

(The following is not a verbatim transcript of comments or discussion that occurred during the meeting, but rather a summarization intended for general informational purposes. All motions and votes are the official records).

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

A meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission was held on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Council Vice-President Richard D. Santamaria, Jr., Chair
Captain Gerard Carnevale, Police Department
Inspector W. Andrew DeCosta, Police Department
Fred Raisner
Tom Perrotta
Mia Patriarca
Christopher Edward Buonanno
Bert Carabitses
Jonathan Keith

Absent: Bernadetta Petrone
David Schiapo
Albert Melikian

Also Present: Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees

PUBLIC HEARING/NEW BUSINESS:

- **Organizational Meeting**

Chair thanked the members for their willingness to serve on this Commission. He stated that the reason this Commission was created was due to a Ward 4 resident witnessing a bad accident on Comstock Parkway, subsequently addressing the City Council regarding his concerns of speeding. Chair also stated that this was the number one concern in the neighborhoods of the City all during the campaign season. He stated that the original Traffic Safety Commission consisted of 32 members and this Council changed it to make each City Council member have a representative from each Ward.

Chair indicated that Traffic Tribunal Magistrate, William Guglietta, has asked to address this Commission in addressing the speeding issue in the City. The City Council Grant Writer has also asked to address this Commission to see if he can obtain Grant money for traffic calming rather than using Stop Signs in throughout the City. This Commission will be a thinking tank to come up with ideas at attacking this issue.

Chair stated that, by Ordinance, he will be Chair of this Commission, but he asked for nominations for a Vice-Chair.

Mr. Perrotta asked to be considered Vice-Chair.

On motion by Mr. Buonanno, seconded by Mr. Carabitses, it was voted to appoint Mr. Perrotta as Vice-Chair. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair asked each member present to introduce themselves.

Ms. Patriarca stated that she has worked for the State Department of Health and has served on a number of boards. She stated that this issue is very dear to her for there have been a number of problems with speeding especially along the Boulevard.

Mr. Carabitses stated that he moved to Cranston approximately two years ago and he owns an insurance agency, which speeding is a concern of the insurance companies, so he has an interest in this.

Mr. Raisner stated that he works part-time for AAA as a driving instructor, so he sees speeding on the roads all the time.

Mr. Perrotta stated that he is the person who addressed the City Council regarding the accident on Comstock Parkway. He stated that there have been three accidents on his lawn. He is happy that Councilman Farina has asked him to join this Commission. He also stated that he is a Real Estate agent for Caldwell Banker.

Mr. Buonanno stated that he works for the Department of Motor Vehicles. He also stated that he has seen his share of accidents in front of his home on Laurel Hill Ave., which is becoming a drag strip. He is excited to serve on this Commission to see if we can make a difference in the City.

Mr. Keith stated that even though he works in Massachusetts and is on the highways a lot, he knows how bad speeding is in the City.

Chair asked the representatives from the Police Department to explain the CARE Program.

Inspector DeCosta stated that he works in the Traffic Division and handles traffic complains and traffic reconstructions. The CARE Program stands for Cranston Accident Re-Enforcement and has been in effect since 2013. This program, an Officer is assigned on a detail for four hours every day Monday thru Friday and his only job is enforcing traffic violations.

Ms. Patriarca asked what the scope of this Commission is. Chair stated that the scope of this Commission is to study speeding issues and come up with remedies to resolve speeding in the City. Ms. Patriarca asked if we are envisioning this Commission to make recommendations to implement remedies. Chair stated that, by Ordinance, this Commission will report to the Public Works Committee on recommendations to alleviate speeding. Ms. Patriarca stated that we could possibly ask D.O.T. for a road safety audit for a particular area.

Chair suggested that the members put some ideas in place based on what we have heard this evening to discuss at the next meeting.

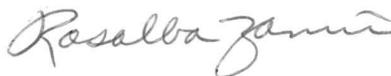
Chair stated that he would like to invite Chief Judge Guglietta at the next meeting and hear some statistics from him.

Mr. Raisner suggested possibly asking Judge Joslyn to appear before the Commission at some point.

Next meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 16, 2015 at 6:30 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees