

***** MINUTES *****
OF THE MEETING OF THE
CITY OF OKLAHOMA CITY
TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
JANUARY 24, 2003

Lyda Harrell, Ward 4, Chairman

MEMBERS

Phil Tow, Ward 1
David Burja, Ward 2
David Miller, Ward 3
Bob Nix, Ward 5
Louis Gonzales, Ward 6
Vacant, Ward 7
Leamon Freeman, Ward 8
Milford J. Clayton, At-Large

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Sheila Dees, P.E., Secretary
Amy Douglas, Attorney
Lt. Dennis Buckley, OCPD
Lt. Robert Sipe, OCPD
Sgt. R. D. Pratt, OCPD

I. CALL TO ORDER.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chairman Lyda Harrell, Ward 4.

Chairman Harrell reminded everyone present that if they wished to speak on an item they needed to fill out a blue slip.

All members were present at the meeting, with the exception of Commissioner Miller, Ward 3, Commissioner Nix, Ward 5, Commissioner Gonzales, Ward 6 and Commissioner Clayton, At-Large.

II. A. SWEARING-IN OF WARD 7 TRAFFIC COMMISSIONER.

Joleen Pittman was sworn in as new Traffic Commissioner for Ward 7.

B. ELECTION OF TRAFFIC COMMISSION OFFICERS.

- MOTION by Commissioner Freeman and SECOND by Commissioner Tow to Nominate Lyda Harrell as Chairman and Bob Nix as Co-Chairman. MOTION was APPROVED by the following votes: Ayes, Commissioners Tow, Burja, Harrell, Pittman and Freeman.
- MOTION CARRIES.

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 16TH, 2002 MEETING OF THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION.

- MOTION by Commissioner Burja and SECOND by Commissioner Pittman to APPROVE the Minutes of the December 16, 2002 meeting. MOTION was APPROVED by the following votes: Ayes, Commissioners Tow, Burja, Harrell, Pittman and Freeman.
- MOTION CARRIES.

III. REPORT ON LICENSED TAXI AND WRECKER SERVICES, Sgt. R. D. Pratt, Oklahoma City Police Department.

Ms. Sheila Dees read the report due to Sgt. Pratt's absence. Ms. Dees stated Sgt. Pratt received two complaints against Sammy's Wrecker in the past few days regarding unreasonable response time. She stated one of those calls was 33 minutes after the call and the other one was 24 minutes. She stated Sammy's Wrecker was contacted and they stated this was due to lack of manpower and they have added two drivers to this shift.

Chairman Harrell asked if anyone had any questions or comments.

Mr. John Maisch, Attorney for Sammy's Wrecker Service. He asked Mrs. Dees in reference to the two complaints she spoke of, was that 33 minutes late or total response time.

She stated it was 33 minutes total, when they have a 15-minute response time.

Mr. Maisch thanked Ms. Dees and stated for the record that it was 18 minutes late to one call and 9 minutes late to the other call.

Chairman Harrell asked if anyone else had any questions or comments.

IV. CONSENT DOCKET.

Chairman Harrell asked if there was anyone to speak on any item on the Consent Docket.

David L. Barton, 944 SW 46th Street. He stated he received a card in the mail and he is speaking on Item IV.B. He stated his concern is for the safety of the individuals because there have been numerous accidents at the intersection of SW 49th and Klein Avenue.

Chairman Harrell asked if he was against putting the stop signs in.

Mr. Barton stated he was in favor.

Chairman Harrell stated he was on the consent docket to approve it.

Mr. Barton said okay and stated he probably didn't need to talk.

Chairman Harrell stated no, since he was in favor of the stop signs.

Chairman Harrell asked if there was anyone there to speak against a consent docket item.

- MOTION by Commissioner Freeman and SECOND by Commissioner Burja to APPROVE the Consent Docket. MOTION was APPROVED by the following votes: Ayes, Commissioners Tow, Burja, Harrell, Pittman and Freeman.
- MOTION CARRIES.

V. STOP SIGNS RECOMMENDED FOR DENIAL.

Chairman Harrell asked if there was anyone who had any comments about the denial docket or was there anyone there to speak on any item on the denial docket.

- MOTION by Commissioner Freeman and SECOND by Commissioner Tow to APPROVE the Stop Signs Recommended for Denial Docket. MOTION was APPROVED by the following votes: Ayes, Commissioners Tow, Burja, Harrell, Pittman and Freeman.
- MOTION CARRIES.

VI. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION.

- A. B. Keaton Cudd, III, President, Cudd Enterprises Corporation, 6305 Waterford Boulevard, Suite 130, 73118 (All Wards).
Consider a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Cudd Enterprises Corporation dba Pizazz Limousine Service to operate two (2) vehicles in limousine service.

Ms. Dees reported both vehicles have been inspected by the police department and have passed inspection. All the paperwork seems to be in order. Staff recommends consideration.

Commissioner Tow asked Chairman Harrell if there was anyone there to represent this company.

Mr. Keaton Cudd, 6305 Waterford Boulevard, Suite 130.

Chairman Harrell asked if anyone had any questions for Mr. Cudd.

Commissioner Tow stated he didn't have any problems with it, but it seemed like in the past there wasn't anyone present to represent their company. He stated it seemed like everything was in order. He asked Mr. Cudd if there was anything about the company he could tell them, or his short term and long term goals.

Mr. Cudd stated Pizazz Limousine Service is a division of one of their subsidiary companies and they would like to serve predominantly corporate clients, mostly

in the northwest part of Oklahoma City. He stated they feel like there is a market for 2-3 vehicles in that area. He stated they have two now and are looking for a third and that is predominantly where they plan to end up is with the three vehicles.

Commissioner Tow thanked Mr. Cudd.

Chairman Harrell asked if anyone else had any questions.

- MOTION by Commissioner Freeman and SECOND by Commissioner Tow to APPROVE Item VI.A. MOTION was APPROVED by the following votes: Ayes, Commissioners Tow, Burja, Harrell, Pittman and Freeman.
- MOTION CARRIES.

B. Elaine S. Howerton, President, Elaine's Transport Company, Inc., 3717 Vickie Drive, Del City, 73115. (All Wards)
Consider a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Elaine's Transport Company, Inc. to operate two (2) vehicles in handicap transport service.

Ms. Dees reported that both vehicles have passed inspection and all the paperwork seems to be in order. Staff recommends approval.

Ryan Tyson, 2620 SW 69th Street, Oklahoma City. He works for Elaine's Transport Company and stated he is speaking on behalf of Elaine Howerton, who is sick today.

Chairman Harrell asked if anyone had any questions.

Commissioner Freeman asked where Kindred Hospital was located.

Mr. Tyson stated it is at 14th Street and S. Robinson Avenue

Commissioner Tow stated he had a question for Mr. Tyson. He asked if they had been in this business before.

Mr. Tyson stated he had worked for another company in the city and it is his opinion that the business could be a little more organized. He stated Elaine was also a dispatcher for the company he worked for and she was limited by owners

of the company to do things in a punctual, more organized manner. He stated there is also a good market for another company that if ran right could do a lot more business in the city and in the future add more vans.

Commissioner Tow stated so they are here for the long term, is that correct.

Mr. Tyson stated yes sir.

Commissioner Tow thanked Mr. Tyson

- MOTION by Commissioner Freeman and SECOND by Commissioner Tow to APPROVE Item VI.B. MOTION was APPROVED by the following votes: Ayes, Commissioners Tow, Burja, Harrell, Pittman and Freeman.
- MOTION CARRIES.

C. Gary A. Leissner, Attorney at Law, 40019 Versailles Boulevard, 73116.
(Ward 1)
Consider a traffic signal at the intersection of Candlewood Drive and NW Expressway.

Ms. Dees reported this item was deferred from the December 2002 Traffic Commission. This location meets the 2000 MUTCD warrants #1, 2 and 3 for traffic signals. However, adding another signal on the Northwest Expressway could increase delays for the majority of the traffic and would probably increase the number of accidents. Staff recommends consideration.

Commissioner Tow asked Chairman Harrell if there was anyone there to speak on this item.

Frank Maschino, 6617 Parkwood Lane, Oklahoma City, 73132. He stated he is president of the Rockwell Neighborhood Association, which consists of approximately 300 homes. He stated most of the people in this neighborhood would like to see a stoplight at this intersection. He stated he has lived at this location since 1987 and to his knowledge there have been four attempts to get a stoplight placed there. He stated recently they have received stop signs in their neighborhood and the residents feel that a stoplight is needed at this intersection. He stated it is a very dangerous intersection. He stated in the past it was brought up that this would increase traffic in their neighborhood, but they don't feel that to

be the case. He stated the residents feel there are already a lot of people using the neighborhood that would stop using it if the stoplight was placed at this intersection. He stated there is a lot of traffic going east on Candlewood Drive on 85th Street down to MacArthur or Springbrook and then goes back to Northwest Expressway from that direction. He stated he would like to see a stoplight put up at Candlewood Drive and Northwest Expressway. He stated this is a dangerous intersection even though there is not a record of a lot of accidents there and he hopes someone doesn't have to get killed before they get a light at this intersection. Mr. Maschino thanked the Commission.

Chairman Harrell asked if anyone had any questions.

Commissioner Tow stated due to the budget crunch the City of Oklahoma City and the Department of Transportation are experiencing, that if this stoplight were approved it could be a lengthy wait and that could be several years because there are thousands of intersections in Oklahoma City just like this one. He stated he doesn't have a problem with it, but they are under a budget crunch at this time.

Commissioner Freeman stated this would also require approval from the Department of Transportation since it is a state highway.

Commissioner Tow asked Ms. Dees if they were to approve this what are they looking at as far as approval time with consent from ODOT.

Ms. Dees stated they would have to have complete design plans to send to ODOT and it could take six months to a year.

- MOTION by Commissioner Tow and SECOND by Commissioner Burja to DEFER Item VI.C. for six months. MOTION was APPROVED by the following votes: Ayes, Commissioners Tow, Burja, Harrell, Pittman and Freeman.
- MOTION CARRIES.

D. Susie McGuire, 7301 N. Brookline Avenue, 73116 and Petitioners. (Ward 2)
Consider the installation of "No Parking Anytime" or "No Parking on Sunday" signs on Brookline Avenue between NW 73rd Street and Grand Boulevard, west side.

Ms. Dees reported the applicant was concerned with church parishioners parking on both sides of the street. The petitioners were mainly concerned with the west side of the street. The petition was not signed by the property owners on the west side. Staff recommends consideration.

Susie McGuire, 7301 N. Brookline Avenue, 73116. She stated they did sign the petition and she spoke with Ron Salazar in Traffic Management. She stated he requested letters from the property owners, which were sent to him. She stated they were faxed to him on 1-4-03, which included the G.A.P. Restoration Tabernacle Church and the Oklahoma Community Dance Alliance. She stated everybody in the neighborhood wants this. She stated the Oklahoma Community Dance Alliance is going into a gymnasium on the west side of Brookline Avenue and the church is next to it. Brookline Avenue is a very narrow street and people on the east side across the street from this will not be able to get out of their driveway if there is parking allowed on the west side of the street. She stated they want "No Parking Anytime" signs on the west side only from Grand Boulevard to NW 73rd Street for emergency vehicles because emergency vehicles will not be able to get through that area. She stated the reason they are requesting this is because the Dance Alliance would be having functions in this facility, which will be from 100-150 people on a monthly basis. She stated this is the reason they are requesting the no parking on the west side only.

Ms. Dees stated they did receive a letter from the Dance Alliance, however, they are renters and not the property owners and the owner on the other side is opposing the signs be placed on this property.

Commissioner Burja stated to Ms. McGuire that the way he understands this is the Dance Alliance is in favor of this proposal.

Ms. McGuire stated yes they are and stated she has a copy of the letter.

Commissioner Burja stated he has a copy of the letter. He stated he is familiar with this neighborhood and asked if there was anyone there to speak against this proposal.

- MOTION by Commissioner Burja and SECOND by Commissioner Freeman to APPROVE Item VI.D. MOTION was APPROVED by the following votes: Ayes, Commissioners Tow, Burja, Harrell, Pittman and Freeman.
- MOTION CARRIES.

- E. Council Support Staff. Ward 3)
Consider the installation of a flashing warning light at the intersection of Czech Hall Road and Silver Maple Road.

Ms. Dees reported last month the Commission lowered the speed limit from 45 mph to 40 mph on this stretch of Czech Hall Road. She stated Commissioner Miller was unable to attend today but he is in favor of this flashing light. Staff recommends approval.

Chairman Harrell asked if there was anyone there to speak on this item.

- MOTION by Commissioner Freeman and SECOND by Commissioner Tow to APPROVE Item VI.E. MOTION was APPROVED by the following votes: Ayes, Commissioners Tow, Burja, Harrell, Pittman and Freeman.
- MOTION CARRIES.

- F. Tina Berry, Secretary, Santa Fe South High School, 5325 South Pennsylvania Avenue, 73119. (Wards 4 and 5)
Consider the installation of school zones for Santa Fe South High School on Pennsylvania Avenue between SW 52nd Street and SW 54th Street, and Santa Fe Avenue and S. 50th Street.

Ms. Dees reported Santa Fe High School is a private school to be located at Santa Fe Avenue and S. 50th Street. A temporary school has been set up in the YMCA located at 5325 S. Pennsylvania Avenue. Staff recommends consideration.

Debra Cute, 409 SE 60th Street, Oklahoma City. She stated they have two locations where they would like to have "When Flashing" school zones because their students are high school age. She stated they especially need it at S. 50th Street and Santa Fe. She stated she is very familiar with this location because her child goes there. She stated she observes how fast the cars are going and the high school students will not push the crosswalk button, but instead dart across the street. She stated they would really like to have the "When Flashing" lights so they could prevent a student from possibly getting hit. She stated at 5000 S. Santa Fe they have an alternative school and would like "When Flashing" lights there too to cause motorists to slow down for them.

Chairman Harrell asked how far their school was from Grace Christian Academy.

Ms. Cute stated next door.

Chairman Harrell stated that's what she thought. She stated Southeast High School is right up the street from it.

Ms. Cute stated yes.

Chairman Harrell stated between 59th Street and 44th Street it is almost completely school zones.

Ms. Cute stated she is not real familiar with the one on Santa Fe. She stated she doesn't have a student attending there but she does have a student at the one on Pennsylvania. She stated she hasn't heard of any incidents of students being harmed on Santa Fe but she thought if they requested one school they should go ahead and try for the other one at the same time.

Chairman Harrell stated she could see extending the one on Santa Fe because there is Grace Academy, their school, and then Southeast High School. She stated there are already flashing lights so maybe they could just move them on up the street.

Commissioner Freeman asked if the Pennsylvania location was a temporary school.

Ms. Cute stated yes but it is possible it is going to be a permanent school. She stated they should know something by the 23rd of next month.

Commissioner Freeman stated but right now they are using the YMCA and that is not on a permanent basis.

Ms. Cute stated they are considering buying it.

Commissioner Freeman stated but right now it's temporary.

Ms. Cute stated yes, but there is a very good possibility for them to have it personally as a school because they're going to rebuild the YMCA and move it somewhere else. She stated they are in the process of trying to buy that. She stated Grant High School is down the street from them and if they could get it extended further down it would really secure their kids. She stated some people will go above the speed limit and just fly through there.

Chairman Harrell stated they are getting ready to rebuild Grant High School.

Commissioner Freeman stated he is going to move for approval of the school zone signs but not the flashing signs due to the budget crunch.

- MOTION by Commissioner Freeman and SECOND by Commissioner Tow to APPROVE Item VI.F. MOTION was APPROVED by the following votes: Ayes, Commissioners Tow, Burja, Harrell, Pittman and Freeman.
- MOTION CARRIES.

Ms. Cute asked when these signs would be installed.

Ms. Dees stated probably a month and a half to two months. She stated it depends on the whether. She stated if it is cold they cannot stripe school zones.

- G. Harold Tinsley, President, Reed Park Neighborhood Association, 3142 NW 13th Street, 73107. (Ward 6)
Consider the installation of stop or yield signs at the intersection of St. Clair Avenue and NW 13th Street.

Ms. Dees reported this item was deferred from the November and December 2002 Traffic Commission meetings. This location does not meet the residential warrants for stop signs but would meet the warrants for east/west yield signs. Staff recommends denial of the stop signs, but approval of the east/west yield signs and Commissioner Gonzales was unable to attend but agrees with Staff's recommendation.

Commissioner Freeman asked if there was anyone there to speak on this item.

- MOTION by Commissioner Freeman and SECOND by Commissioner Burja to APPROVE Item VI.G. East/West Yield Signs and DENY Stop Signs. MOTION was APPROVED by the following votes: Ayes, Commissioners Tow, Burja, Harrell, Pittman and Freeman.
- MOTION CARRIES.

- H. Gilbert Oliver, Principal, Rockwood Elementary School, 3101 SW 24th Street, 73108. (Ward 6)
Consider changing the existing “When Children are Present” school zone to “When Flashing” school zone on Grand Boulevard from SW 22nd Street to SW 25th Street, and installation of “When Flashing” school zone on Independence Avenue from SW 22nd Street to SW 25th Street.

Ms. Dees reported that based on City Ordinances these locations do not qualify for “When Flashing”. She stated “When Children are Present” signs are posted on streets that are already 25 mph. Staff recommends denial.

Donella Lopez, 6662 NW 10th Street, Apt. C. She stated she is the PTA president and the cross-walking guard at Rockwood Elementary. She stated the principal Gilbert Oliver was also with her today. She stated there are a lot of speeding motorists in this area and that is why they requested the “When Flashing” signs because that gets the motorists’ attention better.

Chairman Harrell asked if anyone had any questions.

Commissioner Freeman stated after hearing Ms. Dees’ report and the fact that they are obliged to follow the City Ordinances which would not allow for flashing school zones he is going to move for a denial, however, he would ask for selective enforcement due to the speeding in this area.

Chairman Harrell asked if Gilbert Oliver wanted to speak.

Gilbert Oliver, 4515 NE 38th Street. He stated he appreciated the support of Lt. Buckley in helping to curb some of the speeding in this area. He stated Rockwood Elementary consists of approximately 525 elementary students. He understands the City has a budget crunch, but the safety of these children is of the utmost importance. He stated again that he appreciates the support of Lt. Buckley and wonders if there is some way of being in compliance with the ordinance while securing the safety of their students. He asked if there were any recommendations from the Commission in telling them what they might be able to do.

Commissioner Freeman stated that question should be directed to Ms. Dees. He stated the City Ordinance does not provide for “When Flashing” school zone signs on streets where the posted speed limit is 25 mph and asked if Ms. Dees had any comments.

Ms. Dees stated they will certainly look at the striping in this area and make sure they have the 25 mph signs up so the police can better enforce the speed limit.

Mr. Oliver thanked the Commission.

Chairman Harrell asked Commissioner Freeman to state his motion again.

- MOTION by Commissioner Freeman and SECOND by Commissioner Burja to DENY Item VI.H. MOTION was APPROVED by the following votes: Ayes, Commissioners Tow, Burja, Harrell, Pittman and Freeman.
- MOTION CARRIES.

- I. Jack L. Werner, PhD., 119 SW 24th Street, 73109. (Ward 7)
Consider the removal of the existing no parking signs on SW 24th Street between Broadway Avenue and Robinson Avenue, both sides.

Ms. Dees reported that attached is a petition representing one property owner. The existing north side restriction was approved by the City Council in August 1949, Ordinance #6235. The NPAT on the south side was not found in any records. This item was deferred from the November 2002 Traffic Commission meeting. She stated only 20% of the property owners on the north side signed this petition and zero on the south side. Staff recommends consideration.

Jack Grimes, Christian Service Center, 115 SW 24th Street. He stated this center utilizes the north side of this block from 107 to 115 SW 24th Street. He stated presently there is only one no parking sign and people do use this street and it causes considerable congestion problems. He stated they receive donations almost hourly sometimes on trailers and he has to ask people to move from the street. He stated if people were allowed to park on the street it would cause considerable congestion problems coming to and from their facility, which is quite busy from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. each weekday. He stated he would like to request additional signage. He stated there is just one sign on the south side of the street on the west end and they could use another no parking sign on the north side. He stated there is a plumbing business that also causes quite a bit of traffic problems because they can't see the sign being a couple hundred yards away.

Commissioner Freeman stated they can't consider the last part of Mr. Grimes' request because there is nothing on the agenda for additional signage. He stated the request was only for the no parking sign to be removed.

Mr. Grimes thanked the Commission.

Carla Killman, 118 SW 24th Street. She asked if the purpose of the recommendation was for this to be considered for approval.

Ms. Dees stated it was considered by the Traffic Commission because they received a petition in the area.

Mrs. Killman asked Commissioner Freeman if he stated he would consider approval.

Commissioner Freeman stated no, what he told Mr. Grimes in reference to more signage was that they could not consider that because it was not on the agenda. He stated they could only consider somebody's request to remove the sign and he did not indicate his feelings one way or the other about that part.

Mrs. Killman stated she misunderstood. She stated she was surprised it was considered for approval after their discussion in November. She asked if anyone had looked at the stop sign she had mentioned.

Ms. Dees stated she didn't say consider approval she just said for consideration.

Mrs. Killman stated she was sorry and must have misunderstood. She stated she had brought up the stop sign at SW 24th Street and Robinson Avenue on the corner because it was inset. She stated when traveling westbound on SW 24th Street going towards Robinson Avenue, after passing the properties of Mr. Werner and one more property, the stop sign at the corner curves in to the north about 12 feet.

Commissioner Burja stated as Commissioner Freeman pointed out earlier they can't consider anything today except the removal of the no parking sign.

Mrs. Killman stated she is asking them not to remove them because of the problems, one of which is the stop sign. She stated since the stop sign is inset and when traveling westbound it is almost impossible to see and if parking is allowed in the street it will be even worse. She stated she would like to request the no parking signs remain because they bought this six years ago for the purpose of keeping this area nice and neat. She stated they have places to park their vehicles and she feels like everyone should have taken that into consideration when they bought the properties.

Commissioner Burja stated he is familiar with this neighborhood personally and asked what was the makeup of the ownership or occupancy of this block.

Mrs. Killman stated she and her husband are the only people who actually reside on the block.

Commissioner Burja asked if the rest was commercial.

Mrs. Killman stated they own a little more than half of the block on the south side and then there is a corner business that actually faces Robinson Avenue. She stated across from them is Mr. Grimes' service center and he has a large area there. She stated then there are three small properties that Mr. Werner is referring to and then a small house that isn't occupied. She stated there is a business on the north side where the stop sign is inset, but they are the only residents there and they have really worked to try to get this upgraded and enhanced and they feel it would not be a good move to remove the no parking signs.

Commissioner Freeman stated as he understands it Mrs. Killman does not want the no parking signs removed.

Mrs. Killman stated that is correct.

Commissioner Pittman stated she was out there yesterday and she noticed one no parking sign on the south side.

Mrs. Killman stated she is sure there was one on the north side at some point but doesn't know what happened to it. She asked Commissioner Pittman if she noticed the stop sign she was referring to.

Commissioner Pittman stated yes.

Mrs. Killman stated she is for keeping the signs there and thanked the Commission.

Chairman Harrell asked if there was anyone else there to speak on this item.

- MOTION by Commissioner Pittman and SECOND by Commissioner Freeman to DENY Item VI.I. MOTION was APPROVED by the following votes: Ayes, Commissioners Tow, Burja, Harrell, Pittman and Freeman.
- MOTION CARRIES.

- J. Traffic Management Division. (Ward 7)
Consider the removal of "Passenger Loading Zone" signs at the following locations:
1. Mickey Mantle Drive between Sheridan Avenue and Reno Avenue, west side.
 2. Sheridan Avenue between Oklahoma Avenue and EK Gaylord Avenue, south side.
 3. Sheridan Avenue between Joe Carter Drive and Central Avenue, north side.

Ms. Dees reported that these passenger loading zones were approved at the August 2002 Traffic Commission meeting. Staff recommends consideration.

Rob Farrah, 7 Mickey Mantle Drive. He stated they appreciate the City in keeping the passenger loading zones there, but until recently they were mostly parking meters. He stated they have now been changed over to loading zone signs. He stated it is imperative that these signs remain for the businesses in the area and for the ongoing use of valet and limousine parking services. He stated they understand in the past there have been challenges but they hope to make changes in that problem soon. He stated he doesn't speak for all the bricktown board of directors at the moment, but based on their tenants they have expressed the importance of having these zones in place and he is open to any questions.

Commissioner Freeman asked if anyone was there to speak on this item.

- MOTION by Commissioner Freeman and SECOND by Commissioner Pittman to DENY Item VI.J. MOTION was APPROVED by the following votes: Ayes, Commissioners Tow, Burja, Harrell, Pittman and Freeman.
- MOTION CARRIES.

- K. Traffic Management Division. (Ward 7)
Consider the installation of a "Passenger Loading Zone" and a "Commercial Loading Zone" on Oklahoma Avenue between Sheridan Avenue and Reno Avenue.

Ms. Dees reported that the Public Works Department is in the process of constructing two inset loading zone areas on Oklahoma Avenue between Sheridan Avenue and Reno Avenue. The passenger loading zone will be located

on the Oklahoma side of the French Hickman Building, 100 E. California and the commercial loading zone will be located in front of 25 S. Oklahoma Avenue. Staff recommends consideration.

Chuck Ainsworth, 100 E. California Avenue, Suite 450. He stated he is one of the owners of the buildings needing these loading zones and he is here to answer any questions.

Chairman Harrell asked if anyone had any questions.

Commissioner Freeman asked if construction was going on now.

Ms. Dees stated it has not started yet, but the plans have been approved.

Commissioner Freeman asked if that would take care of their needs when they build that inset for loading zones. He stated the request is for establishing a passenger loading zone and a commercial loading zone at this time, however, work is going to start right away to provide inset areas to take care of this request.

Ms. Dees stated she would recommend approval on this because they need a passenger loading zone in this area.

Commissioner Freeman stated to Ms. Dees if she was asking that this be approved.

Ms. Dees stated yes so they can start construction.

Commissioner Freeman stated he will move for approval of a passenger loading zone and a commercial loading zone until they start construction.

Ms. Dees stated right now Oklahoma Avenue is too narrow to park on or have a passenger loading zone so you cannot stop and if someone stops close to the canal a vehicle or bus cannot get by. She stated if they allow this passenger loading zone and commercial loading zone they would have room to pull over and do their commercial unloading and a bus could still go down the street. She stated this is in conjunction with the construction.

Commissioner Freeman asked if they establish this now wouldn't it cause a traffic problem.

Ms. Dees stated they are approving it in conjunction with the construction. She stated the signs will go up when the construction starts, but if they don't put the signs up there is no reason for the inset to be built.

Chairman Harrell asked for a motion.

- MOTION by Commissioner Tow and SECOND by Commissioner Pittman to APPROVE Item VI.K. MOTION was APPROVED by the following votes: Ayes, Commissioners Tow, Burja, Harrell, Pittman and Freeman.
- MOTION CARRIES.

L. Traffic Management Division. (Ward 2)
Consider the installation of four-way stop signs at the intersection of McKinley Avenue and NW 36th Street.

Ms. Dees reported the Public Works Department is in the process of constructing a new traffic island within the intersection. Staff feels four-way stop signs will help traffic flow around the island. Staff recommends consideration.

Commissioner Burja stated he visited this area this week and he thinks they are a little premature on proceeding to approve stop signs for an island that is not even in place yet. He stated he would like to see how the island effects traffic once it is constructed and would like to defer this until then.

- MOTION by Commissioner Burja and SECOND by Commissioner Freeman to DEFER Item VI.L. MOTION was APPROVED by the following votes: Ayes, Commissioners Tow, Burja, Harrell, Pittman and Freeman.
- MOTION CARRIES.

M. Traffic Management Division. (All Wards)
Consider renewal of Wrecker Zone Contracts for Fiscal Year 2003-2004.

Ms. Dees reported that as required by ordinance, all of the wrecker service contractors have expressed their desire to renew the existing wrecker zone contracts for Fiscal Year 2003-2004. In regards to last month's Traffic Commission meeting, staff wrote a letter to Sammy's Wrecker Service regarding police reports over the past seven months and Sammy's has responded to that letter. Staff recommends consideration.

John Maisch, Attorney for Sammy's Wrecker, 333 NW 5th Street. He stated he came out of the Attorney General's Office where he served as Assistant Attorney General for about four and half years. He stated he had an opportunity to meet Sammy Potter, who is to his right, about a year ago and has had a chance to work with him not only on the initial contract which was awarded about seven months ago, but since that time as well. He stated he would be happy to address specific questions that the Traffic Commission may have or wait for its consideration and then discuss those items.

Commissioner Tow stated he would like to address Mr. Potter. He stated to Mr. Potter last year when he came on line, he understands there was quite a bit of controversy first one thing and then another, and he certainly would like to see him succeed with his new location. He stated, on the other hand, there have been a few infractions to the rules as Mr. Potter very well knows. He stated first off he wants to know what Mr. Potter's short term and long term goals are. He asked Mr. Potter if he wanted to keep this operation or....

Mr. Potter stated yes sir, he would like to keep the operation. He stated they have made some mistakes which includes himself and his employees. He stated hopefully this is being straightened out. He stated he has had a lot of learning experience this past seven months in trying to put this together and make it work. He stated they have not had a City contract before so there were a lot of new things going on that they didn't understand and they're finding out now. He stated they have made some mistakes.

Commissioner Tow asked Mr. Potter if he was totally familiar with all the operations now and if there was any question in the operational guidelines they want to be sure and discuss it now. He stated they don't want any questions and want to make this thing right.

Mr. Potter stated if there were anything that they're doing wrong if someone would bring it to their attention they would try their best to get it straightened out one way or another. He stated he thinks the communication problem was the biggest thing all the way through. He stated they employed Stephanie and that is her main function, to find out what is going on with everyone and if there is a problem to take care of it then.

Commissioner Tow asked Mr. Potter if they have experienced any problems with the new location as far as dispatch and radio transmission. He asked Mr. Potter if that has worked out for him.

Mr. Potter stated he thinks that part has worked out fine. He stated they have had problems with stationing their drivers where they need to be and where their trucks need to be to best serve the City in making sure they have vehicles

sitting where they need to be. He said it is a large area and they need to be sitting at different locations. He said they are trying to figure out where to best have their drivers and trucks to make sure they respond to calls as quickly as they should.

Commissioner Tow stated he doesn't have anymore questions at this time.

Commissioner Freeman stated to Mr. Potter that he has hired Stephanie to see that things are run right.

Mr. Potter stated her main goal is to stay in communication with the Police Department and the City to make sure they are not having any problems. He stated he thinks it was a total communication problem with everyone especially on their side in not finding out if there was a problem quick enough to get them resolved.

Commissioner Freeman asked Mr. Potter if Stephanie had any authority, for example if a driver shows up not in uniform.

Mr. Potter stated she can get the authority with no problem.

Commissioner Freeman stated so she can send a driver home to get property attired.

Mr. Potter stated yes sir.

Commissioner Freeman stated so she has the authority to resolve those problems that have occurred in the past.

Mr. Potter stated yes sir.

Commissioner Freeman stated at the beginning of the contract Sammy, Jr. was going to run the operation and something happened and he left.

Mr. Potter stated yes sir.

Commissioner Freeman stated to Mr. Potter that he tried to run both of his operations.

Mr. Potter stated yes sir. He stated he has had to spend more time at the downtown location. He stated they would probably move their dispatch center to the Wisconsin location.

Commissioner Freeman asked how it has worked out for the police department to store vehicles, which are being held for evidence. He stated it was his understanding that they had an inside facility for storage.

Mr. Potter stated yes sir. He stated they have 30,000 square feet inside storage which have offices.

Commissioner Freeman stated to Mr. Potter if he was given a renewal does he think he can avoid things that have occurred in the past that have resulted in complaints.

Mr. Potter stated he thinks so. He stated he doesn't think they will ever be perfect but doesn't think anyone is.

Commissioner Freeman stated he thinks they would all agree that no one is ever going to be perfect and stated that is all the questions he has.

Commissioner Burja stated to Mr. Potter that he had mentioned the communications breakdown. He stated the City provided him with a rather lengthy set of guidelines as to what is expected of a wrecker company in service with the City and it is his position, as well as the Traffic Commission he believes, that it is not their job to communicate what they are doing wrong. He stated he should know by those guidelines what needs to be done and they expect him to live up to that.

Mr. Potter stated that is true but if there is a problem and you don't know that there is a problem if you can find out about it and communicate normally it can be resolved a lot easier.

Commissioner Burja stated it certainly would if he communicates that he doesn't have an understanding of some issue concerning those guidelines. He stated he would like to address his next question to Stephanie.

Stephanie Hopper, 1604 Brown Oaks Drive, Oklahoma City. She is the new compliance officer hired by Sammy's Wrecker Service.

Commissioner Burja asked Ms. Hopper if she has prior experience with this kind of job.

Ms. Hopper stated she has prior experience in sales and public relations. She stated she is brand new in the wrecker business and her orientation was skipped. She stated she dove in to get some issues started. She stated she has been with the company almost a month. She stated Sheila Dees and Sgt. Pratt have been instrumental in helping her. She stated she has read the guidelines and

they are trying very hard to do what is expected of them, but they have been very helpful in learning the ropes. She stated she feels very confident and has really reached out. She stated she has met with Maj. Hill at Springlake and Maj. Scully at Hefner. She stated she has also spoke with Sgt. Buckley. She stated hopefully with all of them reaching out they are going to get somewhere. She stated to Commissioner Freeman in reference to the facility she is going to meet with all the precincts and let them know what exactly they have to offer because they do have a lot of space that could keep them out of the elements. She stated that is in her near future plans to educate them and encourage them to use their facilities if they would desire.

Commissioner Burja thanked Ms. Hopper and stated that is all he had.

Chairman Harrell stated she had a question. She asked if she understood them to say that they were in the process of moving their dispatch center. She stated she understood that when they went out to tour the facility they had their dispatch center set up.

Mr. Potter stated no ma'am. He stated their dispatch center has never been set up there. He stated they have a person on duty there to take care of customers. He stated their dispatch center has always been on 39th Street. He stated the dispatch does not have anything to do with the downtown part as far as the operation of it.

Chairman Harrell stated she was just wondering and asked if any of the Commissioners knew about this.

Mr. Potter stated there are personnel there and communication there 24 hours a day with radios to hear what is going on all the time.

Commissioner Tow said he understood their operation and what they had planned when they approved them. He stated he knew the communications would be at the 39th Street location.

Commissioner Freeman stated to Mr. Potter that having dispatch on 39th Street doesn't effect response time.

Mr. Potter stated no sir.

Commissioner Freeman stated because it is by radio and wherever the radio is located.

Mr. Potter stated yes sir.

Chairman Harrell asked if anyone else had any questions.

Commissioner Burja stated he had a question about the two recent incidents and was wondering if they were the ones mentioned in the letter from Mr. Paul Brum, Public Works Director.

Ms. Dees stated the two that were mentioned in this morning's report were within the last two weeks.

Commissioner Burja asked what those were concerning.

Ms. Dees stated the police had two reports, one of which showed Sammy's took 33 minutes for a call and the other one was 24 minutes for a call. She stated the ones in the letter from Mr. Brum have dates on them.

Commissioner Burja thanked Mr. Dees.

Commissioner Tow stated after listening to Mr. Potter and his rebuttal to them, he feels like he has made a real effort to straighten his business affairs out and handle this in a proper manner and he is going to move that he be considered for renewal, as well as all the wrecker companies.

- MOTION by Commissioner Tow and SECOND by Commissioner Freeman to APPROVE Item VI.M. MOTION was APPROVED by the following votes: Ayes, Commissioners Tow, Burja, Harrell, Pittman and Freeman.
- MOTION CARRIES.

VII. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Bert Woodring, 1319 Anita Place. He is the owner of Metro Towing and Recovery. He stated he just wanted to clarify some things from the last Traffic Commission meeting and he has spoke to Ms. Dees about it. He stated she told him at the last auction there were some cars parked in front of the street and the police had them removed. He stated he thought it was strange that the police never contacted him or anything. He stated they did hear the call go out on the police scanner and he did get a copy of the report. He stated he did start his auction and noticed two or three people pull up outside his gate and so they had them move inside the gate. He stated the call was dispatched at 11:23 a.m. and

the officer went 10-98 at 11:28 a.m. He stated when the officer arrived there were no vehicles on the street. He stated this is a problem that everybody has during an auction and he has plenty of parking now so at his next auction on February 6, 2003 they are going to have someone attending outside the fence to make sure everybody parks where they are supposed to. He stated last time after they started their sell these three or four people showed up late and parked where they wanted to and didn't follow the signs he had put up.

He stated the other item he had was about a lady who had her car towed in Bricktown. He stated after talking to Ms. Dees about this he remembered towing a vehicle at the request of the bar owner which was parked in front of the bar. He stated later that evening the owner of the bar found out it belonged to an employee of the bar and he came down where they released it to them. He stated they were only charged a hook-up charge. He stated the owner of the vehicle didn't have to pay them anything, but the bar owner had it impounded. He stated a day later the owner of the vehicle called and said they had impounded her car and she must have written a letter to Ms. Dees about it, even though she was not charged anything on this tow. He stated they are trying to work closer with the Bricktown Division and they have worked out everything about the parking. He stated he understands now that the City has taken over the parking meters down there and they are ticketing the cars. He stated he thinks he has convinced the bar owners to call the police department and not him to impound them. He stated he does work close with them to make sure he is not illegally impounding anything in Bricktown.

Chairman Harrell asked if there were any other citizens who would like to be heard.

VIII. REPORTS FROM TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION COMMITTEES

Commissioner Tow has no report.

Commissioner Burja has no report.

Commissioner Pittman has no report.

Commissioner Freeman stated he wanted to thank the members of the Commission for their kind expressions of support for him and his wife. He stated his wife is doing very well and has completed her radiation and the doctor said she no longer has cancer.

VI. ADJOURNMENT.

- MOTION by Commissioner Burja and SECOND by Commissioner Tow to Adjourn. MOTION was APPROVED by the following votes: Ayes, Commissioners Tow, Burja, Harrell, Pittman and Freeman.
- MOTION CARRIES.