

## GREATER TOLUCA LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



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### PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING (includes TRAFFIC/PUBLIC WORKS) MINUTES for: Monday, September 10, 2007 10116 Riverside Drive, Suite 200 Toluca Lake, CA 91602

#### 1. Meeting Opening/Call to Order:

**Start time:** 7:05 PM

**Attendance:** Jay Goldberg, Sol Ajalat, Frank Banyai, John Adair, Wendy Mogul and SLO Rob Benavidez.

**Absent:** Craig Strong, Betsy Mogul (Excused) and Michael Weisler (Excused).

**Guests:** Glenda Baskin, Marie Andros, George Andros, Christine Farnon and Deputy City Attorney Brian Sottile.

**Motion:** to approve Minutes for July and August Public Safety Meeting approved with change to #2. DOT representative said traffic study showed that a traffic signal is not warranted.

#### 2.1 On-Going Business –Public Input limited to 3-minutes

##### Local Crime- Update, Senior Lead Officer

Reported that a new bicycle unit is targeting the area around and North of Magnolia. Officer Benavidez reviewed the crime numbers for August and reported that they are down. He was asked about red-painting the northeast corner of Cahuenga and Camarillo. He agreed it should be done, but it is a D.O.T. issue. He introduced Deputy City Attorney Brian Sottile, who is the neighborhood attorney. He reported that in addition to gang sweeps, they are trying to clean up problems associated with the local recycling centers.

**Action Item RE: red-curb at Cahuenga and Camarillo**-who follows up with D.O.T.?

##### Strohm-Otsego Continuing to patrol the area; relying on Neighborhood Watch to get involved.

We are not certain whether or not a Neighborhood Watch has been organized for that area.

##### Gang Activity To report tagging or gang activity please call "311".

Committee Chair cautioned against residents painting over graffiti or confronting anyone who is graffiti-ing. It is dangerous and there have been two recent murders of people in L.A. who tried to stop it. Call 311 and they'll respond.

##### Neighborhood Watch

- Kling Street doing well. More meetings coming up. Fund Raiser on 9/19 5:30-8:30

#### 2.2 Work In-Progress Status –Public Input limited to 3-minutes

##### Cahuenga Blvd. Improvements-Update

- Please see separate attachment titled "Cahuenga Boulevard Street Improvements Questions and Answers from the 08 06 2007 and 09 10 2007 GTLNC Public Safety Committee Meetings."

George Andros spoke regarding downgrading streets to try to curtail the overdevelopment in the neighborhood. The Committee Chair reported that Terry Davis is drafting a letter to the City Council, based on the recommendations of the Public Safety Committee, so we will not have to bring it to the Neighborhood Council for a vote.

The Chair asked for the committee's approval of the following:

THE GENERAL CONSENSUS OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE IS THAT CAHUENGA BOULEVARD, BETWEEN LANKERSHIM AND MAGNOLIA, BE DOWNGRADED FROM SECONDARY HIGHWAY STATUS BECAUSE OF ITS RESIDENTIAL NATURE.

Sol Ajalat moved that: *we recommend that Cahuenga Boulevard between Lankershim and Magnolia be downgraded from "secondary highway" status because of its residential nature, and that the Neighborhood Council President appoint a committee to fully investigate and undertake any action with respect to downgrading. Passed unanimously.*

##### Trader Joe's Corner-a traffic light is not justified. Could still continue to study.

Stop Sign at Forman and the Alley South of Riverside Drive-still looking at accident reports.

##### Strohm (South of Riverside) requests- On hold

- Public Safety Committee would like to hear from the City (Traffic Department) what solution they think is best.

##### Camarillo between Lankershim/Tujunga

- City is analyzing data.

##### Valley Spring Lane Issues-(between Lakeside and Cahuenga)

- Street Resurfacing-is in the works

- Lighting issues-City Department of Public Works

**Clybourn and Camarillo Stop Sign**- Re-evaluate.

- High traffic volume and poor visibility because of curve.
- Request a traffic light (historical information: this intersection is on the border between Burbank and LA and the City of Burbank would not agree to a traffic signal unless LA ceded a piece of the border to Burbank.

**Committee Chair passed on, Alice Roth's report regarding several items discussed at August meeting:**

**3. New Business** Public Input limited to 3-minutes

**Universal Development Plans**-tabled

Committee agreed to support a Town Hall meeting for the purpose of a L.A.P.D. presentation. The subject is the predatory behavior by some towards minor children on the internet. Toluca Lake Elementary School has agreed to allow the use of their auditorium and GTLNC will host. Suggested dates are: 1/29-2/5-2/12 2008 (to be cleared with LAPD).

**4. Meeting Close 8:25 PM**

Meeting Dates for 2007: (first Monday of the month unless there is a Holiday) October 1; November 5; December 3.

Time: 7:00 PM Location: 10116 Riverside Drive, Suite 200

**Cahuenga Boulevard Street Improvements**  
**Questions & Answers from the August 6, 2007 and again on September 10, 2007**  
**GTLNC Public Safety Committee Meeting**

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FROM: *South of Cahuenga Committee* (questions and answers in Italics)  
North Cahuenga Committee (questions and answers are underlined)  
TO: the City DOT, Tom LaBonge, & the Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council  
& Public Safety Committee  
RE: Cahuenga Boulevard

***SOUTH QUESTIONS and ANSWERS***

1. *The project as planned per the City is to make through traffic flow easier (quicker & more of it) & is primarily not for safety. Paragraph 1 of Scope of Work.*

- *The Scope of Work title should be changed to “Street Improvements-Cahuenga/Magnolia Blvd. to Lankershim Blvd.*

*South:* Agreed

P/S Minutes 8/6: Tom gave assurance that he will be changing signs.

P/S Minutes: 9/10:

2. *No work should begin without the Scope of Work containing the exact relocation of the traffic directional sign at the Cahuenga/Lankershim Y directing freeway traffic down Cahuenga, a 99% residential street, & changing the lettering to direct traffic down Lankershim a 99% commercial street to the freeway.*

- *This was promised by Councilman LaBonge in writing, acquiesced to by the City, & published in the Toluca, & sen(d) via mail by Tom LaBonge to over 550 Citizens of Toluca Lake.*
- *This was supported by over 550 signatures, the recommendation of the Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council & the Toluca Lake Homeowners Association in writing.*

*South:* Agreed

P/S Minutes 8/6: All okay.

P/S Minutes: 9/10:

3. *There is no need for a left hand turn pocket at Landale & Cahuenga Blvd. There has only been 1 accident in 6 years. Landale is a very narrow street with needed parking on both sides of the street. A no left hand turn sign should be installed on Cahuenga prohibiting left hand turns on to Landale from Cahuenga. At the “Shade Tree Meeting” the Councilman agreed to this elimination & sign. Turn pockets will only increase accidents not prevent them.*

- *Because of the elimination of the left hand turn pocket at Landale & Cahuenga there is no need to eliminate 5 parking spaces that are needed by local workers, occasional guests, & for the impacted parking situation on Landale.*
- *The 5 parking spaces are on Cahuenga on the West side of the street, 3 North & 2 South of Landale. There have never been accidents as a result of the 5 parking spaces.*

*South:* Agreed

P/S Minutes 8/6: Remove and leave parking.

P/S Minutes 9/10: The Cahuenga-Landale left-turn pocket is out.

4. *The Scope of Work should include a traffic light at Valley Spring Lane to prevent accidents. All a turn pocket will do is increase accidents. The City can't provide any evidence that turn pockets prevent accidents, but rather enhance thru traffic thereby increasing the odds of accidents occurring.*

- *The new light should be timed with the others on Cahuenga, & have a left hand arrow component. (Paragraph 4 - Scope of Work).*

*South:*

P/S Minutes 8/6: Updated study 4/2007, no signal needed.

P/S Minutes 9/10: Traffic light at Valley Spring denied. Timing on local traffic signals will be adjusted.

**5. Installation of 2 permanent digital speed signs on Cahuenga on both sides of the street, South of Riverside**

- **2 signs south of Riverside, placement to be determined by the City DOT.**

South: DOT will try to install two speed signs instead of one.

P/S Minutes 8/6: Attempting to see if they can add this to scope of work.

P/S Minutes 9/10:

**6. Scope of Work under "Major Objectives" has errors. The work isn't a safety issue as stated, however these recommendations contained in this paper will provide safety, & make both common & traffic sense.**

- **All existing red curbs should be repainted red to help prevent illegal parking & inserted into the Scope of Work along with multiple no parking signs installed on each red curb area.**

South: City to repaint red curbs. (DOT explained why they can't install "No Parking Signs" on red curb areas).

P/S Minutes: Can't do both.

**7. A letter of these recommendations should be prepared for the Council to approve & once approved put in letterform to Councilman LaBonge & to the City DOT, no later than September 2007 by the GTLC**

South: Request that GTLNC approve these recommendations and send to Councilman LaBonge and DOT no later than September 2007.

P/S Minutes: (no information in notes)

## NORTH QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

### 1. Adjust traffic signal timings on Cahuenga starting at Magnolia southward to the 134 at Sarah or Riverside so drivers will be forced to come to a full stop at Huston & again at Camarillo. Do this 24/7. Adjust the timing so pedestrians needing to cross Cahuenga at Huston don't have to wait so long for the lights to change, the yellow button does nothing for them.

North: They (DOT?) will check on the yellow button equipment at Cahuenga & Huston to make sure it is working properly.

P/S Minutes 8/6: Not part of scope of work. Will try to make special times for children crossing then go back to Regular time.

P/S Minutes 9/10: Yes

### 2. Install a traffic signal on Cahuenga at Addison.

North: (?)

P/S Minutes 8/6: Will look into it.

P/S Minutes 9/10: Denied.

### 3. On the west side of Cahuenga from Magnolia to Camarillo, paint solid white lines to identify parking lanes.

North: This will be looked into by ?

P/S Minutes 8/6: Will look into it.

P/S Minutes 9/10: Per Paul Meshkin's email to Alice, there is no problem with a solid white line on Cahuenga, between Camarillo and Magnolia.

### 4. Prohibit southbound traffic on Cahuenga from turning westbound on Camarillo on the red light by installing a "No Right turn on Red" sign at the N.W. corner of Cahuenga at Camarillo.

North: ? will try.

P/S Minutes 8/6: Can't be part of this project.

P/S Minutes 9/10: Yes

### 5. Increase nighttime visibility & decrease temptation to speed at night by adding more pedestrian lighting on Cahuenga Blvd. (Provided that there is no spill light back towards homes).

North: We asked for more pedestrian lighting on Cahuenga: This is an issue for Dept. of Public Works- Alice will look into it.

P/S Minutes 8/6: Can't be part of this project.

P/S Minutes 9/10: Awaiting response.

### 6. Install photo enforcement signals on Cahuenga at the intersections of Huston & Camarillo.

North: We asked for Photo enforcement signals on Cahuenga at Huston and at Magnolia. This is an LAPD issue.

Rob and Alice will look into it.

P/S Minutes 8/6: Up to LAPD.

P/S Minutes 9/10: Awaiting response.

### 7. Prevent semi trailer trucks from using Cahuenga & the installation of all needed signs to prevent their use including working with the City & State.

North: Get heavy trucks off the commercial access route. This is an issue for Dept. of Public Works. Alice to follow through?

P/S Minutes 8/6: Can't be part of this project. CA and LA codes apply.

P/S Minutes 9/10: Awaiting response.

### 8. Traffic enforcement hours to be recommended to the Police Traffic Division beginning at:

- Mondays - Fridays between Mid-day to Midnight.
- Saturdays between 10:00PM to 2:00AM.
- Enforce the no U-Turn Law.

North: (? don't believe this went through).

P/S Minutes 8/6: Refer to LAPD. P/S Minutes 9/10: Awaiting response.

**9. The Cahuenga Committee strongly recommends NO INSTALLATIONS OF RIGHT LANES AT THE CORNER OF CAHUENGA BLVD. & CAMARILLO ST. Data must be provided to Justify right of way acquisitions.**

North: \_\_\_\_\_ We do not want right of way acquisitions in order to install right lanes at the NE & NW corners of Cahuenga Blvd. & Camarillo for “traffic safety.” We have been given no traffic accident data to justify if this is needed.

P/S Minutes 8/6: \_\_\_\_\_ Talk to Council Office.

P/S Minutes 9/10: \_\_\_\_\_ No

**10. Installation of 2 permanent digital speed signs on Cahuenga on both sides of the street, North of Riverside Dr.**

- **1 on the southbound side at Addison.**
- **1 on the northbound side at Kling.**

North: \_\_\_\_\_ DOT will try to install two speed signs instead of one.

P/S Minutes 8/6: \_\_\_\_\_ Need to downgrade Cahuenga.

P/S Minutes 8/9/10: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes

**No Number:**

Signage: \_\_\_\_\_ We identified 6 sites where signage could be placed to Divert Traffic from Cahuenga Boulevard. There may be others. Tom LaBonge has long expressed his feelings that traffic should be diverted from Cahuenga, a residential street, to Vineland and/or Lankershim, and we feel these recommendations will assist him.