San Diego Police boost efforts to keep heavy-duty trucks off Barrio Logan streets
An 18 wheeler made it’s way down 26th street in the Barrio Logan neighborhood of San Diego August 27, 2019 despite the signs barring no truck traffic for vehicles over 5 tons. (John Gibbins/The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Since police launched the ‘Barrio Logan Commercial Operation’ in October, officers have issued more than 190 citations, officials said

By ANDREA LOPEZ-VILLAFAÑA

JAN. 19, 2020
4:38 AM

SAN DIEGO — The San Diego Police Department’s has stepped up enforcement of a council resolution that prohibits heavy-duty trucks from certain streets in Barrio Logan in the last three months.

Since the “Barrio Logan Commercial Operation” began, officers have issued 192 citations from Oct. 16 through Jan. 15, 2020, police said.
That’s nearly four times more than the 41 citations police issued in the eight months between Dec. 3, 2018, to Aug. 15, 2019.

Though citations have increased, police say it’s still an ongoing problem.

“We aren’t just throwing up our hands in victory and walking away,” said Sgt. Tyler Doherty, of the SDPD’s Central Division, which has designated officers patrolling the community for violations. “We are going to continue working (on) this.”

The San Diego Police Department launched the operation in October to enforce a 2018 city council resolution that prohibits heavy-duty trucks from certain streets in Barrio Logan.

For years, residents and advocates in the neighborhood have raised concerns about the impact on residents’ health to have heavy-duty truck traffic near homes and schools.

Residents, activists and Councilwoman Vivian Moreno, who represents the neighborhood, demanded the department increase enforcement.

SDPD’s Central Division, which serves 18 neighborhoods, assigned motorcycle and patrol officers to prohibited streets Monday through Friday.
Barrio Logan’s heavy-truck ban

Heavy-duty trucks over 5 tons are prohibited from driving on certain streets in Barrio Logan, with exemptions for those making deliveries to businesses in the community. Truck drivers can be cited by San Diego police officers.

Sources: NextZen; OpenStreetMap; San Diego Police

DANIEL WHEATON U-T
Officers drive various routes, park on streets identified in the resolution and patrol areas with high truck volumes. The officers assigned to the operation also received training, because patrol officers are not normally tasked with this kind of enforcement, Doherty said.

The zoning in the community, which is located south of downtown San Diego, allows for residential, commercial and industrial, which means it’s common to have industrial businesses next to homes.

The resolution bans most trucks over 5 tons, but trucks over 13 and a half feet high are exempt because they need to use city streets because a pedestrian bridge on 32nd Street has a low clearance level.

Trucks making deliveries to businesses in the area also are exempt.

“As long as we have businesses operating in these communities there will be deliveries, and those deliveries will fall under the exemptions,” said police Lt. Ruben Gutierrez.

The enforcement helps educate truck drivers to stay off prohibited streets, police said. SDPD is also working with Caltrans to install better signs on highways for out-of-state drivers not familiar with the community’s prohibited streets.

Barrio Logan resident Philomena Marino said she has noticed fewer trucks driving by her house, but she believes more can be done by local businesses.

“It is still occurring, but that is beyond the power and control of (the police department) because you have business neighbors that are not doing their part,” Marino said.

The police department has made more than 250 stops since October 2019 and dedicated approximately 300 hours of patrol, Doherty said. Those stops include citations, warnings and field interviews.
Officers issued 109 citations from Oct. 16 through Nov. 15, police said; then 65 citations from Nov. 16 through Dec. 15, and 18 citations from Dec. 16 through Jan. 15.

Residents were updated on the number of citations during a community meeting Wednesday.

Julie Corrales, a policy advocate with the Environmental Health Coalition, said that even though SDPD increased enforcement in November, residents are discouraged by the declines in reported citations in the following months.

“Heavy-duty diesel trucks continue to rumble through prohibited streets, awakening residents at night, and putting schoolchildren in harm’s way during the day,” Corrales said in a statement. “We renew our call to the SDPD to increase enforcement and create cleaner, safer streets for Barrio Logan residents.”

Doherty said the department expects there will be fewer citations as more drivers become aware of which streets to avoid. The hours of the police operation have remained consistent, he said.

“We have to remove an officer from answering radio calls solely so they can sit on the route, because we have made that a priority,” Doherty said. “It’s one less officer we have in the field answering a domestic violence call, because we committed that we are going to stay on this detail.”

Police previously were citing trucks for violating traffic signs but now they are citing under the city’s municipal code in the council resolution, Doherty said. The fine for a violation is $237.

However, a citation doesn’t count as a point on a driver’s record because it is based on a municipal code violation, not a traffic violation.
SAN DIEGO

35th annual YMCA breakfast celebrates Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy
Jan. 17, 2020

SAN DIEGO

WorldBeat Cultural Center wants 25-year lease in Balboa Park
Jan. 17, 2020

SAN DIEGO

Broadway Heights lays wreath to commemorate MLK's birthday
SAN DIEGO

Group seeks design ideas for street banners in Logan Heights
Jan. 15, 2020

SAN DIEGO

Panelists to discuss the ins and outs of community planning groups
Jan. 12, 2020

SAN DIEGO

Southeastern San Diego event to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. and community unity
Jan. 10, 2020

MORE IN THIS SECTION

WATCHDOG

Former engineer on Ash Street project files $25 million asbestos claim against San Diego
Legal filing accuses city of covering up contamination
Jan. 20, 2020

SAN DIEGO

San Diego seeks retired judges to choose redistricting panel
Once-a-decade effort could shift city politics
Jan. 19, 2020

SAN DIEGO

SDSU student will study how bullfrogs find the animals they’re notorious for wiping out
Nathan Smith thinks the invasive animals use the mating calls of smaller frogs
Jan. 18, 2020

THINGS TO DO

Where to celebrate Lunar New Year in San Diego
Public events include traditional food, firecrackers and lion dancers
Jan. 16, 2020

SAN DIEGO

Music program for at-risk teens wins $500,000 grant
David’s Harp Foundation in East Village will use funds to expand music career training for teens in the juvenile justice system
Jan. 16, 2020

SAN DIEGO

Faulconer focuses on homelessness, housing crisis in final ‘State of City’ speech
Mayor says he’s helped write San Diego’s ‘comeback story’ from scandals, mismanagement
Jan. 15, 2020
The perfect platform for **travel bloggers**. And everyone else.
1. WorldBeat Cultural Center wants 25-year lease in Balboa Park  
   Jan. 17, 2020

2. Vista’s TownHall Public House to close Sunday night  
   Jan. 19, 2020

3. Developer files suit to stop Oceanside referendum  
   Jan. 17, 2020

4. Carlsbad roaster borrows lessons from winemakers for its artisan coffees  
   Jan. 19, 2020

5. Del Mar puts proposed bluff-top resort on March ballot  
   Nov. 5, 2019

6. All Escondido elementary schools to offer full-day kindergarten  
   Jan. 19, 2020

7. Poway awaits word from state that water is safe to drink
Solana Vista students will be split between Solana Highlands, Skyline during rebuild
SPORTS
Poway High alum Berry 7th pick in MLS Draft
2 hours ago

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT
Del Mar Carmel Valley Sharks continue developing youth players
Jan. 20, 2020

SPORTS
Fourth quarter rally lifts Carlsbad cagers past San Marcos
Jan. 19, 2020

NEWS
Send us your love story
Jan. 19, 2020

SPORTS
Torrey Pines basketball player overcomes bone cancer
Jan. 19, 2020

SPORTS
Torrey Pines basketball player overcomes bone cancer
Jan. 19, 2020

NEWS
CEA discusses new members, citizens advisory committee
Jan. 19, 2020

SPORTS
San Marcos girls post dominant hoops win at Carlsbad
Jan. 18, 2020

NEWS
Garden club creates new garden space in Old Poway Park
Jan. 18, 2020
Connect with us

Subscribe to email newsletters from the Union-Tribune about news, sports, business, opinion and more. Also sign up for our community newspaper newsletters, and CaregiverSD.