

## INDEX

TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL - OCTOBER 1, 1996

| <u>SUBJECT</u>   | <u>PAGE</u> |
|--|-------------|
| <u>OPENING CEREMONIES</u>  |             |
| 1. Call to Order/Roll Call   | 1-2         |
| 2. Flag Salute/Invocation  | 2           |
| 3. Motion re: Posting of Agenda/Further Reading  | 2           |
| 4. Withdrawn/Deferred Items  | 2           |
| 5. Committee Meetings/Announcements  | 2-3         |
| <u>6. COMMUNITY MATTERS</u>  |             |
| 6a. Resolution honoring Mr. William H. Ferrell   | 4           |
| 6b. Resolution honoring Mr. Philip E. Bendik   | 4           |
| 6c. Fire Prevention Week   | 4           |
| 6d. PTA Membership Enrollment Months   | 5           |
| 6e. OSCOR Month  | 5           |
| 6f. Youth Council appointments   | 6           |
| 6g. TEQECC appointments  | 6           |
| 6h. WRD payment of \$501,000   | 6           |
| <u>7. CONSENT CALENDAR</u>   |             |
| 7a. Approval of Minutes--August 27, 1996   | 7           |
| 7b. Friends of the Library Donation  | 7           |
| 7c. Water System CIP Services  | 7           |
| <u>8. LIBRARY/PARKS &amp; RECREATION</u>   |             |
| 8a. L.A. County Proposition Specified Grant Program  | 7-8         |
| <u>13. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS</u>  |             |
| 13a. Agreement with Chamber of Commerce  | 8           |
| 13b. Unilateral Resolutions  | 8-10        |
| 13c. Council Dark Meetings   | 10          |
| <u>18. ADDENDUM MATTERS</u>  |             |
| <u>19. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS</u>   |             |
| 19a. Councilwoman Cribbs re: cleanup of Van Ness/Artesia,<br>190th/Hawthorne   | 10-11       |
| 19b. Councilman Lee re: cleanup of 190th/Hawthorne   | 11          |
| 19c. Councilman Messerlian re: Council's stand with Prop. 204  | 11          |
| 19d. Councilman Nakano re: Citizen Devl. Committee Meetings,<br>and Red Ribbon Week luncheon                             | 11          |
| 19e. Councilwoman O'Donnell re: Rose Float event, new townhome<br>project in Downtown Torrance, Artesia/Van Ness cleanup | 12          |
| 19f. Ms. Turner re: Madrona Marsh events   | 11-12       |
| 19g. Mr. Reed re: removal of political signs   | 12          |
| <u>20. EXECUTIVE SESSION</u>   |             |
| <u>21. ADJOURNMENT</u>   |             |
| Adjournment was at 10:11 P.M. to October 8, 1996, 5:30 P.M.  |             |

October 1, 1996

**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, October 1, 1996, at 5:30P.M., in the Council Chambers of Torrance City Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Council members Cribbs,  
\*Messerlian, \*Nakano, O'Donnell,  
Walker and Mayor Hardison.  
\*(Council members Messerlian and  
Walker arrived at 5:34 P.M.)

Absent: Councilman Lee (arrived at 7:05 P.M.)

Also present: City Manager Jackson,  
City Attorney Fellows,  
Assistant City Attorney Quale,  
City Clerk Herbers and  
Staff representatives.

Considered out of order...

**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 Legal Counsel – Potential Litigation," 20.a.4), "Conference with City Attorney," and 20.a.5), "Conference with Real Property Negotiator."

A closed session on these matters is authorized by California Government Code Sections 54957.6, 54956.9(a), 54956.9[b][1], 54957, and 54956.8."

\*

**City Council  
October 1, 1996**

At 5:32 P.M., Council immediately recessed to commence a closed Executive Session, returning to Chambers at 7:05 P.M. to conduct regularly scheduled City Council business.

1. **ROLL CALL**

Previously taken.

2. **FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION**

The Flag salute was led by Ms. Beth Wilson, Torrance Unified School District Trustee.

Reverend Larry Young, Riviera Methodist Church, led the invocation for the meeting.

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.

**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.

4. **WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS**

None.

5. **COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Ad Hoc Legislative Committee**

Tuesday, October 8, 1996 – 5:30 P.M.

Third Floor Council Conference Room

Subject: Legislative Propositions on the November 1996 Ballot

City Clerk Herbers announced that the voter registration deadline is Monday, October 7, 1996 -- noting that voter registration forms are available at the City Clerk's Office and at the Torrance libraries.

**Finance and Governmental Operations Committee**

Tuesday, October 22, 1996 -- 5:30 P.M.

Third Floor Assembly Room

Subject: Cultural Arts Center Business Plan

**City Council  
October 1, 1996**

Mayor Hardison announced that the City of Torrance the Autumn Craft Festival on Saturday, October 12, 1996, 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., at Wilson Park, a fund-raising event which will benefit the City Kids Child Care Center.

At this time, City Attorney Fellows advised that the City Council, by a vote of six to zero (absent Councilman Lee), approved a settlement portion of the United States Department of Justice litigation on terms favorable to the City.

Mr. Wayne Flick, Esq., Latham & Watkins, explained that the Judge ruled in favor of the City of Torrance on the first of three claims in the Justice Department's lawsuit against the Fire Department and Police Department -- a claim which challenged the written examination as used by the Police and Fire Departments to select entry-level employees; and announced that last week, the Judge issued a final decision in this first part of the claim which is completely favorable to the City.

With regard to the two remaining claims -- allegations (1) that the Police Department has tolerated a hostile working environment for African-American employees, and (2) that the Police Department has used background investigation processes which are discriminatory to African-American and Hispanic candidates, Mr. Flick explained that following its defeat in the first part of the case, the United States Justice Department will dismiss, without prejudice, its claim that the City has permitted the existence of a racially hostile working environment in the Police Department since 1981 and will not seek any form of monetary relief from the City; and noted that as part of an agreement, the City has restated its Statement of Administrative Policy, Administrative Memorandum No. 18, which expressly prohibits all forms of discrimination, harassment and retaliation -- a policy that has been in place during the relevant period; and that the complaint procedures will be more clearly defined for those employees who believe the policy has been violated. Mr. Flick added that the issue of background investigation processes will be presented to Council at a future date.

On behalf of the City Council, Mayor Hardison expressed gratitude and appreciation for the efforts of Mr. Wayne Flick and the law firm of Latham & Watkins -- stating that the City has consistently denied all the material allegations contained in the United States Justice Department Complaint.

**6. COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**6a. RESOLUTION HONORING MR. WILLIAM H. FERRELL**

**RESOLUTION NO. 96-121**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING POLICE OFFICER WILLIAM (BILL) H. FERRELL FOR HIS DEDICATION, PROFESSIONALISM, AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF TORRANCE**

**City Council  
October 1, 1996**

**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 96-121. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker, and roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

For adoption only, to be presented at a later date.

6b. **RESOLUTION HONORING MR. PHILIP E. BENDIK**

**RESOLUTION NO. 96-120**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING POLICE OFFICER PHILIP E. BENDIK FOR HIS DEDICATION, PROFESSIONALISM, AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF TORRANCE**

**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 96-120. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker, and roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

Wishing Mr. Bendik a full and enjoyable life in his retirement, on behalf of the City Council, Mayor Hardison presented the Resolution Certificate and a plaque for his dedicated service to the City.

Police Chief De Ladurantey expressed his thanks and gratitude of retired Police Officer Bendik for his hard work and dedication to the City and to the Police Department; and addressed his noble efforts with the school crossing guard program.

Mr. Philip Bendik expressed his enjoyment and appreciation in working with the fine City of Torrance for the past 28 years. Mr. Bendik also noted his delight with the outcome of the lawsuit which was previously addressed.

6c. **PROCLAMATION recognizing the week of October 6 through 12, 1996, as "Fire Prevention Week" in the City of Torrance -- "Let's Hear it for Fire Safety: Test Your Smoke Detectors!"**

So proclaimed by Mayor Hardison and accepted with appreciation by Mr. Jim Swing, Public Education Officer (Fire Department).

Thanking the City for its commitment to fire safety, Mr. Swing commented on the importance of smoke detectors being placed throughout homes and other establishments; and highlighted the various upcoming events -- Salvation Army Senior Resource Fair, Focus on DisAbilities Fair -- wherein numerous smoke detectors will be given away. Mr. Swing announced that this year, the Department has received its largest donation to date from the Fire Fighters Association for the purchase of smoke detectors to be used for donation purposes; and announced that the Fire Department, along with the Police Department, will be holding a Safety Fair at Del Amo Fashion Center, Broadway Court, on Saturday, October 19, 1996, from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

**City Council  
October 1, 1996**

**6d. PROCLAMATION recognizing the months of September and October 1996 as "PTA Membership Enrollment Months" in the City of Torrance.**

So proclaimed by Mayor Hardison and accepted with appreciation by Ms. Janice Sawyer, President of the Torrance Council of PTA's; Ms. Claudia Noble, Membership Chair of the Torrance Council of PTA's; and Ms. Gail Bedard, South High representative.

**6e. PROCLAMATION declaring October 1996 OSCOR Month in the City of Torrance (Outstanding Student Citizenship Official Recognition).**

So proclaimed by Mayor Hardison and accepted with appreciation by Mr. Hank Smith, OSCOR Committee Chair.

(Agenda Item No. 6h was considered out of order.)

**6h. Water Replenishment District of Southern California Presentation of a \$501,000 Check to the City of Torrance**

Presenting the \$501,000 check to the City, Mr. Robert Goldsworthy, Director of the Water Replenishment District (WRD) of Southern California, explained that the check to the City is the WRD's payment to Torrance for not pumping over 4,000 acre feet (approximately 1.4 billion gallons) of ground water over the last winter/spring period.

(Returned to regular Agenda order.)

**6f. APPOINTMENT OF THE 1996-1997 YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Director that your Honorable Body confirm the appointments to the 1996-1997 Torrance Youth Council and officially swear in the 14 members:

|                                       |                                  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Cristina Ceballos---Bishop Montgomery | Young Shil Kim---Torrance        |
| Marilyn Chien-----Torrance            | Joseph Koo-----South             |
| Kristi Davenport---Torrance           | Kevin Lai-----South              |
| Misty Garibay-----Shery               | Sofia Martos-----West            |
| Brock Gibson-----El Camino            | Sarah Peters---Bishop Montgomery |
| Jean Huang-----CAMS                   | Kelly Sato-----North             |
| Michael Johnson---West                | Sara Wilson-----West             |

Mayor Hardison asked City Clerk Herbers to officially swear in the new 1996-1997 Torrance Youth Council members.

**City Council  
October 1, 1996**

On behalf of the City Council, Mayor Hardison welcomed the members of the 1996-1997 Torrance Youth Council

**6g. Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission Appointments**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The City Clerk recommends that the City Council review all applications and make two appointments to the Environmental and Energy Conservation Commission (one term to expire on January 15, 1999, and one term to expire January 15, 2000).

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved to approve the unanimous ballot for nomination of Ms. E. Lenore Johnson (term to expire January 15, 2000) and Mr. Tom Brewer (term to expire January 15, 1999). This motion was seconded by Councilman Walker; hearing no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

City Clerk Herbers officially swore in Ms. E. Lenore Johnson to serve on the Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission, term to expire January 15, 2000.

City Clerk Herbers mentioned that Mr. Brewer was unable to attend this evening's Council meeting.

Mayor Hardison encouraged those individuals who are interested to volunteer to serve on various committees that are part of the various City commissions.

**6h. Water Replenishment District of Southern California Presentation of a \$501,000 Check to the City of Torrance**

Previously discussed; see page no. 5.

**7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**7a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES -- AUGUST 27, 1996**

**7b. ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF CONTRIBUTION FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The City Librarian recommends that your Honorable Body accept and appropriate a donation of \$13,105.24 from the Friends of the Library for public use microcomputers for the Southeast Branch Library.

**City Council  
October 1, 1996**

7c. **REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS FOR ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR PRIORITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is the recommendation of the Engineering Director that the City Council authorize professional service agreements for project management and related engineering services with (1) Harris and Associates -- not to exceed \$110,000 -- including contingencies, to implement high-priority water system capital improvements; and (2) CBM Consulting, Inc. -- not to exceed \$115,000 -- including contingencies, for the completion of critical sewer, roadway, and transportation projects. The funding for these technical service agreements will be derived from the current appropriation balances in the respective water system and public works capital improvement projects.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman O'Donnell moved to concur with Consent Calendar Item Nos. 7a, 7b and 7c. Councilman Walker seconded the motion, and roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

8. **LIBRARY/PARKS AND RECREATION**

8a. **Recommendation for Adoption of a Resolution to Apply for Funds Under Los Angeles County Proposition A Specified Grant Program for Construction of a Gymnasium/Sports Complex at Charles H. Wilson Park**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Parks and Recreation Director recommends that your Honorable Body approve the attached Resolution to apply for funds in the amount of \$1,860,000 under the Los Angeles County Proposition Specified Grant Program for the construction of a gymnasium/sports complex at Charles H. Wilson Park.

**RESOLUTION NO. 96-127**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL  
AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION TO THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT FOR PROPOSITION A (NOVEMBER 1992) "SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS" SPECIFIED GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A GYMNASIUM/SPORTS COMPLEX AT CHARLES H. WILSON PARK**

**City Council  
October 1, 1996**



Mayor Hardison briefly noted the attached supplemental material which amends language in the original Resolution (of record).

**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 96-127 as amended. Councilman Walker seconded the motion, and roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**13. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**13a. Agreement with the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce for Fiscal Year 1996-1997**

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council approve the agreement with the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce for the performance of specified professional services.

Assistant City Manager Ng provided input concerning the agreement between the City and the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce for services to be provided to the City.

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved to concur with the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Messerlian, and roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

Mr. Chip Scholz, President of the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, thanked Mayor Hardison and the City Council for its continued leadership and partnership.

**13b. UNILATERAL RESOLUTIONS**

**RECOMMENDATION**

A recommendation of the City Manager that the Council adopt the attached unilateral contract extensions for one additional week, to October 8, 1996, for the Torrance Municipal Employees (TME)-AFSCME Local 1117, the Torrance Library Employees Association (TLEA), the Torrance Fiscal Employees Association (TFEA), the Torrance Professional and Supervisory Association (TPSA), and the Engineers.

**City Council  
October 1, 1996**

**RESOLUTION NO. 96-129**

**A UNILATERAL RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 94-111 SETTING FORTH CERTAIN CHANGES REGARDING HOURS, WAGES, AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES-AFSCME, LOCAL 1117**

**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 96-129. Councilman Walker seconded the motion, and roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**RESOLUTION NO. 96-130**

**A UNILATERAL RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 94-113 SETTING FORTH CERTAIN CHANGES REGARDING HOURS, WAGES, AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY THE ENGINEERS**

**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 96-130. Councilman Walker seconded the motion, and roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**RESOLUTION NO. 96-131**

**A UNILATERAL RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 94-115 SETTING FORTH CERTAIN CHANGES REGARDING HOURS, WAGES, AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY THE TORRANCE FISCAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**

**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 96-131. Councilman Walker seconded the motion, and roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**RESOLUTION NO. 96-132**

**A UNILATERAL RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 94-112 SETTING FORTH CERTAIN CHANGES REGARDING HOURS, WAGES, AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY THE TORRANCE PROFESSIONAL AND SUPERVISORY ASSOCIATION**

**City Council  
October 1, 1996**

**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 96-132. Councilman Walker seconded the motion, and roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**RESOLUTION NO. 96-128**

**A UNILATERAL RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION  
NO. 94-114 SETTING FORTH CERTAIN CHANGES REGARDING  
HOURS, WAGES, AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR  
EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY THE TORRANCE  
LIBRARY EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**

**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 96-128. Councilman Walker seconded the motion, and roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**13c. COUNCIL DARK NIGHTS**

**RECOMMENDATION**

A recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council designate October 29, 1996, and November 5, 1996, as Council dark nights.

Hearing no objection, Mayor Hardison designated October 29, 1996, and November 5, 1996, as Council dark nights.

\*\*\*

At 8:05 P.M., the City Council recessed and reconvened as the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Torrance. The meeting of the Redevelopment Agency was formally adjourned at 8:07 P.M., and consideration of regular Council business was resumed.

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**18. ADDENDUM MATTERS**

None.

**19. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**19a.** Councilwoman Cribbs requested that clean-up work be done at the corner of Artesia Boulevard and Van Ness Avenue, including the complete removal of the political signs; and requested that aesthetic improvements be done at the entry into the City from 190th Street to Hawthorne Boulevard.

**City Council  
October 1, 1996**

Per Councilwoman Cribbs inquiry, Recreation Supervisor Jones provided information concerning the landscaping project which will be done at the corner of 190th Street and Hawthorne Boulevard.

City Manager Jackson, addressing the area of 190th Street to Hawthorne Boulevard, advised that Staff will look into possible resources which may be available to make aesthetic improvements to this area.

**19b.** Concurring with Councilwoman Cribbs' comments, Councilman Lee requested that the City Council be provided follow-up information concerning the possible funding of implementing aesthetic improvements to the area of 190th Street and Hawthorne Boulevard.

**19c.** Councilman Messerlian commended the City Council for taking its stand with Proposition 204 -- Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Act.

**19d.** Councilman Nakano advised that a meeting will be scheduled for the City Council Committee on Citizen Development and Enrichment with regards to the development of the Nature Center at Madrona Marsh.

**19e.** Councilman Nakano invited the public to attend a luncheon on Friday, October 25, 1996, at the Health Conference Center, Torrance Memorial Medical Center, 11:30 A.M. to 1:15 P.M., to focus on Red Ribbon Week -- prevention of the use of alcohol, tobacco and other substances.

**19f.** Councilwoman O'Donnell advised that the Rose Float Association is sponsoring a Monday Night Football event on October 21, 1996, at TGI Fridays, 23420 Hawthorne Boulevard; and encouraged citizens to purchase tickets (\$25 each) by calling (310) 618-2930.

**19g.** Councilwoman O'Donnell noted her pleasure with the new townhome development in Downtown Torrance.

**19h.** Councilwoman O'Donnell informed Staff that a resident had approached her concerning the City's response to Council members' requests that the area at Artesia Boulevard and Van Ness Avenue be cleaned up.

City Manager Jackson, per Councilwoman O'Donnell's inquiry, advised that a report is forthcoming concerning the U-Haul site; and noted the difficulties Staff encounters with attempts to have private property owners clean up their properties within the community.

**19i.** Ms. Shirley Turner, Torrance, apprised those of the Fall Science Camp and other activities taking place at the Madrona Marsh:

Migrating birds -- Wednesday, October 9, 1996;  
Tracking tracks -- Wednesday, October 23, 1996;  
Loving trees -- Wednesday, November 6, 1996;

**City Council  
October 1, 1996**

Earth, ecology and the environment -- Wednesday, November 20, 1996.

Encouraging everyone to attend, Ms. Turner advised that the tenth anniversary celebration for the acquisition and dedication of the Madrona Marsh has been rescheduled to Saturday, October 26, 1996.

19j. Mr. Jeff Reed, Torrance, requested, and received, clarification regarding the requested removal of the political signs at the corner of Artesia Boulevard and Van Ness Avenue.

20. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:22 P.M., Council re-commenced its Executive Session, returning to Chambers at 10:10 P.M. No formal action was taken following this Executive Session.

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21. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:11 P.M., this meeting of the City Council was formally adjourned to Tuesday, October 8, 1996, at 7:00 P.M.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor of the City of Torrance

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the City of Torrance

City Council  
October 1, 1996