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TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – DECEMBER 3, 1996

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**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

OPENING CEREMONIES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance City Council convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, December 3, 1996, at 7:11 P.M., in the Council Chambers of Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council members Cribbs, Lee
Messerlian, Nakano, O'Donnell,
and Mayor Hardison.

Absent: Council member Walker.

Also present: City Manager Jackson,
City Attorney Fellows,
Deputy City Clerk Robinson and
Staff representatives.

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The Flag salute was led by Ms. Gloria Jacobs, Cultural Arts Commissioner.

Pastor Dean Nelson, First Lutheran Church, led the invocation for the meeting.

Pastor Nelson provided input concerning the recent celebration of the congregation's 70th anniversary and the 40th anniversary of its Christian Day School – noting that November 17 has been declared as First Lutheran Recognition Day; and Pastor Nelson expressed his appreciation of Mayor Hardison's attendance at the anniversary celebration event.

3. MOTION RE POSTING OF AGENDA/FURTHER READING

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the Agenda for this meeting. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs; hearing no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison (absent Councilman Walker).

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MOTION: Councilman Lee moved that after the City Clerk has read number and title to any Resolution or Ordinance on the Agenda for this meeting, the further reading thereof be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each Council member the right to demand the reading of any such Resolution or Ordinance in regular order. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs; hearing no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison (absent Councilman Walker).

4. **WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS**

None.

5. **COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

City Council Workshop

Tuesday, December 3, 1996 -- 5:30 P.M.

City Council Chambers

Subjects: Three-year Infrastructure Action Plan

City Council Workshop

Tuesday, December 17, 1996 -- 5:30 P.M.

City Council Chambers

Subjects: The Automation Plan; other Capital Projects; and
the Three-year Infrastructure Action Plan

Councilman Nakano advised that the Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee has scheduled its next meeting for Monday, January 13, 1997, 5:30 P.M., Third Floor Assembly Room – discussion regarding the Natural History Center.

Deputy City Clerk Robinson announced that applications are now being accepted until Tuesday, January 7, 1997, 5:30 P.M., for consideration of various Commission appointments.

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

7a. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES -- OCTOBER 22, 1996**

7b. **CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SALE OF SURPLUS VEHICLES**

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Fleet Services Director that the City Council authorize the sale of surplus City vehicles.

7c. **CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH WARD-THG FOR LIABILITY CLAIMS ADMINISTRATION SERVICES**

Considered separately; see page 4.

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7d. RELEASE OF SUBDIVISION BONDS FOR TRACT 47700

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Engineering Director that the City Council approve the release of Subdivision Bonds for Tract 47700, located at 2700 Sepulveda Boulevard.

7e. PARTICIPATION IN WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S (WRD) IN-LIEU WATER PROGRAM FOR FISCAL 1996-1997

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Engineering Director and the Water Commission that the City participate in the Water Replenishment District of Southern California's (WRD) Groundwater Management and Incentive Pricing Program, known as the In-Lieu Replenishment Program, during fiscal 1996-1997; and that the City Council authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to this Agreement on behalf of the City.

7f. COUNCIL AUTHORIZATION OF A PURCHASE ORDER -- CITY'S ANNUAL REQUIREMENT OF OFFICE SUPPLY ITEMS

Considered separately; see page 4.

7g. APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER TO AGREEMENT (C94-091) WITH CATHCART GARCIA VON LANGEN ENGINEERS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE DESIGN OF ELM AVENUE RESERVOIR AND BOOSTER PUMPING STATION

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Engineering Director that the City Council authorize a change order in the amount of \$35,200 to Cathcart Garcia von Langen Engineers to revise the project plans to add a granular-activated carbon treatment system at the Elm Avenue Reservoir and Booster Pumping Station. The funding will be derived from the existing appropriation for the project.

Councilman Lee requested that items 7c and 7f be considered separately.

MOTION: Councilwoman O'Donnell moved to approve Consent Calendar Item Nos. 7a, b, d, e, and g. The motion was seconded by Councilman Messerlian, and roll call vote reflected unanimous approval of those present (absent Councilman Walker).

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(*Consent Calendar Item Nos. 7c and 7f were considered separately.)

7c. CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH WARD-THG FOR LIABILITY CLAIMS ADMINISTRATION SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION

The Personnel Director recommends that the City Council approve a contract renewal with Ward-THG to provide liability administration services. The contract term will be from January 1, 1997, to December 31, 1997, at an annual cost of \$92,650.

Addressing the topic of future contract renewals for liability claims services, Councilman Lee requested that consideration be given to assuming more in-house functions with regard to the settling of insurance claims.

7f. COUNCIL AUTHORIZATION OF A PURCHASE ORDER -- CITY'S ANNUAL REQUIREMENT OF OFFICE SUPPLY ITEMS

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the General Services Director that the City Council authorize a purchase order for an anticipated amount not to exceed \$160,000 to Office Depot Business Services Division, Signal Hill, CA, for the purchase of the City's annual requirement of office supply products. In order for the sales tax to benefit the City, Councilman Lee requested that the point of sale be in Torrance. Staff advised that the issue will be examined.

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved to approve Consent Calendar Item Nos. 7c and 7f. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs, and roll call vote reflected unanimous approval of those present (absent Councilman Walker).

11. PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

11a. COUNCIL AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS FOR A TOTAL OF \$27,500 FOR THE PURPOSE OF OVERSEEING THE UPDATE OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (SCAG)

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Planning Director that the City Council authorize the execution of a contract with the Southern California Association of Governments to oversee the update of the Regional Transportation Plan on behalf of the South Bay Cities Council of

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Governments. It is further recommended that the City Council accept the amount of \$27,500 from the Southern California Association of Governments and allocate the funds for staffing and overseeing the project.

MOTION: Councilman Messerlian moved to concur with Staff's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lee, and roll call vote reflected unanimous approval of those present (absent Councilman Walker).

11b. OPTIONS FOR PARKING IN THE AREA BOUNDED BY MARICOPA STREET ON THE NORTH, TORRANCE BOULEVARD ON THE SOUTH, MAPLE AVENUE ON THE WEST, AND CRENSHAW ON THE EAST

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council:

- 1) Review the updated material regarding the temporary parking program in Torrance Gardens;
- 2) Determine whether there remains a need for temporary parking restrictions in the Torrance Gardens area; and
- 3) If, upon determining that there is no longer a need for temporary parking restrictions in the Torrance Gardens area, the City Council should discontinue the program, except along Maple Avenue between Torrance Boulevard and Maricopa Street.

With the aid of slides, Transportation Planner Buchman provided a review and progress report (of record) of the current temporary parking program within the affected areas (restrictions and exemptions, display of the yellow temporary residential parking permits, monitoring of employee parking, off-site employee parking lots, issuance of citations, residential survey results); and mentioned various options with regard to the continuance of the parking program.

Per Councilman Messerlian's inquiries, Transportation Planner Buchman provided an update with regard to Creative Computer's on-site and off-site personnel parking and modifications to the business's activities; and Police Chief de Ladurantey addressed the Police Department's monitoring and enforcement of the affected areas.

In response to Mayor Hardison's question, Captain Jim Herren supplied statistical information concerning citations issued versus enforcement hours.

Transportation Planner Buchman reviewed the various options for the continuation of the restricted parking program; and commented on various aspects of restricted parking programs within other cities.

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Mr. Jack Perry, 815 Cerise Avenue, Torrance, explained that some parking problems still exist; noted a lack of visitor parking spaces at some of the businesses; and encouraged the continuation of a restricted parking program. Mr. Perry mentioned the problems associated with cars being displayed "For Sale" within this area.

Mr. Doyle Wolfgang, 2546 Maricopa Street, Torrance, urged the continuation of the restricted parking program.

Mr. Robert Thompson, 1225 Cranbrook Avenue, Torrance, noted the increase in building structures within this area; and stated that the businesses should be held accountable in providing ample parking on the businesses' premises for both its employees and customers.

Ms. Kathy Kelley, 1121 Felbar Avenue, Torrance, requested that the restricted parking program be continued on a permanent basis; and stated that the decrease in parking citations indicate to her that the program has been successful.

Discussion ensued with regard to the lack of employee and customer parking at various businesses; the consideration of an overlay district Ordinance for the affected areas; necessity of condensing the restricted parking areas down to those areas which are truly impacted; and the possible issuance of a parking permit sticker/decals. Further discussion commenced with regard to the improper display of cars "For Sale" on City streets.

MOTION: Councilwoman Cribbs moved that the parking restrictions be continued in Torrance Gardens; and that Staff provide, in a timely manner, a recommendation for residents on particular streets to have the opportunity to get out of the restricted parking program. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lee, and roll call vote reflected unanimous approval of those present (absent Councilman Walker).

13. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

13a. NON-DISTURBANCE AGREEMENT

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Land Management Team that City Council approve a non-disturbance agreement for Romano's Restaurant at the Rolling Hills Plaza Shopping Center at the northwest corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Crenshaw Boulevard and for authorization for the Mayor and the City Clerk to execute and to attest the agreement on behalf of the City.

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved to concur with Staff's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs, and roll call vote reflected unanimous approval of those present (absent Councilman Walker).

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13b. LOAN OF MONEYS TO REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Land Management Team that the City Council approve a \$950,000 loan to the Redevelopment Agency for the purposes of purchasing and acquiring the property located at 1830-1848 West Torrance Boulevard, Torrance, California.

This matter was considered during the session of the Redevelopment Agency meeting.

13c. CULTURAL ARTS CENTER BUSINESS PLAN

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Finance and Governmental Operations Committee to concur:

- 1) With recommendations of the General Services Director on a business plan and certain policies for the use of the Cultural Arts Center;
- 2) With a City Manager proposal for the restructuring of the responsibilities for the classroom facilities of the Cultural Arts Center.

Councilman Lee expressed his appreciation of all the Committee members and all Staff members for their hard work and efforts with this issue. Councilman Lee addressed the development of this proposal (report of record) -- noting the Committee's consideration of program costs/fees, class scheduling, goals and objectives, departmental and new administrator responsibilities, and facility operations. Councilman Lee noted that it is anticipated that these changes will go into effect around June 1997.

Addressing subsidized programs, Councilman Nakano commented on the Cultural Arts Center's operational expenses; and commented on recreational and educational activities within the Parks and Recreation program.

Ms. Peggy Dowell, Torrance, on behalf of numerous arts associations and groups, urged the City Council to oppose the restructuring plan of the Cultural Arts Center; and requested that further consideration be given by the City Council to study other cost-effective solutions which will meet a long-range need of the Cultural Arts Center as well as meet the needs of the groups which support the arts at the Center -- stating that both the Cultural Arts Center Staff and members of the arts community should be included in the development of a new plan.

Ms. Dottie Brittnacher, Torrance, urged further study and consideration for the restructuring of the Cultural Arts Center, including community input; and requested that the Council leave the facility in place as it currently exists.

Mr. Byron Stefferud, Torrance, requested that Council give further consideration to the restructuring – highlighting what he believed to be problems with the proposed plan; and noted his opposition to the Committee's recommendation.

Ms. Katy Geissert, Torrance, President of the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation, noted the Foundation's support of the Committee's recommendation; and addressed some of the concerns for restructuring of staff assignments – pointing out the need for more secretarial help in the General Services Department.

Dr. Owen Griffith, Torrance, noted his partial support of the Committee's recommendation -- explaining that he believes the restructuring proposal needs further study and consideration.

Ms. Gloria Lee, Manhattan Beach, questioned the qualifications of the City's Parks and Recreation Department in dealing with various aspects of a cultural arts program; and stated that she believed further study should be done with regard to the proposed restructuring.

Responding to various concerns addressed this evening, Councilman Lee explained the purpose for re-naming of the Parks and Recreation Department; noted the responsibilities of the new administrator; and commented on class programs and availability.

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved to concur with the Finance and Governmental Operations Committee recommendations. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs. (This motion ultimately passed; see page no. 9*.)

In answer to Mayor Hardison's inquiry, Parks and Recreation Director Barnett provided information concerning classroom instructor salaries and the City's ability to hire qualified, advanced instructors. Mayor Hardison highlighted the common vision of both the City and the arts community with regard to the success and progress of the Arts programs in Torrance.

Councilwoman Cribbs clarified that General Services will continue its responsibility with the Gallery, presentations and events; and commented on classroom attendance and the City's ability to attract qualified instructors.

Addressing the topic of recruiting a new administrator, Councilman Messerlian highlighted the necessity to hire someone who is completely committed to the enhancement of the arts; and mentioned that a 12-month review will be made by the City Council with regard to the success and effectiveness of the new business plan and restructuring of the Center.

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Mr. Jerry Hicks questioned whether the proposed plan can be as successful as anticipated – noting his concern with stunting the growth of the arts within the community.

Roll call vote on the above-mentioned motion (page 8*) reflected unanimous approval of those present (absent Councilman Walker).

Mayor Hardison recessed the City Council meeting at 9:44 P.M. and reconvened the meeting at 9:54 P.M.

18. ADDENDUM MATTERS

Considered out of order; see page no. 10*.

19. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

19a. Responding to Councilman Messerlian's comments, Police Chief de Ladurantey proudly announced that, according to a series of articles written in the Los Angeles Times, the Torrance Police Department had the highest success rate in Los Angeles County for solving homicide crimes and convicting those individuals responsible for the crimes.

19b. Councilwoman O'Donnell stated that the Torrance Rose Float Association is in need of volunteers to decorate its float (call 618-2930).

19c. Councilwoman O'Donnell highlighted the drop-off points for the Toys for Tots drive and thanked City employee Mr. John Ziegler for his efforts with the drive.

19d. Councilwoman O'Donnell expressed her enjoyment of Santa's visit to her neighborhood.

(Agenda Item No. 18 was considered out of order.)

18. ADDENDUM MATTERS

Assistant City Attorney Quale requested that the City Council consider the following issues in Executive Session: Department of Justice versus City of Torrance; Clark versus City of Torrance; People versus Mobil; and Ortiz versus City of Torrance. Assistant City Attorney Quale also noted an addendum item for the Redevelopment Agency Agenda concerning property located at 1830-1848 West Torrance Boulevard -- pointing out that each of these items arose after posting of the Agenda and requires action before the next Council meeting.

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MOTION: Councilman Lee moved to concur with the City Attorney's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs, and roll call vote reflected unanimous approval of those present (absent Councilman Walker).

(*Returned to regular Agenda order.)

19. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Previously discussed; see page no. 9*.

20. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Hardison read into the record:

"The Council will now recess to closed session to confer with the City's Negotiator on the Agenda matters listed under Items 20.a.1), "Conference with Labor Negotiator," 20.a.2), "Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation," 20.a.3), "Conference with City Manager," and 20.a.4, "Real Property – Conference with Real Property Negotiator."

A closed session on these matters is authorized by California Government Code Sections 54957.6, 54956.9(a), and 54956.8.

At 10:04 P.M., Council immediately recessed to commence a closed Executive Session, returning to Chambers at 11:39 P.M., to meet as the Redevelopment Agency in a joint session with the City Council.

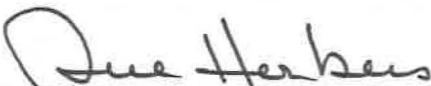
(Councilwoman O'Donnell left City Hall at 10:30 P.M.)

21. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 11:44 P.M., the City Council, concurrent with the Redevelopment Agency, was formally adjourned to Tuesday, December 10, 1996, 7:00 P.M.



Mayor of the City of Torrance



Clerk of the City of Torrance

Denise Bothe
Minute Secretary

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