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TRAFFIC COMMISSION MEETING

March 18, 2026 (In Person)

5:30 PM

IN ATTENDANCE: Chair Elena Proakis Ellis, Chief Faller, Former Mayor Gail Infurna, Commissioner Jeff Parenti, Councilor Kim Vandiver, Commissioner Kara Oberg, Commissioner Jonah Chiarenza, Commissioner Andrew Paul, Sgt. Jonathan Goc – Technical Advisor, Jennifer Rosa – Clerk

The meeting is called to order at 5:34 PM.

I. Continued Business:

1. Approve December 2025 meeting minutes

Motion is made by Former Mayor Infurna to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Paul. All in are in favor, so the meeting minutes are approved. Commissioner Chiarenza was not present for this vote.

II. New Business:

2. Resident request to implement No Parking on the southbound side of Pleasant St near 222 Pleasant St/across from Towne Estates

Resident Brian Cummings of 222 Pleasant St is here as the proponent of this item. He states that people park overnight and stay all day well over the two-hour parking limit. He feels that Towne Estates should make a place for these cars to park. There are 18 houses opposite Towne Estates with 15 or so that have driveways on Pleasant St. He states that with all the cars parked on the street, it makes it quite difficult for people to get in and out of their driveways. When the cars are parked on the street, the trash barrels don't get picked up, the street doesn't get plowed or swept. He mentions that cars are speeding between Gould St and Washington St. He feels that if they changed the parking to the other side of the street it would help. Elena asks the resident if he thinks it would help if cars were abiding by the 2-hour limit and not parking overnight as they shouldn't and the resident states that it might. Former Mayor Infurna states that if we restrict the parking then people that live on Pleasant St have no place for guests to park. She thinks it comes down to an enforcement issue. She also mentions that cars parked on the street help slow vehicles down. The resident feels that If Towne estates would make five more spaces in their lots, they could solve the problem.

Elena asks the resident if it tends to be the same cars parking all the time. He states that they are the same cars parked there all the time and will stay until they get a ticket. Sgt Goc states that they are aware of the problem in this area and have asked the resident to call the station if there is any issue and they will go down there and ticket cars. He states that every month if there are new tenants the problem worsens again. Councilor Vandiver states that she is the current ward councilor in that area and has not received complaints from anyone else in the area. She wonders if it is specific to his property and wonders if there is anything we could do informally to deter the cars from parking in front of their property.

Motion to open public comment is made by Former Mayor Infurna, seconded by Councilor Vandiver. All are in favor, so public comment is opened.

The resident of 242-252 Pleasant St states that he confirms everything that the proponent has stated. He also mentions that street sweeping doesn't happen in his area because of all the cars parked on the street. He would take the inconvenience of having his guests park across the street. This is an ongoing problem in the area and when they complain to Towne Estates, they say they will resolve it and then it happens again when a new tenant moves in.

Motion to close public comment is made by Commissioner Oberg, seconded by Chief Faller. All are in favor, so public comment is closed. Commissioner Parenti asks about the current parking regulation. Former Mayor Infurna thinks that there are different regulations on each side. Elena shows that the Traffic Code shows parking prohibited Mon-Sat – 8am-6pm on the Towne Estates side from Gould St heading South. On Sundays you can park on both sides. The two-hour parking doesn't appear to be in the code as it should be. Elena states that the street is 30 feet wide, so it is interesting that there would be parking allowed on both sides of the street at certain times of day. She mentions that we wouldn't need to change the regulation at all for cars to park on the Town Estates side in the evenings as they are already permitted to do so. Commissioner Chiarenza asks if we could amend the code to prohibit parking all the time on the west side and allow two-hour parking on the east side. Elena states that we could, however we did focus on the area in the vicinity of 222 Pleasant St, so if that is the desire of the neighborhood then we could get a petition from that area from Gould St to Washington St and revisit it at another meeting and either just vote on this one item tonight and either table it or deny it. Commissioner Chiarenza wonders if we could discuss it before the neighborhood goes through the trouble. Former Mayor Infurna suggests we say yes or no tonight on this item and then have them come back if they choose to.

Councilor Vandiver states that cars parked on the street slow cars down and the road conditions do as well. She wonders if we limit parking and then the roadway improves, then maybe down the road we could visit some traffic calming measures in this area. Commissioner Oberg states that she would support traffic calming in this area and that we could flip the parking back and forth from each side to slow cars down in the area. Commissioner Oberg states that she would vote more on traffic calming and safety rather than residents not wanting cars parked in front of their house. Elena states that what she is hearing is that the overnight parking could be solved with enforcement and we will research the code to see if the two-hour parking is legitimate. Elena thinks we should deny what's before us right now and then have the neighborhood come back with a petition from Gould St down to Washington St if they would prefer parking to move to the other side of the street. She wouldn't recommend all-day parking, but two-hour parking as it is so close to Oak Grove.

Motion to deny is made by Former Mayor Infurna, seconded by Commissioner Oberg. Commissioner Parenti states that the petition needs to be very clear on what they would like changed, this way the residents know what they are signing. Elena calls the role, all are in favor, so the motion is denied.

3. Request from city to allow staff of the Lincoln School to exceed timed parking limits on Pleasant St along the frontage of the Lincoln School property with placard or sticker displayed

Elena is going to speak as the proponent for this item and mentions that there is no one from the public here to speak on this item. She states that the Lincoln School has approximately ten cars per day that are staff or paraprofessionals that are coming to the school and do not have a parking space in the school lot. Right now the practice has been that they park along Pleasant St and stay there all day. Currently there is no way to identify what cars they are. Because of this the staff is going out and moving their cars every two hours. We are proposing just along the frontage of the school. They hadn't formally requested this, but we offered to present it. We have the support of the Superintendent and Lincoln School Principal. Former Mayor Infurna asks if the cars would have a placard to identify that they were employees at the Lincoln School. Elena states that it would either be a placard or a sticker that would go on their windshield. Sgt Goc states that a placard would be best. Elena states that it is about 189 ft, which is sufficient for about ten cars if they are parked correctly. There won't be related signage on the street.

Commissioner Oberg asks when the first request came in for this item. Elena states that she has heard about this issue for years. Commissioner Oberg wonders about whether this is just a band aid or will it solve the issue. Elena states that in the future as more teachers get hired this will come up again, however this will solve the bulk of the problem for the present time. The Lincoln School has numbered spaces and usually there are a couple of spaces open. Commissioner Oberg is concerned about Pleasant St and Wyoming Ave West as there is no current crossing guard. Elena states that the area that we are considering allowing is over 200 feet from the intersection, so there is no concern for blocking sight lines. Former Mayor Infurna thinks this is a benefit for the safety of the kids as ten cars will already be in place before dropping off starts with the parents. It is a band aid, but it's always a moving target trying to accommodate the education plan. Former Mayor Infurna fully supports this. Councilor Vandiver is also in support of this proposal. Commissioner Oberg feels that we should research the area before we do anything further and get a crossing guard back. Elena states that we have potential funding to do a traffic study.

Motion to approve is made by Former Mayor Infurna, seconded by Commissioner Chiarenza. Commissioner Parenti asks if this regulation is 24/7? What happens on non-school days. Elena states that parking is only allowed with the placard and no signs would be changed in the area. After 3 pm when the teachers leave, the two-hour parking is enforced. The school would hand the placards out to the teachers that need them.

Elena calls the role; all are in favor, so the motion is approved.

4. Hospital request for stop signs on Porter St eastbound and westbound at Rowe St

Elena states that this is a request from Melrose Wakefield Hospital. It is a request for a three-way stop because one approach is a one-way street. Former Mayor Infurna withdraws from this item as she is on the Board of Trustees at the hospital. Elena states that the reason for this request is due to a meeting that was held with the hospital facilities manager. He stated that they have problems with cars coming down Porter St from the Saugus direction going into the one-way portion of Porter St through the Do Not Enter signs. Staff have difficulty crossing the street. They are looking at crosswalk modifications that run

between the hospital and staff parking lot. They are looking at bumping out the curb and possibly installing an RRFB. These are not Traffic Commission items but are worth mentioning. The City plans on striping a right turn straight and left turn arrow at the intersection with Rowe St when coming from the Main St direction up Porter, so people coming the opposite way on Porter will see the arrows as well as the Do Not Enter signs. This will hopefully be more visible to drivers. Although this wouldn't meet the warrants, Elena felt that this proposal made a lot of sense due to the non-compliance of the Do Not Enter signs. Commissioner Paul asks about the one way. Elena states that people are having difficulty west bound on Porter St. obeying the one-way. Councilor Vandiver feels more signage would also help in this area but is in favor of the stop signs. Sgt Goc agrees that it is a unique area. Commissioner Oberg mentions this as a possible location for a mini roundabout for traffic calming. Elena states that they don't have a speed issue at this intersection but have a compliance issue. Commissioner Paul wonders if we could make a double yellow line with a stop bar. Elena states that if it becomes a three-way stop, we could improve the crosswalk striping and do some double yellow striping.

Motion to approve is made by Chief Faller, seconded by Councilor Vandiver, all are in favor except for Commissioner Parenti who abstains.

Motion to adjourn is made by Former Mayor Gail Infurna, seconded by Commissioner Oberg. All are in favor, so the meeting is adjourned at 6:35 PM.