

June 6, 2006

Honorable Mayor and Members of
the Hermosa Beach City Council

Regular Meeting of
June 13, 2006

**CYPRESS AVENUE –
PROPOSED STOP SIGN AT 8TH STREET AND STRIPING IMPROVEMENTS**

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the City Council do the following:

1. Approve the installation of stop signs on 8th Street at Cypress Avenue; and
2. Approve striping 4-inch white lines on both sides of Cypress Avenue north of 8th Street designating a "Clear Aisle" for emergency access.

Summary:

The City has received numerous complaints from residents of Cypress Avenue, which is a cul-de-sac street north of 8th Street, terminating at Clark Field. The complaints are that parked vehicles obstruct accessibility to the street. The problem arises from multi-family residences and apartments with associated heavy parking demands and the lack of street curbing to properly define parking spaces. As a result, residents park parallel to the street where there are curbs and perpendicular elsewhere, often extending into the roadway.

The street is 28 feet wide (where curb exists) and allows parking on both sides of the street. In the few locations where curb exists on both sides of the street, when cars are parked on both sides, there is a clear aisle width of approximately 14 feet. Staff believes that this aisle width works well for this cul-de-sac street. The problem of accessibility occurs where cars extend beyond this, reducing that clear aisle width. Parking Enforcement personnel have issued warnings to vehicles parked in this manner but the problem persists. The problem for Parking Enforcement is that there is no clear demarcation of what constitutes a violation.

Staff recommends striping a 14-foot wide travel lane (centered within the public right-of-way) using 4-inch white lines as lane edge striping. This is proposed to begin just north of the existing parallel parking spots designated with "T's & L's" on the east side of the street near the intersection with 8th Street. This will provide very clear demarcation for Parking Enforcement personnel to enforce any vehicle parking over this line. It will also give equal benefit to both sides of the street for parking.

While investigating this issue it was also recommended that stop signs be placed on 8th Street at Cypress Avenue due to the steepness of 8th Street north of this intersection and poor visibility. A stop sign will also help to reduce speeding on 8th Street which has been an on-going concern of residents in the area.

A public meeting was held at the Public Works Commission of March 15, 2006 and both the striping improvements and stop sign were recommended by the commission (see attached minutes).

Fiscal Impact:

These improvements will be installed by our Maintenance staff and funded out of Street Maintenance/Traffic Safety funds.

Attachment: PWC Meeting Minutes Excerpt

Respectfully submitted,

Concur:

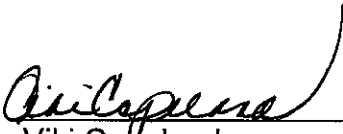


Richard D. Morgan, P.E.
Director of Public Works/City Engineer



Stephen R. Burrell
City Manager

Noted for fiscal impact:



Viki Copeland
Finance Director

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**PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2006
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1315 VALLEY DRIVE
7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Beste, DiVirgilio, Marinelli, Winnek

Also Present: Richard Morgan, Director of Public Works/City Engineer
Michael Flaherty, Public Works Superintendent
Rhea Punneo, Administrative Assistant, Public Works Department

Absent: Commissioner Lombardo

2. Flag Salute

Commissioner Winnek led the flag salute.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of February 15, 2006, approved with amendment to Page 4 submitted by Commissioner Winnek.

4. Public Comments

None

5. Correspondence

None

6. Items for Commission Consideration

Mr. Morgan apologized for not having noticed the community regarding this agenda item. He asked that this issue be discussed at this time at the Commission level and, at the Commission's discretion, hold a public meeting. The Commission agreed.

Mr. Morgan presented the item, noting that Council had sent it to the Commission for review. There've been complaints from residents of Cypress Avenue regarding erratic parking which encroaches into the street, reducing vehicle clearance, which are considered unsafe for emergency vehicle access. Parking Enforcement has issued warnings to those parking along the street. Cars are often double-parked in addition to careless parallel and perpendicular parking.

Cypress is a cul-de-sac with very little traffic and parking has been an issue for years. The top 100' work well with the current markings, which allow parking only on the east side. Staff recommends that this section remain as is. Staff also recommends that the Commission consider painting a 4" solid, white edge stripe demarking the travel lane. The street is 28' from curb to curb with parking on both sides, which narrows the travel lane to 14'. This edge stripe would be on the right-of-way at the edge of

the travel lane and can be easily enforced by Parking Enforcement. Mr. Morgan has discussed this with the PD they believe this will be enforceable.

Highlights of the Commission discussion included the following:

- Roadway isn't wide enough to allow two cars at the same time.
- Painting the edge lines will stop parking from encroaching into the travel lane.
- A 30-day grace period will be recommended after the lines are painted and residents have been notified.
- This area is similar to Loma, striping will be white and parking will continue to improve with redevelopment. A red line would not be well received by residents.
- One option would be to eliminate parking on one side of the street as was done on Loma Drive.
- Marking large parking spaces with T's and L's could actually eliminate parking spaces.
- There is no continuous sidewalk in this area.
- There have been legitimate complaints from a small number of residents; there needs to be emergency access.
- This is a tool to assist residents in identifying the travel lane and Parking Enforcement in determining violations.
- Overall feeling is this is a positive move but a public meeting should be held before action taken.
- A STOP sign was suggested for the intersection of 8th St. to help egress from Cypress. Visibility is difficult due to the steepness of the street.

MOTION by Commissioner Beste that this discussion be continued to the next meeting with public notice.

At this time Commissioner Winnek noted his concern with the liability for the driver who does not know the street and a collision occurs. Confusion may come from determining if there is a one-way or two-way street. Is there some sort of signage? Mr. Flaherty stated that there is a TWO-WAY STREET sign. Mr. Morgan stated that the cars parked on the street would eliminate confusion about a one-way street.

Commissioner Marinelli seconded the motion.

Prior to the vote, Commissioner Winnek asked how much time would be needed to implement and if the stripe could be implemented temporarily to have time to study and bring feedback to the next meeting. Mr. Morgan stated that only thirty days would be needed, but does not want to implement until a public meeting has been held and residents were made aware of the plan. It was also noted that the installation of a STOP sign could also be included in the discussions.

MOTION, as amended and restated by Commissioner Beste, to bring the Cypress Avenue parking issue back to the Commission with proper public notice and investigate installation of a STOP sign at the intersection of Cypress and 8th Street. The amended motion was seconded by Commissioner DiVirgilio.

AYES: Beste, DiVirgilio, Marinelli, Winnek
 NAYES: None
 ABSENT: Lombardo
 ABSTAIN: None

Commissioner DiVirgilio asked for clarification on the placement of the stop sign. Commissioner Beste responded that there is already a STOP sign on Cypress, but is suggesting a STOP sign on 8th Street, creating a four-way stop.

7. Commissioners' Reports

None