

TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY, June 9, 2021 6:30PM

IMPROTANT NOTICE REGARDING PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MEETING & PARTICIPATION

On March 20, 2020, City Manager Gregory Rose declared a State of Emergency for the City of University City due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Due to the current order restricting gatherings of more than 10 people and the ongoing efforts to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the June 9, 2021 meeting will be conducted via videoconference.

Date:6/9/21

1. Call to Order At 6:30 P.M. by Chairman Stewart

2. Roll Call

Bart Stewart	Commissioner & Chair - Present
Dennis Fuller	Commissioner - Present
Craig Hughes	Commissioner - Present
Cirri Moran	Commissioner - Present
Jane Schaefer	Commissioner - Present
Jerold Tiers	Commissioner - Present
Errol Tate	Staff Liaison - Present
Sinan Alpaslan	PWP Director - Present
Tim Cusick	Council liaison - Present
Shawn Whitley	Police Liaison - Present
John Mulligan	City Attorney - Present

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Jane Schaefer to approve the agenda and motion 2nd by Commissioner Cirri Moran. Motion approved by a unanimous voice vote of the Commission.

4. Approval of Minutes of: 4/14/21 Not recorded and Sec was excused from meeting.

5. Agenda items

A. 7551 Liberty Extend No Parking.

1. APPLICANT: Cindy Johnson – 7551 Liberty

Location: 1600 Block of Harrison Avenue

Request: Extend the Restricted Parking

2. Currently there is a parking issue located in the 1600 Block of Harrison Ave. There is a parking restriction on the east side of the block at the intersection of Harrison and Fairham because of the increased amount of parking problems that have arose on the east side and westside of Harrison. There has been an increasing issue from a neighboring community establishment that has increased the parking on Harrison making it difficult to navigate because of the narrow road.

3. Request: The request is to Extend the Restricted Parking on the eastside of Harrison Avenue from Fairham to Liberty on the eastside of the road.

4. Conclusion/Recommendation: It is recommended that the Traffic Commission consider the option of extending the restricted parking on the east side of Harrison Ave from Fairham Ave to Liberty Ave.

5. It was pointed out to the commissioners by staff that Harrison is already a one side of the straight restriction. Petitioner Cindy Johnson was in attendance on the zoom meeting and expressed her concerns about the limited parking on liberty.

6. Commissioner Fuller made a motion to extend the no parking on Harrison ave.as stated in the petition.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tiers.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Commission.

B. Shaftesbury and Wilson Stop sign conversion to Yield.

1. APPLICANT: City of University City

Location: Intersection of Wilson Avenue and Shaftesbury

Request: Stop Sign to Yield Sign Transition

2. Existing Conditions: Intersection of Wilson Avenue and Shaftesbury

At this intersection, there is a Stop Sign on Wilson Avenue that is in the westbound lane that intersects with Shaftesbury Avenue. As shown in the illustration (shown in the request packet illustration) the stop sign is set back from Shaftesbury making it difficult for the driver to make a transition from Wilson to Shaftesbury safely/ After a closer look at this intersection and its orientation we have decided to remove the stop sign for the westbound lane of Wilson and replace it with a yield sign closer to the intersection with Shaftesbury. This will allow the westbound lane to approach the intersection with caution and be made aware of any vehicles on Shaftesbury. Proposed Yield Existing Stop Sign to be removed. According to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Device MUTCD, the use of YIELD or STOP signs should be considered at the intersection of two minor streets or local roads where the ability to see conflicting traffic on an approach is not sufficient to allow a road user to stop or yield in compliance with the normal right-of-way rule if such stopping or yielding is necessary; the conditions to consider are: Accident history (more than 5 accidents in the last 3 years), visibility conditions, vehicular and pedestrian conflicts, unusual conditions and unique geometrics.

3. Request: Remove 1 Stop Sign at Wilson and Shaftesbury and Replace it with 1 Yield Sign in the westbound land of Wilson Avenue.

4. Conclusion/Recommendation: It is recommended that the commission take action on this item, for City Council approval of the installation of a yield sign at the referenced intersection. The warrants for a yield sign are met per the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices based on current conditions.

5. Discussion: Resident Hannah Trimble, 7443 Ahern Ct. was present on the Zoom and expressed her concerns about confusion at this intersection.

Mr Tate pointed out there are four stop signs at the present intersection and that staff is proposing to remove the stop sign on Wilson and Shaftesbury and install a yield closer to Shaftesbury.

A discussion amongst commissioners also suggested: 1. Converting to three stop signs at Shaftsbury and Wilson and 2. Eliminate the small right turn with a temporary barrier.

Mr. Tate added two the commissioner's discussion to place a yield sign on Wilson and have the traffic engineer do a traffic study.

6. Commissioner Tiers made a motion to remove the stop sign from Wilson to Shaftsbury, retain the current yield sign and have the city traffic engineer do a traffic study to present to the city.

The motion was seconded by commissioner Schaefer.

The Motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of the Commission.

C. Rowland Drive – Excessive Traffic

1. APPLICANT: Sheila Laurent - 8623 Rowland Drive (present on zoom)

Location: 8000 Block of Rowland

Request: Prohibit Non-Local Traffic

2. H.F. Epstein Hebrew Academy located at 8645 Old Bonhomme uses Rowland Drive for ingress and egress from their property instead of its designated entrance and exit. This has increased the traffic on the small residential road Rowland Drive.

3. Request: Prohibit Non-Local Traffic on the 8600 Block of Rowland Dr

4. Conclusion/Recommendation: Staff recommends that the traffic commission approve a Local Traffic Only sign for this road, in case of an emergency the academy should be using the provided entrance and exit. The residents report that for their small road of Rowland there is too much traffic and many of the academy drivers speed in and out of the Rowland Drive entrance.

5. Discussion: resident Sheila Laurent, 8623 Rowland, states that there is an excessive amount of traffic particularly with student drop off and pick up going through the Roland neighborhood rather than the entrance to the Academy. Commissioner Moran suggested the city simply closed the gate at the end of Roland. There was a limited amount of discussion about whether the Academy had a property agreement when they took this property over from united cerebral palsy. Mr. Tate indicated that staff would investigate the purchase agreement. Secondary to this discussion the following motion was made:

6. Motion by Commissioner Tiers to table this discussion until the usage permit is investigated.

Motion was seconded by Schaefer and motion passed by a unanimous vote.

City Attorney Mulligan stated that he would work with Mr Cross regarding review of the conditional user permit agreement.

6. Council Liaison Report: Councilmember Cusick presented the following
 - A. The olive at 170 project will begin clearing buildings and property in June with the site ready for Costco by February of 2022.
 - B. City Hall, the Commons, and the swimming pool will be open to the public next month.
 - C. Library will be closing in September and moving to an undisclosed site which will be announced later.
 - D. Council meeting will be in chambers but not open to the public, the meeting will be streamed live.
 - E. At the last council meeting it was decided not to presume proposition P. The city manager is going to be reviewing the finances and there may be enough money in the budget to not require a proposed proposition.

7. Miscellaneous Business: In response to councilmember Cusick's announcement regarding the library, Commissioner Schaefer indicated the library will be relocating to 6900 Delmar, which is the previous Mary Englebright building or Jewish synagogue.

8. Adjournment. Adjournment. No further business appearing, Commissioner Tiers made a motion to Adjourn, Motion was 2nd by Commissioner Schaefer.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:43 PM

Respectfully submitted
Dennis Fuller, Commission Sec.