission in the past. Staff recommends new counts to be taken, as the last counts were taken in 2004, and return the item to a future meeting of the Traffic Commission.

The Commission requested commendations from the Police Department. Lieutenant Heidi Roth, Hemet Police Department, informed the Commission that five (5) minor collisions have occurred at that intersection.

***Commission directed Staff to obtain traffic counts for the intersection of Buena Vista and Johnston Streets and return the item to a future meeting of the Traffic Commission.***

**7. Request to Install Wrought Iron Fence at the South Entrance to the Auto Mall at Auto Mall Drive.**  
(Hemet Auto Dealers Association, 350 Carriage Circle)

Heckermann reported that this item was discussed at the April 2006 meeting of the Traffic Commission. The purpose of the gate, Heckermann reiterated, is to prevent vandalism and thefts at the Auto Mall at Florida Avenue and Warren Road. The floor was opened for public comment.

*Eric Gosh, Hemet Auto Dealers Association, 350 Carriage Circle*

Mr. Gosh informed the Traffic Commission that the Auto Dealers Association spends approximately \$4,900 a month for a private security company to patrol the Auto Mall. All together, Gosh reported, the Auto Mall incurs tens of thousands of dollars in damage a month. The Auto Dealers Association is requesting to be allowed to install a wrought iron gate to be installed along the southern entrance of the property. The gate would be locked between the hours of 10pm and 6am everyday and would be equipped with Knox boxes for both the Fire and Police Departments. There are no buildings located in the southern section of the property, and Gosh insists that the only reason anyone would object to restricting access to the property would be those who wish to cause damage. The property is too large to secure as is, and the installation of a locked gate would provide a low cost solution to an expensive problem.

Planning Liaison Eric McBride asked if Gosh had any pictures of the types of gates he is suggesting. Gosh replied that while he did not have any pictures currently, the Auto Dealers Association were pricing decorative wrought iron. Any bids they currently have would have expired by now, but, Gosh insists, new bids are easy to obtain and they have all of the necessary applications for Knox boxes.

Commissioner Modica asked about the security of all other entrances to the property. Gosh replied that once the southern access is secured with a locked gate, there would be only one point of vehicular access near Florida Avenue. Other than that, there is a point along the northern perimeter where the pedestrians could access the property, however it would prove to be difficult to maneuver a vehicle through that point.

Commissioner Oltman inquired about the possibility of U-turns along the southern access. If the road is blocked off, vehicles would have to be able to get turned around. Gosh replied that there

was at least enough room for a 3-point turn, if not a U-turn.

***Commissioner Oltman moved to send this request to the City Attorney in order to establish an agreement with regards to liability and maintenance, and to then return the item to the Traffic Commission. Commissioner Asher seconded, and motion passed 5-0.***

**8. Installation of Additional Sign and/or Relocation fo the Existing Right Turn Only at Acacia Ave. Exit for AM/PM.**  
(Andre Vernon, Resident)

Heckermann reported that this item has come before the Traffic Commission in the past. The previous decision of the Commission was to contact AM/PM and to request a painted right turn arrow to be painted on the pavement. The City Council approved this decision and sent the request. So far, the City has received no response. With regards to the sign in question, Heckermann reported that the sign could not been seen from the gas pumps, however as one is pulling up to the driveway, the sign is clearly visible. Heckermann presented several pictures of the sign from several different angles.

Commissioner Oltman inquired if the City had the authority to force AM/PM to comply, and if the City was communicating with locals or with the Corporate headquarters. Heckermann responded that the City could not force AM/PM to paint an arrow on their property. However, Heckermann added, given the volume of traffic that driveway receives any painted directional arrows would not remain on the pavement for very long. Additionally, Heckermann informed the Commission that she has been in touch with both the local and corporate management and has been able to make very little headway with the request.

The floor was opened to public comment.

Andre Vernon, Resident

Mr. Vernon outlined for the Commission a time line of his request for additional signage at the AM/PM. On December 14, 2005, Vernon attended the Traffic Commission meeting and was informed of the decision to paint the right turn arrow on the pavement. In March, he wrote a letter to the Mayor and, to date, has not received a reply. In April, Vernon was informed that AM/PM had not responded to the request made in December 2005. Vernon reiterated his argument from the December 2005 meeting: from the gas pumps nearest Acacia Avenue, the right turn only sign cannot be read. Vernon continued to say that while paralleling the curb closest to Acacia Avenue, the sign does not become visible until the vehicle is four feet from the driveway.

Commissioner Asher inquired as the feasibility of adjusting the angle of the sign. Council member Meadows informed the Commissioner that the sign is located on a private pole, and consequently the City would have to obtain permission from AM/PM before adjusting the sign.

Streets Superintendent Richard Broos explained to the Traffic Commission the angle requirements for the placement of city signs.

***Commissioner Berry moved to continue studying the possible corrective measures, and to direct Staff to return the item to the Commission at a future meeting. Commissioner Marc-Aurele seconded, and motion passed 5-0.***

**9. Action Item List**

*Informational.* Heckermann reviewed the items previously discussed by the Traffic Commission. Commissioner Modica inquired as to any new developments regarding Truck Parking. Heckermann

responded that there are no new developments for that issue.

**10. Public Comments: *None***

**11. Future Agenda Items**

1. Term limits for Traffic Commissioners

**12. ADJOURNMENT: *Meeting was adjourned at 8:59 am.***

**Next meeting is scheduled for 8:00 AM, Wednesday, June 14, 2006, in City Council Chambers.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Caines  
Office Specialist  
Public Works, Engineering Dept.