

#19



Larry Herrera
02/26/2009 03:21 PM

To: Agenda Supporting Docs
cc:
Subject: Fw: PLEASE DO NOT INCREASE TO 8,000 POUNDS THE WEIGHT OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES PERMITTED ON RESIDENTIAL STREETS - City Council Agenda March 3rd Item #19

For the record (FTR).

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Subject PLEASE DO NOT INCREASE TO 8,000 POUNDS THE WEIGHT OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES PERMITTED ON RESIDENTIAL STREETS - City Council Agenda March 3rd Item #19

Below is a list of my concerns about the proposal to eliminate the City of Long Beach 6,000 pound limit on heavy duty pick-ups and commercial vehicles and allow 8,000 pound trucks on residential streets:

1) **Cities bordering Long Beach all have municipal codes with 6,000 pound limits for commercial vehicles on non-truck routes and residential streets.** (These cities include: Seal Beach, Signal Hill, Lakewood, Carson and Wilmington (part of the City of LA). While some have additional size limits and exceptions, the common theme is a gross vehicle weight (GVW) limit of 3 tons (6,000 pounds). (see municipal code excerpts below)

If Long Beach allows an increase to a 8,000 pound limit - the City might well become a magnet for the overweight, oversized commercial vehicles from neighboring cities.

2) **Effect on parking impacted areas of the City.** Many parts of Long Beach are already heavily parking impacted. This is hugely frustrating and often dangerous to residents who have no choice but to park on the street when they return from work, school, etc. at night or in difficult neighborhoods. Allowing and encouraging 8,000 lb. heavy duty pick-ups and commercial vehicles to park citywide on residential streets will seriously magnify this problem.

2) **Heavy duty pick-ups and other over 6,000 pound commercial vehicles which currently park in their driveways or off-site will doubtless start parking in residential streets.**

3) **Safety and Visual Blight in our neighborhoods.** Experts note dangers of accidents when large motor vehicles are parked on public streets and rights of way in the city near driveways and intersections; and the parking and/or storage of large motor vehicles causes visual blight in the city.

4) **High cost of changing our existing City signage.** Existing signs all over the City state "No Parking Commercial Vehicles Over 3 Tons" or "Over 3 Tons Forbidden" will have to be replaced or changed (Mr. Roseman said the cost is \$65 - \$100 per sign and there could be thousands of signs citywide).

6) **"Green" "Sustainable City" or?** At a time when Long Beach is working to become a "green city," a "Sustainable City," an "energy efficient" city, a pollution free city -- it is absolutely counter to that goal to change our ordinances to encourage these larger commercial vehicles (many of which are diesel powered) that do not have EPA mileage standards and often circumvent air pollution standards.

7) **Use of large trucks and other commercial vehicles as "advertising billboards."** Advertisers and commercial companies park advertising-covered trucks of various sizes almost permanently on busy thoroughfares throughout the city. They only are moved on street sweeping days from one side of the street to another. They take up parking and are a visual blight.

8) **Permit system the best approach.** Permits are used by numerous cities to allow residents to legally apply for a permit to park their oversized vehicle on residential streets. Signal Hill (which recently passed an oversized vehicle ordinance <http://www.cityofsignalhill.org/news.php?30>) has a permit process - Lakewood uses a similar permitting process. Long Beach also has permits for parking on residential streets for specific situations. A Permit system for individuals with specific reasons to park their overweight commercial vehicle on residential streets certainly seems to be the way to go. To legalize 8,000 lb commercial vehicles citywide is going to cause multiple problems to neighborhoods and costs to the City.

[**Note:** This isn't an arbitrary weight limit. 6,000 pounds has long been a recognized dividing line between light and heavy trucks. (For example, the Clean Air Act defines "heavy duty vehicle" as a truck with a gross vehicle weight "in excess of six thousand pounds.")]

Below excerpts from Municipal Codes in neighboring cities:

City of Seal Beach

§ 8.10.120 Truck Routes.

A. Designation. The city council may by resolution designate streets and parts of

streets as truck routes for movement of vehicles **exceeding a maximum gross weight of 3 tons.**

B. Prohibition. No person shall operate a vehicle exceeding a **maximum gross weight of 3 tons** on any street that is not part of a truck route designated by city resolution and indicated by appropriate signs.

Signal Hill

“maximum gross weight limit of three tons”

Signal Hill restricts “oversized vehicles” but has a permitting process to allow them under specific conditions.

Lakewood Municipal Code

3264. Prohibiting use of City Streets by **Commercial Vehicles in Excess of 6000 pounds**

Wilmington (City of Los Angeles)

SEC. 80.36.1. RESTRICTED USE OF CERTAIN STREETS.

(a) It shall be unlawful, when authorized signs are in place giving notice thereof, to drive, propel, or cause to be driven or propelled, any vehicle **exceeding a maximum gross weight of 6,000 pounds** on any of the streets or portions of streets set forth in Subsection (d) of this section.

(b) When it has been determined by the Department that continued use of any street, or portion thereof, by vehicles **over 6,000 pounds gross weight** would cause traffic congestion, create a hazard to life or property, or detrimentally affect public welfare, and when alternate routes are available, the Department is hereby authorized to erect upon such street or portions thereof, signs prohibiting such vehicles, provided, however, that such authority shall not extend to major or secondary highways, as defined by Section 18.01 of this Code, other than those major or secondary highways, or portions thereof, specified in Subsection (d) of this section provided, however, that no vehicle used for round-trip sight-seeing tour service vehicle, as defined by the Public Utilities Commission, namely round-trip travel in the same vehicle with guide service for an informational purpose, **in excess of 6,000 pounds gross weight**, shall use any street other than a major or secondary highway, as defined by Section 18.01 of this Code, despite any lack of such determination by the Department, and any erection of signs, as hereinabove described, so long as appropriate notice of the restriction is given in compliance with Vehicle Code Section 35701(b). (Amended by Ord. No. 158,564, Eff. 1/22/84, Oper. 2/28/84.)

The provisions of this section shall not apply to trailers and semitrailers regulated by the provisions of Section 80.69.1 of this Code. As used in this section, the term “commercial vehicle” shall mean:

- (1) a truck tractor; or
- (2) a motor vehicle with commercial license plate; and
 - (A) exceeding 22 feet total length including bumpers, or
 - (B) 22 feet or less in length with the name of a business enterprise or establishment or a sign

advertising a product or service painted, attached, or otherwise affixed on or to the exterior thereof.

Carson

§ 3254.2 Truck Parking.

The parking of any commercial vehicle with a gross weight of **over six thousand (6,000) pounds**, length of over twenty-five (25) feet, or width of over ninety-six (96) inches (total outside width of vehicle or load or combined) is prohibited at all times on any street in the City of Carson except:

(a) At locations and for the time period authorized by City Council and posted by the Public Works Director;

(b) For such time as is reasonably necessary to deliver to or collect goods from or provide a service to a property in the block in which the vehicle is parked. At locations where parking of commercial vehicles with a gross weight of **over six thousand (6,000) pounds** is permitted overnight, illuminated clearance lights or safety reflectors must be provided and utilized. (Ord. 92-969, § 1; Ord. 05-1334, § 1)

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