

# Ordinance Fact Sheet

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: July 12, 1999

FROM: CITY MANAGER

**TITLE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE:** "An Ordinance of the City of Pasadena Adding Chapter 10.38 to the Pasadena Municipal Code Controlling Vehicular Cruising"

**PURPOSE OF ORDINANCE:** This ordinance is intended to reduce the traffic gridlock in Old Pasadena which results from persons continually driving or "cruising" on the streets of Old Pasadena. The ordinance defines cruising as passing a traffic control point a third or subsequent time within any four hour period. Each license number of a vehicle passing the traffic control point will be recorded. On the second trip through the traffic control point, the vehicle's occupants will personally receive a written warning from an officer that the driver will be cited for cruising the next time the vehicle passes the traffic control point within four hours of the first passage past the traffic control point. In this manner, persons may pass the traffic control point once or even twice without being cited. On the third or subsequent pass of the vehicle past the traffic control point within the four hour period, the driver will be cited for an infraction. Traffic control points to enforce this ordinance may be established only between the hours of 9 PM and 2 AM and are advertised with extensive signage warning that cruising controls are in effect on that street.

**REASONS WHY LEGISLATION IS NEEDED:** The reasons for this proposed legislation has been previously presented. In brief, cities may control vehicular cruising under the authority granted municipalities by Vehicle Code section 21100(k). Since the summer of 1998, "cruiser" traffic has built up to the point that Colorado Boulevard is gridlocked for several hours on weekend nights. The congestion caused at least in part by cruising makes travel extremely difficult for emergency vehicles on Colorado Boulevard during weekend evenings and has caused serious concerns among the merchants of Old Pasadena. Cruising controls have been established on the previous cruising havens of Whittier Boulevard and Hollywood Boulevard. The cities of Los Angeles, Newport Beach, Pico Rivera, Huntington Beach, Anaheim, Riverside, Salinas, and National City all have enacted cruising ordinances in response to conditions similar to those in Old Pasadena, and this proposed ordinance was crafted from the language adapted

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from those ordinances. Interviews with cruisers have indicated that many of the people engaged in cruising have come to Pasadena because anti-cruising ordinances were enacted where they previously cruised.

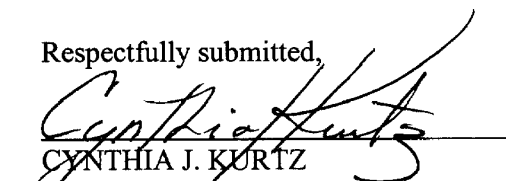
PROGRAMS, DEPARTMENTS OR GROUPS AFFECTED: The Police Department is primarily responsible for the enforcement of the cruising control program. The Police Department has proposed this legislation after discussing the problems associated with cruising with the merchants of Old Pasadena and the Old Pasadena Business and Professional Association.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: The traffic control point will operate by entering the license plate numbers of all vehicles passing the traffic control point into a laptop computer. Because a traffic control point may be established only where traffic is already congested, traffic need not be stopped or slowed for the input process. If a vehicle license plate number is input a second time, the program will notify the computer operator that the vehicle is on its second pass through the traffic control point. At that point, police officers at the checkpoint will hand warning notices to the vehicle occupants, advising that the driver of the vehicle will be cited for cruising if it passes the traffic control point again within a four hour period. If the vehicle then returns, the computer will indicate that a citation may be issued. The computer will automatically record the date and time of each entry for use as evidence.

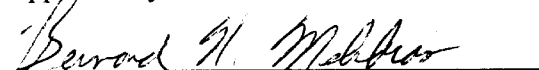
Sufficient funds exist within the budget of the Police Department to pay the associated costs of implementing this proposed ordinance.

POLICY CHANGES: This ordinance would impose the first controls on cruising in the City. Because of the deteriorating traffic situation, however, the imposition of cruising controls appears to be an effective means of reducing traffic gridlock during peak evening hours.

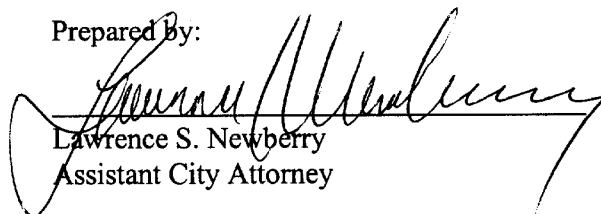
Respectfully submitted,

  
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