



BROCKTON TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Thursday, April 27th, 2023
6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Traffic held its monthly meeting at the Arnone School Cafetorium, Little Theater, 135 Belmont Street, Brockton, MA 02301, at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 27th, 2023.

Present were Traffic Commission Members: Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro, Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan, DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill, Councilor Jeffrey Thompson and James Sweeney.

There being a proper quorum, the meeting was called to order by Commissioner Captain Porcaro at 6:00 p.m. Upon motion made by DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill, seconded by James Sweeney, to waive and approve the reading of the March 23rd, 2023 Minutes. Motion carried by a hand vote 5-0 in the affirmative.

OLD BUSINESS

1. PARKING OF CERTAIN VEHICLES ON STREETS

Requested by: Deputy Fire Chief Edward Williams

Issue/Request: Specifically to look at trailers and semitrailers parking on city streets. (Board Members please see attached Fall River ordinances hereto for reference).

Upon duly motion made by James Sweeney, seconded by Councilor Thompson, the motion carried by a hand vote; 5 in the affirmative.

VOTED: To continue to the May meeting.

2. 31 PETRONELLI WAY

Requested by: Brockton Parking Authority

Issue/Request: to examine the unnamed alleyway that runs along the east side of the Mayor Carpenter Garage to determine if it is a public way, and if so, to enhance the existing STOP sign and pavement line painting at the

intersection of the unnamed alleyway and Petronelli Way, to add a speed bump or speed table on the alleyway at this same intersection, and to designate fire lanes on the alleyway.

Discussion: DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill stated that he has received the document relative to whether or not this alleyway is private or public, however, he has not had a chance to review said document. Paula Tsitsopoulos, from the Brockton Parking Authority was present and stated that she has spoken to Johnathan Brahmer the Vice President of Trinity Financial and that it is their alleyway, part of their property line from what he said. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated that if at the end of the day it really is a private way and not a public way, the Traffic Commission really does not have the authority to take any action on it. He further stated that the letter that DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill has would say definitively whether it is or isn't a public way. Councilor Thompson asked how would one be designated private or public, is it the construction of the road? DPW Commissioner Hill stated that it's not technically a road, it's a driveway that is part of the parcel. When the road was constructed part of the parking garage was done with the agreement that it would be done with the alleyway for the garage. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated that it's more of a glorified access route in and out of the parking garage of which Paula Tsitsopoulos stated yes and that they also have some handicap spots back there as well. Councilor Thompson stated that they are looking for a stop sign on that alleyway onto Petronelli Way, so if it's a private way we can not put up a stop sign. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated that yes that's what it sounds like and maybe it's something that we need to run by the Law Department because he doesn't believe we have the authority on a purely private way. DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill stated that it's really not even a private way, it's a driveway. Paula Tsitsopoulos stated that they do have a stop sign there but most people do not see the stop sign, some people aren't even slowing down, they are just coming right out to Petronelli Way. They are not use to it being there because it was gone for construction. Councilor Thompson asked if we have any authority to ask Trinity to enhance the stop sign of which Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated that we could send them a letter bringing it to their attention but I don't know what leverage we have to tell them what to do on that private driveway. The stop sign wasn't put up by us, it was privately put up. Retired Fire Chief Galligan stated that one way to look at this is if you were in a shopping center that put up stop signs at their location, it's entirely private property, in this case we have a driveway that is coming onto city property, would we want to say for public safety purposes, it's a blind corner and we want traffic to stop before they proceed out onto Petronelli Way. This one is a little different than a stop sign that is 100% on a private way. If it does go to the Law Department, what we are concerned about is the safety of people entering onto a public way. We want them to stop before they come onto the public way. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro also stated that it's the safety of the pedestrians crossing there as well. It's not a private way to a private way, it's a private way going to a public way. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro

stated what if we continue this to the next meeting, until DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill has had a chance to review the letter as to whether or not it's a private or public way and if it states that it's a private way then we can send a letter to the Law Department letting them know that it's a private way and explaining to them what we would like to see happen and ask them what our options would be. Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated that also it's leading onto a public way. Councilor Thompson asked if we had the option to invite someone from Trinity to the Traffic Commission meeting to offer them our suggestions if it's deemed a private way of which Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated yes.

Upon duly motion made by Councilor Thompson, seconded by James Sweeney, the motion carried by a hand vote; 5 in the affirmative.

VOTED: To continue to the May meeting.

3. ASH STREET @ WEST CHESTNUT STREET

Requested by: Councilor Mark D'Agostino

Request/Issue: Would like the Traffic Commission to look at the safety at this location. (Traffic Commission members please see attached Engineering Study that was previously completed by Tighe & Bond)

Discussion: Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro read into the record the Tighe & Bond Engineering study that was previously completed in 2021. The Engineering study recommended signalization of this intersection. As result of their recommendation the Traffic Commission voted to send a letter to the Mayor's office in August of 2021 regarding this intersection, asking Mayor Sullivan to implement the recommendation from Tighe & Bond to signalize this location. Councilor Jeffrey Thompson stated that he asked DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill whether or not this is something that we should put on the TIP list. DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill stated that the city doesn't determine what goes on the TIP list or not, that is determined by the Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC). He further stated that we could forward the Engineering study to OCPC and see if they would support the project. There was discussion among the Traffic Commission members as to what is done after the Traffic Commission sends a letter to the Mayor's office and it was stated that a land survey, etc. would need to be done at the particular location to see if the recommendation would be feasible. Councilor D'Agostino was present and stated he was going to suggest that this get postponed because there was a proposed development behind West Chestnut Street in West Bridgewater, that the West Bridgewater Planning Board denied and that the developer is suing the West Bridgewater Planning Board to get that overturned and we don't know the result of that and also the City of Brockton is engaged in litigation with the developer as well. We have two different court cases that we are waiting on decisions and depending on how those go, let's say that West Bridgewater and the City of Brockton lose, it

is going to change the entire dynamics of this area. The study that the Traffic Commission had done may not be valid if this development were to go in and it's also not accounting for the additional traffic that would be added if this development were to go in. If this development were not to go forward then the Traffic Commission is back to the original engineering study that recommends the signalization of this intersection. Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated that regardless of what happens with the pending litigation, we have previously had an engineering study done, a letter has gone to the Mayor on this already and we don't want to lose our position in the query of numerous intersections waiting for traffic signals. His suggestion is that the Traffic Commission send an additional letter to the Mayor's office referencing the situation and the situation at the intersection is deteriorating and we request that the traffic signals be put there. We are just reminding the Mayor's office that the situation hasn't gotten any better and that we are still in favor of the traffic signalization at this location. It was also suggested that OCPC be contacted relative to this intersection.

Upon duly motion made by Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan, seconded by Councilor Thompson, the motion carried by a hand vote; 5 in the affirmative.

VOTED: Send Correspondence to the Mayor referencing the previous correspondence that was in August of 2021, stating that the Traffic Commission continues to support the installation of Traffic signals at this location.

4. 1014 PEARL STREET- JM PET RESORT

Requested by: Captain Mark Porcaro o/b/o Jenny Mather

Issue/Request: Parking on Lancaster Street and new crosswalk across Pearl Street (somewhere between Lancaster Street and JM Pet Resort). Ms. Mather is seeking Commission approval to park employees there and is willing to clean up the street. The crosswalk would be for the safety of JM Pet Resort employees (or anyone using it) crossing Pearl Street from Lancaster Street.

**** CDM Smith's Conclusion: Based on the existing conditions and count data, CDM Smith finds that the installation of a pedestrian crosswalk would be appropriate due to the pedestrian activity at the location. If the Brockton Traffic Commission desires to install a crosswalk across Pearl Street, the most appropriate location is on the southern leg of the intersection with Lancaster Street. At a minimum, new ADA-compliant curb ramps, sidewalk, and fluorescent yellow pedestrian crossing assemblies (both the W11-2/W16-7p arrow assembly plus the advance W11-2/W16-9 'AHEAD' assembly) must be installed.**

Given the traffic volumes and speeds in the area, it is strongly recommended that a dynamic warning device be installed to

accompany the crosswalk installation. A Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacon (RRFB) or Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB) should be included to give drivers advance warning of pedestrians. This proposed improvement is consistent with countermeasures for 2-lane roadway configurations with a 40-mph speed limit as recommended by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)'s 2018 Guide for Improving Pedestrian Safety at Uncontrolled Crossing Locations as shown in Table 1.

Discussion: Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro read into the record the Engineering report concluded by CDM Smith. Jenny Mather was present and stated that the parking that was allowed on Lancaster Street has been wonderful and working smoothly. There was a lengthy conversation between Ms. Mather and the Traffic Commission relative to the crossing of individuals at this location and the crosswalk recommendation. For the most part the volume of the individuals crossing the street is in morning and night, however, the employees are also crossing the street when they are going on break, therefore, there is crossing at this location at all times and frequently. Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated that to get this moving more quickly we should focus on getting the crosswalks installed and work on the recommended RRFB's in the long term. Ms. Mather agreed that something more immediate is more beneficial than something long term. She believes even a sign that states "Pedestrians crossing" would be helpful. Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan suggested putting up Pedestrian signs for north and southbound traffic. The crosswalk signs can not go in until there is an actual crosswalk with sidewalks. Councilor D'Agostino also spoke on this item and stated that we do the same that we do with Item # 3 relative to sending correspondence to the Mayor and in the short term the Traffic Commission does what it can because something is better than nothing. He supports the recommendations of the Engineering Study. Ms. Mather stated that the short term solution of the pedestrian crossing signs she believes when they are installed because they are new signs individuals will be more aped to see them, that over time, they will begin to blend in. She also recommended that the Traffic Commission also install a Pedestrian Crossing Warning sign before the actual Pedestrian Crossing sign of which the Commission agreed could be done as well. She suggested it be located near Brack's. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated that Crosswalk Ahead signs have been installed before and stated a Pedestrian Ahead sign could also be installed. Ms. Mather also asked the Commission whether or not a crosswalk could be installed without a ramp and DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill stated that in order to access the crosswalk there also needs to be a ramp installed and be ADA complaint, for liability purposes it's not a good practice to install crosswalks without the ramps.

Upon duly motion made by Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan, seconded by James Sweeney, the motion carried by a hand vote; 5 in the affirmative.

VOTED: To send correspondence to the Mayor that the Traffic Commission supports the recommendations by the Engineering Company, CDM Smith and to install two (2) pedestrian signs southbound and northbound on Pearl Street near Lancaster Street and also to install a Pedestrian Ahead Warning Sign.

5. 216 BELAIR STREET

Requested by: Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro

Request/Issue: To reconsider and revise its decision from last month relative to Subcommittee recommendations A & B.

PREVIOUSLY APPROVED SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Add a STOP sign with red striping near the current Rainbow Cir. street sign;
- B. Install a directional chevron on the northside of the island at Rainbow Cir. at Belair St.;
- C. Install a STOP AHEAD sign on Pole #2 (Rainbow Cir.) for westbound traffic;
- D. Install a BLIND INTERSECTION AHEAD on Pole #21-84 (Belair St. northbound) so as to alert motorists about Crickett Rd;
- E. Remove the 30 MPH sign from Pole #21-84 and relocate closer to Thompson Ave. (Belair St. northbound lane);
- *F. Send correspondence to Superintendent of Buildings James Plouffe to determine if the white fence located on the corner of Crickett Road and Belair Street is proper or not; and
- *G. To add additional traffic enforcement on Belair Street.

**** SUBCOMMITTEE SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS****

- H. **Extend the existing guardrail in front of 216 Belair Street so as to come closer to the front gate, and install a new guardrail in front of the same address along the front fence southerly toward the utility pole near Coventry Circle.**
- I. **Once the guardrails at 216 Belair Street are in place, remove the recently installed chevron on the grassy island at Rainbow Circle and Belair Street.**
- J. **Add larger STOP stenciling during pavement line painting for the STOP bar/STOP sign on Rainbow Circle at Belair Street.**

K. Add yellow centerlines on Rainbow Circle coming in from Belair Street 100/200 feet.

Discussion: Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated we are looking for Item # B to be rescinded and for the approval of Item's H, I & J. Councilor Shirley Asack was presented and stated that a resident called her the minute the chevron sign was put up. It is on public property and that the resident has been maintaining this public property for a long time and that she appreciates the Commission going back out there and viewing the area again. She also stated that she is happy with the Subcommittee recommendations. The only thing that the residents brought up was that there are two (2) stop signs at the end of Rainbow Circle and people are going to the far left and that it's causing some issues and she asked if the stop sign on the far left could be removed. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated that the resident did bring this to their attention when they were out there and after everyone left I looped back and drove down Rainbow Circle and I could see what she was talking about. There seems to be some merit to her complaint relative to the stop sign. DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill stated that he doesn't believe it has anything to do with the sign, that it's just a very hard corner for people to take and people are taking it too fast. He further stated that the intent of that stop sign is for the people that are heading westerly to see that a stop line is coming ahead. There is almost like a blind corner there to the right and you can't see. It's to let people know to slow down that there's a stop sign coming up. Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated that he agrees that the stop sign is warranted. There was also discussion as to the placement of yellow centerlines down Rainbow Circle coming in from Belair Street 100/200 feet and to add that as "K" to the subcommittee supplemental recommendations.

Upon duly motion made by Councilor Thompson, seconded by DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill, the motion carried by a hand vote; 5 in the affirmative.

VOTED: To rescind original subcommittee recommendation "B", Add Supplemental Subcommittee Recommendation "K" and to accept and approve the full Supplemental Subcommittee Recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS

6. RRFB (Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon)

Requested by: BPD Capt. Mark Porcaro, Traffic Commissioner
Request/Issue: to establish Traffic Commission policy and procedure for processing new RRFB requests, installation, and maintenance/repair/replacement.

Discussion: Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated this is something that Retired Fire Chief Galligan has brought to his attention at many

Subcommittee Review meetings and it has merit. We deal with RRFB's, we approve them and install them but what happens when a car crashes into one, who picks it up, who pays for the replacement, who fixes it when it breaks. The time has come that we should figure out what to do with these requests.

Councilor Jeffrey Thompson stated that if one gets taken out by a car that he imagines we would refer it to their insurance company to replace and repair.

DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill stated, yes, for the cars that are insured. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated if one was to get hit tonight, who is responsible to come pick it up, is it Highway or Fire? Is it under the signal division? Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated that if the city doesn't immediately respond and pick up a damaged RRFB that it will disappear and someone will scrap it. He further stated that in the past he believes it was the Mayor's office that would pick the spots that RRFB's were placed and that all requests for RRFB's should go through the traffic commission and the traffic commission should decide if one is warranted and or not. Retired Fire Chief Galligan further stated part 1 is who authorizes if an RRFB is warranted, part 2 is who pays for the installation and part 3 is who is responsibility is it to retrieve it and make sure it gets put back up if its hit and damaged? The Traffic Commission doesn't have the ability to do that, could money be put in the traffic commission budget for maintenance of the RRFB's and we could notify Bartlett and they would come and put it back up for us? The Traffic Signal Division doesn't have enough personal to cover this. Traffic Commissioner Captain Porcaro stated to answer chief's questions as to who makes the decision to approve these and how do they get installed, in the past if an RRFB request is on our agenda , we normally send these requests out for an engineering study. He further stated that there are a lot of federal and state rules relative to RRFB's and you can't just stick them anywhere you want to, sight lines, etc. The engineering company would let us know whether or not one can be installed in a certain location and then it comes back to the traffic commission and we vote on it and after that who puts it up and who handles it when it comes down. Councilor Jeffrey Thompson stated that basically answers part 1. Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated that maybe there should also be communication with the ward councilors when an RRFB is approved to be installed in their ward. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated that we can go out on Subcommittee and say it's feasible at a specific location, however, at the end of the day it would be an engineer that would tell us if it's feasible at a specific location. Councilor Jeffrey Thompson stated that we should add that if an RRFB is presented to the Traffic Commission that we as the Traffic Commission could reach out to the ward councilor and let them know that the RRFB request is under consideration in their ward and the ward councilor can determine if they would like to participate in the process or not, but at least they are informed about it. DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill asked if the councilor should be notified prior to it even getting to an engineering study and Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated, yes, we can notify the ward councilor that there is an RRFB request on the agenda for their ward, as a courtesy and that they are more than welcome to participate and/or give some input on it. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark

Porcaro stated that he wants to establish a policy or protocol for handling these requests from A-Z from now on. Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated that you could establish a committee with a couple of the traffic commission members to look further into this and report back to the full Traffic Commission. Councilor Jeffrey Thompson stated an Ad Hoc Committee of which Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan and Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro agreed. There was discussion amongst the members as to who would serve on the Ad Hoc Committee and it was determined that the Ad Hoc Committee would consist of Councilor Thompson, Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan, James Sweeney and DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill as the Chair. There was further discussion what the Ad Hoc Committee should be discussing and Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated # 1, who makes the determine of RRFB's, is it the Mayor's office or the Traffic Commission, # 2 who is going to fund the RRFB's and # 3 an emergency response in the event an RRFB gets knocked down. These are the 3 priorities that should be looked at now. He further stated that there are also electronical components involved with RRFB's. DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill mentioned that RRFB's are normally solar. Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated that the Ad Hoc Committee would have to go through the Fire Chief and see if they could take on this extra responsibility and once this is knocked down and removed, where do we remove it to? Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated that the Highway picks it up and puts it in a DPW yard, in a safe place. We call Bartlett that we have a sign knocked down and they go to the DPW and if they can put it back up they take it and do so and send us a bill. Councilor Jeffrey Thompson stated that the Ad Hoc Committee needs to determine whether or not the RRFB is more like a street sign that would be handled by Highway or is it more like a street light that would be handled by the Traffic Signal Division. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated that it's similar to a flashing 20 MPH school zone light and Jim Burgess, the city's electrician is in charge of those. The Traffic Commission pays for the school zone lights; however, the city electrician handles all of the maintenance, repair and ordering of them. Councilor Jeffrey Thompson asked if they are available 24/7 of which DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill stated that Public Property has someone on call 24/7.

Upon duly motion made by Councilor Thompson, seconded by James Sweeney, the motion carried by a hand vote; 5 in the affirmative.

VOTED: To Establish an Ad Hoc Committee that consists of DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill as Chari, James Sweeney, Councilor Jeffrey Thompson and Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan that will work together and report their recommendations back to the full Traffic Commission at the May meeting.

7. SOLAR-POWERED SPEED SIGNS

Requested by: BPD Capt. Mark Porcaro, Traffic Commissioner

Request/Issue: to establish Traffic Commission policy and procedure for processing new solar-powered speed sign requests, installation, and maintenance/repair/replacement.

Discussion: Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated this is the same thing as # 6, except it deals with the solar-powered speed signs. Councilor Jeffrey Thompson stated that it would make sense to send this to the Ad Hoc Committee that we created in Item # 6 as well. Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan asked who picks the spots for the solar-powered speed signs right now and Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated the Traffic Commission does, no engineering report, a request is made and if it seems feasible, we reach out to the vendor Marlin Controls and we have them installed at the requested locations. He further stated that he as the Traffic Commissioner has made some of the decisions and some have come before the Traffic Commission and we have voted on them, an example is Court Street, the commission voted on that one. There was discussion about the new 6 solar-powered speed signs that were installed. Councilor Jeffrey Thompson asked if they are permanent of which Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated yes, once they are installed they are permanent, they are not the battery operated ones, that can be moved. Councilor Jeffrey Thompson further asked if there is an expectation of us inquiring anymore? Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated that at a councilor's request the traffic commission is going to be adding a second one to Summer Street and that there will be more solar-powered speed signs installed throughout the city. There was also discussion as to whether or not the ward councilors should be involved in this process, of which Councilor Jeffrey Thompson stated that as a ward councilor, yes he would like to be made aware of the placement of a solar-powered speed sign in his ward, however, he believes that the Traffic Commission should have the final say as to the final approval of said solar-powered speed signs of which Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro agreed that the full Traffic Commission should have the final say.

Upon duly motion made by Councilor Thompson, seconded by James Sweeney, the motion carried by a hand vote; 5 in the affirmative.

VOTED: To have the Ad Hoc Committee that was previously established in Item # 6 work together and report their recommendations back to the full Traffic Commission at the May meeting.

8. PUBLIC INFORMATION AND DISCLOSURE/SOCIAL MEDIA

Requested by: BPD Capt. Mark Porcaro, Traffic Commissioner

Request/Issue: to establish Traffic Commission policy and procedure for publicly disclosing information and materials used by anyone at Traffic Commission meetings.

Discussion: Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro explained to the Traffic Commission as an example one lady tonight was kind enough to show the commission pictures, all the members have copies and they were presented at a public/open meeting. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro further stated that he would like to establish a procedure as to what we can do with her pictures now. Ms. Yaffe was kind enough, as she works in the Law Department and the attorneys in the law department are skilled with public disclosure, we have gotten the ball up and running with this. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro also stated if we want to disclose the pictures presented at the meeting, how do we do so, without getting in trouble for doing so. Ms. Yaffe explained to the Commission that the law department had opined that it would need to be determined on a case to case basis, however, that her and Captain Porcaro has discussed that the Law Department should be more involved in creating this policy and/or procedure and that we should go back to the Law Department with more specific questions that the Commission has and ask for further legal advice relative to this. Councilor Jeffrey Thompson asked if the Commission should send an official letter to the Law Department asking them about this matter of which the commission agreed that a letter should be sent. There was further discussion as to whether or not the city has a citywide policy relative to public records and Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated that there is one with the Police Department, however, when it comes to the Traffic Commission I would like to establish one and he believes that we will be able to handle this very easily. Councilor Jeffrey Thompson stated that this one is specific about social media and he knows that the city has a policy relative to public record requests. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro gave an example that if after a Traffic Commission meeting he wanted to post something that was at this meeting on his Facebook or Instagram page, he thinks that there's an assumption that it's now part of the record but does that allow me to take anything that is presented and post it on social media without any recourse? For example, let's say what if a picture was of a juvenile, really of a private nature but someone brought it before us, would that automatically become public information or is there an exception to the rule that would not allow it to be posted on social media? He further stated that the Traffic Commission has been given videos before of crashes, wherein there are plate numbers, when we watch the news they blank those out, I just want to make sure we have a policy up and running so if a member decides to put something presented at the Traffic Commission meeting on their social media, they are not disclosing anything that shouldn't be disclosed. Councilor Jeffrey Thompson stated that he believes it should be held to the same standard as any other public record request. He further stated that if any public records request required redaction then any posting on social media would require the same redaction. Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated that this would give us direction as to where to direct a requestor if one of the members were approached relative to the release of anything that has been presented at a meeting. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated that he was speaking with Ms. Yaffe the other day and there's actually 2 parts to this. # 1 before any pictures/videos, etc. even gets

before the Traffic Commission is there a screening process? And # 2, can we publicly disclose anything that has already been laid out in front of us, if someone were to bring pictures/video's etc. to the meeting? Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated we could look at it as if someone gives us something just for informational purposes or do we accept it into our record. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated for example the pictures that were presented to us with the Agenda tonight and given to each member, is that for informational purposes only or does it become part of the record and if someone went to the law department requesting a copy would it be given to them? He stated this is what he is looking for guidance relative to from the law department. Councilor Jeffrey Thompson stated that we should be specific about these questions so that they know what we are asking. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated what do we allow into our meetings?, once we allow it into the meeting what can we disclose? Councilor Jeffrey Thompson further stated he thinks any document that we weigh an opinion on would essentially be a public document of which Traffic Commissioner Mark Porcaro said yes, because we are relying on it to make a decision. James Sweeney stated, of which should be pre-screened. Another question presented by Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro was for example someone comes in with their phone and shows the commission photos/videos from their phone and each member looks at said photos/ videos, it's part of our thought process when vote and approve something, the individual then takes their phone back should it now be part of the record? What if someone requests that video because the Traffic Commission saw it and it was part of our decision and they want to see it too and we don't have it because the individual has it. Councilor Jeffrey Thompson asked if anything that has been voted on by the Traffic Commission has anything ever been appealed of which Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated he does not believe so. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated probably not unless the commission were to violate some federal or state rule or regulation. James Sweeney stated that maybe we should send this to law and revisit this item. He also stated maybe give a disclosure when your requesting a sign or going through the process that if you are going to show a video/picture that it takes the appropriate process. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated that it could be posted on the Traffic Commission city page that if they do come in with a picture/video that they are aware it could be deemed a public record.

Upon duly motion made by Councilor Thompson, seconded by James Sweeney, the motion carried by a hand vote; 5 in the affirmative.

VOTED: To send correspondence to the Law Department asking them to assist in the development of a public records policy to be used by the Traffic Commission.

9. HILLBERG @ WARREN AVENUE

Requested by: James Sweeney

Request/Issue: Requesting a No Parking Here to Corner Sign

Discussion: James Sweeney was present and stated that you have work trucks coming southbound on Warren Avenue, take a right onto Hillberg Avenue and it's a denser neighborhood where you are going to get more cars. The safety matter of this, is its' become a dangerous turn. Warren and Hillberg if you are traveling southbound on Warren Avenue and you are taking a right on Hillberg, immediately as you take that turn, you are greeted by a vehicle, before you even get onto the street. They are encroaching on that 20 ft. buffer that you are suppose to have at intersections. Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan asked if the signs should say No Parking northside of Hillberg Avenue a number of feet west of Warren Avenue. He further stated that he believes the whole southside of Hillberg Avenue is no parking from Warren Avenue all the way to Longwood Avenue.

Upon duly motion made by DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill, seconded by Councilor Thompson, the motion carried by a hand vote; 5 in the affirmative.

VOTED: To send to Subcommittee Review.

10. N. CARY STREET

Requested by: Marcus Busby of 773 N. Cary Street

Request/Issue: There have been multiple accidents at this location on N, Cary Street at the bend. I would like a guardrail to protect my property. Also a sign or lights that can alert drivers to slow down before approaching the bend in the road.

Discussion: Mark Busby was not present, however, Delia Resende (Item # 11) was present. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated that the previously discussed Tighe & Bond Engineering Study relative to Item # 3 (West Chestnut Street) also dealt with N. Cary Street. He read into record the engineering study which also recommended signaling this location as well. Councilor Jack Lally was present and stated that N. Cary, when you are running north to south you hit quite a few problematic spots in a row. You have the intersection of N. Cary and N. Quincy, the corner where N. Cary meets Toby, the intersection by Station 7 and the intersection of N. Cary and Armark and they all have their own troubles. It's largely related to tough corners and people going too fast. The property in question is the property right at the corner of Toby and N. Cary. One of the biggest problems is people heading southbound at N. Cary will get a little too relaxed in their cornering, they will take the corner too wide, they will not leave people heading northbound enough space to actually take the corner. This makes it a high risk corner. He agrees that a signal at this intersection would help, especially with N. Quincy and its' own separate problems. He respectfully requests support in signaling the corner but goes so

far as to say that this is a separate corner with its' own issues and its' own problems. He would appreciate subcommittee going out and taking a look at this location. Delia Resende stated that she wanted to emphasis how she doesn't feel safe here because of the driving. She parks her car in the driveway because she has been so traumatized by the last incident. She keeps her car at the very end of her driveway in case something does crash and it crashes into her car and not her home where her kids reside. She would appreciate the commission taking this request into consideration. Councilor Jack Lally stated that the house on the other side of Toby already has a guardrail and boulders and there is precedent for a guardrail to be installed in this area and there's a demonstrated need for it. There was discussion as to where the placement of a guardrail would be if subcommittee recommended the placement of one at this location. Councilor Jack Lally further stated that signaling this location is going to take much longer and that we should start the ball rolling on it and in the meantime a guardrail will help.

Upon duly motion made by DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill, seconded by James Sweeney, the motion carried by a hand vote; 5 in the affirmative.

VOTED: To send to Subcommittee Review.

11. N. CARY STREET

Requested by: Delia Resende of 773 N. Cary Street

Request/Issue: I am the house right on the curve of North Cary Street and Toby Road. There have been so many car crashes into my front yard. My family and I do not feel safe. I have little kids. Requesting a stop sign or to make it a one way street.

Discussion: Refer to discussion in Item # 10.

Upon duly motion made by DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill, seconded by James Sweeney, the motion carried by a hand vote;5 in the affirmative.

VOTED: To take collectively with Item # 10 and to send to Subcommittee Review.

12. BELAIR STREET AND CRICKETT ROAD

Requested by: Latania Lafontant

Request/Issue: There have been several motor vehicle accidents in this vicinity. Children wait for the bus in the morning and are walking from school in the afternoon. There is a school in the area and there is a lot of traffic during peak hours. Requesting the following:

- 1. Remove the 30mph sign and replace it with a Solar LED Radar Speed Sign (Belair Street Northbound lane). Include a School Zone sign with yellow striping on the road on both sides of Belair Street (north and southbound lanes).**
- 2. Clean up debris and cut down landscape near the Stop Sign on Coventry Circle intersecting with Belair Street.**
- 3. Include double cross walk lines on Coventry Circle intersecting with Belair Street.**
- 4. Remove the 30mph sign and replace with School Speed Limit When Flashing sign southbound on Belair Street. The sign should state 20mph between 7am-9am and 2:30pm-4:00pm Monday through Friday.**
- 5. Include a reduce speed sign with flashing lights by the crosswalk on southbound of Belair Street before the pole with the emergency sign on it.**
- 6. Make Rainbow Circle a one-way. No cars can enter Rainbow Circle from Belair Street. Exiting Rainbow Circle into Belair should include an Only Turn Right sign. No left turns onto Belair Street from Rainbow Circle.**
- 7. Include a Slow Down Sign on pole 24 southbound of Belair Street.**

Discussion: Latania Lafontant was not present. DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill stated that he does not believe that this is a recognized school zone. Putting any school zone signage wouldn't be recognized by the state. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated that the school zone is established on Colonel Bell Drive and any school zone, is an engineering study. James Sweeney stated that just on the removal of the signs to put a Radar Speed Sign takes away the zone. Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated at Belair Street the school probably has a crossing guard at Belair Street crossing the kids, so on Coventry Circle and Belair Street, that may be a real classic location where we can enhance the crosswalk, if it's only two strips going across, we could put the interior ladder design. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated that he would check on this because they started line painting and they were in this area. He further stated we did Rainbow Circle and Crickett Road. They are using oil based paint and we redid all the crosswalks at the George School on Colonel Bell Drive. Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated he would not support making this a way one as you have to be able to turn onto Belair Street. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated that it would probably need an engineering report because it would change the traffic flow in that area. Councilor Shirley Asack also spoke relative to this item and she stated that that the Traffic Commission put up the 30 MPH signs because we have a speeding problem on Belair Street and that's when I was first elected, so we are going on probably 9 years or so. She stated that she would hate to see them come down.

Upon duly motion made by DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill, seconded by Councilor Thompson, the motion carried by a hand vote; 5 in the affirmative.

VOTED: To send to Subcommittee Review.

13. WEST CHESTNUT STREET

Requested by: Christine Hill of 358 West Chestnut Street

Request/Issue: Continuing concerns regarding speeding.

(Traffic Commission Members please see previous request & recommendations- attached July 28th, 2022 Traffic Commission Minutes Item # 5)

Discussion: Christine Hill was present and stated the guardrail was extended and that was a great big help. It was knocked down back in February. It's was quickly replaced and I was very impressed by that. But the ongoing issue is with the speed at this location and I am right there at the corner. When cars are coming around the corner, they don't see the corner and they come right at my house. I have had my fence knocked down multiple times and I know that I requested speed bumps before, I would like to set a precedent of either putting speed bumps or raised crosswalks at this location because it is a big concern. James Sweeney stated that this is a tough area. Retired Fire Chief Galligan stated several years ago we made a recommendation to put an overhead flashing light and it never happened. DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill stated that this is the most appropriate recommendation. He further stated that speed bumps and/or speed tables would actually make things worse at this location. Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated if you look at the engineering report for the intersection of West Chestnut and Ash the volume of cars per day, I think it's 35,000. I remember going to this intersection with the previous Councilor Dennis Eaniri and we actually picked a location to put the post on the inside of curve over by the fire hydrant so that it would not get wiped out by a car coming around the corner. Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated another thing we could do is, even though there is already a solar-powered speed sign around the 500 block of West Chestnut, we might want to think about installing another solar-powered speed sign, same side of the road, for eastbound traffic closer to Southworth Street, just before the church. DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill asked about a solar powered chevron. He stated that would be a pretty quick solution, something that could happen more easily of which Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan agreed with. You would probably have to put it right before Southworth Street on that corner, by the river. Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated that there's one on Centre Street at Short Street, the state put up right on a post, that's exactly what we could put up here. James Sweeney asked if we could temporarily put up one of the battery operated speed signs of which Traffic Commissioner Captain Mark Porcaro stated yes, however, it wouldn't last more than a couple days because of the volume of cars on West Chestnut Street.

Upon duly motion made by DPW Commissioner Patrick Hill, seconded by James Sweeney, the motion carried by a hand vote; 5 in the affirmative.

VOTED: To send to Subcommittee Review.

14. HAMILTON STREET

Requested by: Councilor-at-Large David Teixeira

Request/Issue: Would like the Traffic Commission to look at the safety at this location.

Discussion: Councilor Teixeira was unable to make tonight's meeting. Motion to continue to next month.

Upon duly motion made by Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan, seconded by Councilor Thompson, the motion carried by a hand vote; 5 in the affirmative.

VOTED: To continue to May meeting.

15. VFW PARKWAY AND CRESCENT STREET

Requested by: Councilor Jeffrey Thompson

Request/Issue: Would like the Traffic Commission to determine whether or not on-street parking spaces can be added on VFW Parkway and Crescent Street next to the Studenski building.

Discussion: Councilor Thompson was present and spoke on his request. He stated that this is a request relative to the support of the Sycamore Grove development, a public green space. One of their biggest concerns is the loss of parking when Sycamore Grove is constructed, they will lose approximately 25 spaces from the Market place. A lot of those parking spaces support their lunch crowd. I am trying to work with them to find alternatives for parking. VFW Parkway is a little narrow but , that's why I am asking for the Traffic Commission expertise whether or not any on-street parking could be done, from Crescent Street going back. Additionally, along the Studenski building on Crescent Street, there is parking on the school administration building side, is there any way we could find any on-street parking along the Studenski Building. He recommends that the subcommittee take a look at it. Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan stated that the north side of Crescent north up to the VFW, there is new driveways and the problem would be pulling out of VFW looking to the left to see if there are any cars heading west on Crescent Street, that could be a blind intersection. The Commission discussed Maple Avenue and looking at parking there as well. They also discussed the renovation of the Adams Garage and if renovated would alleviate a lot of the parking concerns relative to the Sycamore Grove development.

Upon duly motion made by Retired Fire Chief Kenneth Galligan, seconded by James Sweeney, the motion carried by a hand vote; 7 in the affirmative.

VOTED: To send to Subcommittee Review.

Motion was made by James Sweeney, seconded by Stephan Hooke to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Yaffe

Michelle Yaffe

Secretary to the Traffic Commission