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## TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 10, 1996

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September 10, 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 session on Tuesday, September 10, 1996, at 7:05 P.M., in the Council Chambers at 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, City Clerk Herbers and other staff representatives.

**2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by John Bonds, Boy Scout Pack 310.

Reverend C. Joe Bellamy, retired from the South Bay Church of God, led the invocation for the meeting.

**3. AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING/WAIVE 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. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and, there being no objection from those present, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

**MOTION:** Councilman Lee moved that, after the City Clerk has read the 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. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and, there being no objection from those present, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

Wendy Selogie  
Minute Secretary

City Council  
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4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS

None.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Finance & Governmental Operations Committee

Tuesday, September 10, 1996 - 5:30 P.M.

Third Floor Assembly Room

Subject: Cultural Arts Center Business Plan

Armed Forces Day Ad Hoc Committee

Friday, September 20, 1996 - 12:00 Noon

Third Floor Assembly Room

Subject: Selection of Grand Marshal and Lead Service,  
Final Itinerary for Washington, D.C. Trip and  
Promotion and Publicity of 1997 Armed Forces Day Parade

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Mayor Hardison announced that the annual evaluation of the City Attorney will take place at the September 24, 1996 Council meeting, 5:30 P.M.

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6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6a. Donation from Edith Van Bellehem in Memory of Harry Van Bellehem

Recommendation

It is recommended by the General Services Director that the City Council accept this generous donation of \$5,000 from Edith Van Bellehem and appropriate this amount to the Cultural Arts Center to be used to fund theatrical events.

MOTION: Councilman Messerlian moved to accept the donation of \$5,000 from Edith Van Bellehem and appropriate that amount to the Cultural Arts Center to fund theatrical events. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lee and passed by unanimous roll call vote, absent Councilman Walker.

6b. Recognition of Donation to the Torrance Cultural Arts Center from Edith Van Bellehem in Memory of Harry Van Bellehem

The Council presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Edith Van Bellehem and Judy Castronovo (Harry Van Bellehem's daughter) in recognition of the generous donation to the Torrance Cultural Arts Center in memory of Harry Van Bellehem.

\*

Addendum Item 18a was considered at this time.

18. ADDENDUM MATTERS

18a. Resolution Honoring Johannes G. deVos

City Clerk Herbers read aloud the title of Resolution No. 96-109.

**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 96-109. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote, absent Councilman Walker.

**RESOLUTION NO. 96-109**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING JOHANNES G. DE VOS FOR HIS DEDICATION, PROFESSIONALISM AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF TORRANCE**

\*

Discussion returned to regular agenda order.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

7a. Approval of Minutes - July 23, 1996

7b. Considered separately (see page 5).

7c. Contract for the Construction of Sewer Main Rehabilitation

Recommendation

It is recommended by the Engineering Director that the City Council:  
(1) Accept the bid and award a contract to Grgo and Gordon Grbavac Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$110,015; (2) Reject all other bids; (3) Authorize staff to prepare a standard contract; and (4) Authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to said contract on behalf of the City for the construction of sewer main rehabilitation at various locations (B96-30).

7d. Donations from Aerospace Corporation and Toyota Motor Sales

Recommendation

It is recommended by the Police Chief that the City Council accept and appropriate a \$500 donation from Aerospace Corporation in El Segundo and a \$500 donation from Toyota Motor Sales to the City's Volunteer Program, Account No. 700732.

7e. City Employee Uniform Rental

Recommendation

It is recommended by the General Services Director that the City Council authorize a purchase order for \$250,000.00 plus a 10% contingency for a total of \$275,000.00 to Prudential Overall Supply of Carson, California, to provide uniform rental service for a three (3) year period.

7f. Considered separately (see page 6).

**MOTION:** Councilwoman O'Donnell moved to approve Consent Calendar Item Nos. 7a, 7c, 7d and 7e as written. The motion was seconded by Councilman Messerlian and passed by unanimous roll call vote, absent Councilman Walker.

**Consent Calendar Items Considered Separately...**

7b. Grant to Torrance Area Youth Bands, Inc. for Fiscal Year 1996-1997

Recommendation

It is recommended by the Parks and Recreation Director that the City Council approve the grant request from Torrance Area Youth Bands, Inc. in the amount of \$4,800.

In answer to concerns expressed by Mayor Hardison, Mr. Jim Lopez, President of the Torrance Area Youth Bands, Inc., 14512 Van Ness Avenue, Gardena, explained that Torrance Area Youth Bands, Inc. sets aside time for events in Torrance. He explained why his organization was unable to attend two events earlier this year; indicated that an effort will be made to avoid similar problems in the future; and emphasized that his organization takes its commitment to the City of Torrance very seriously.

Mr. Lopez noted the possibility that the Youth Band will be performing at some of the concerts in the park during 1997.

Wendy Selogie  
Minute Secretary

City Council  
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The Council directed that, by March 1, 1997, the Torrance Area Youth Bands, Inc. shall give the City some idea as to its proposed calendar through the Summer months.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Cribbs moved to approve Consent Calendar Item No. 7b. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lee and, there being no objection from those present, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

7f. Police Department Mobile Data Computer System

Recommendation

It is recommended by the Police Chief and the General Services Director that two (2) purchase orders be issued to the following companies for implementation of a mobile data computer system: (1) Motorola Incorporated in the amount of \$596,895 for the purchase of a complete data system and (2) the City of Ingelwood in the amount of \$6,000 for a six (6) month lease of space on their Radio Network Controller.

It is further recommended that the City Council approve an appropriation in the amount of \$909,495 from unencumbered asset forfeiture accounts to cover these and future expenditures over the next three years.

Police Lieutenant Besse verified for Councilwoman Cribbs that the Milestone No. 2 payment will be cut in half to \$150,000, with the remaining \$125,000 being added to Milestone No. 3, and that Milestone No. 3 will not be due until after the antenna modifications have been made and the base station is installed and operating.

Councilwoman Cribbs asked if Exhibit A, Section 12F, could be clarified in that it appears to protect Motorola and not hold them responsible for the system.

City Attorney Fellows advised that he will look into this matter and he recommended that this item be held until the next Council meeting.

Mayor Hardison requested clarification regarding the requirement that the City shall purchase a certain number of lap top computers from Motorola and she related her understanding that it would be possible to purchase them elsewhere at a lesser cost.

Lieutenant Besse explained that the City wanted to have a sufficient number of units on line; that Motorola would not certify the entire system without a certain number of lap tops on line, so the City agreed to purchase 20 of them from Motorola; and that the remaining lap tops needed will be purchased elsewhere at a lesser cost. He affirmed that it is the City's goal to be on line by January 1997.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Cribbs moved to continue Consent Calendar Item No. 7f until September 17, 1996. The motion was seconded by Councilman Messerlian and passed by unanimous roll call vote, absent Councilman Walker.

13. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

13a. **Appointment of Council Representative to the Board of the Los Angeles County West Vector Control District Board**

**Recommendation**

It is recommended by the City Attorney that Mayor Hardison appoint a Council member to the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles County West Vector Control District and that the City Council affirm Mayor Hardison's appointment.

**MOTION:** Mayor Hardison moved that Councilman Nakano be appointed to serve a two-year term as the Council's representative to the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles County West Vector Control District Board. The motion was seconded by Councilman Messerlian and passed by unanimous roll call vote, absent Councilman Walker.

13b. **Memorandums of Intent and Understanding (Resolutions) for Various Employee Representation Units**

**Recommendation**

It is recommended by the City Manager that the City Council adopt the unilateral contract extensions for one additional week to September 17, 1996, for the Torrance Municipal Employees (TME) - American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (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.

Mayor Hardison announced that the City Council will take action on this item after the Executive Session this evening.

Mr. Patrick Astredo, Vice President of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Local 1117, asked the Council to honor its commitment to treat all employees equally and fairly. He explained that many of the job classifications in Torrance are as much as 25% behind the salaries of the same classifications in other cities and that AFSCME understands such an adjustment cannot be made at one time; but, it could be spread out over a period of time.

Wendy Selogie  
Minute Secretary

City Council  
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Mr. Joe Quinones, 2415 W. 238th Street, Air Conditioning and Heating Technician, related his opinion that the Miscellaneous Employees are being treated shamefully by Management with the proposal of a 1.9% raise, the offer of an additional 1% to selected employees if they agree to disregard the classification study and eliminate some critical benefits which have already been negotiated and paid for and the delay of negotiations months past the July 1, 1996 date of the new contract. He noted that the issue is not what Police and Fire Department employees earn compared to the Miscellaneous Employees, but the need to treat all employees fairly.

Mr. Bob Hildebrand, President of the Torrance Professional & Supervisory Association (TPSA), voiced concern that no salary adjustments for Miscellaneous Employees have been made in this decade and that over one half of the Miscellaneous Employees' salaries are well below the average for the same classifications in other cities. He related his understanding that City of Torrance management staff, Safety employees and the City Manager's staff are paid well above the average of similar classifications in other cities.

Mr. Louie Matarese, residing and working in Torrance for the past 33 years, mentioned that his wife has been a part-time City of Torrance Library employee for the past 16 years. He stressed that, in order to adequately operate the City, all employees must be treated fairly with an equal wage increase adjustment.

Mr. Allen Lee, City of Torrance employee, noted the need for salary negotiations. He maintained that City employees deserve a raise and that the Council members do not respect the Miscellaneous Employees as much as they respect Police and Fire Department employees. He asked the Council members to keep in mind the employees who do not get the glory but get the job done and stated his understanding that some employees are clearly underpaid.

Mr. Tony Mullikin, Trash Collector, noted a recent survey which cited trash collection behind Police and Fire services as the most important service to Torrance residents. He asked the Council to keep in mind that the Trash Collectors have made the 4/10 work week a success; requested that they be treated with diligence and fairness; and pointed out that they make money for the City through trash collection and recycling.

Mr. Rod Calaman, Parks Department employee, explained that he looks upon City employees as a "family" and questioned if the Miscellaneous Employees are to believe they are less important than other members of the "family."

Ms. Barbara Botiller, Parks and Recreation Department employee, asked that all employees be treated equally and fairly and she stated that all recurrent employees deserve to be treated the same as other employees. She requested that, when AFSCME's contract is signed, the Torrance Recurrent Recreation Employees' Organization (TRREO) contract be amended to reflect AFSCME's cost-of-living increase.

Ms. Linda Cessna, President of the Engineers and representing the Employee Coalition, explained her opinion that City employees have not been properly compensated and that they are not valued. She stressed the need for a commitment from the City to raise employee salaries over time.

Mr. Conrad Wilson, 2216 Maricopa Avenue, City of Torrance employee and resident, commented on City employees' pride; suggested that the issue of money be ignored when looking at the worth of City employees; stated his feeling that a 1% raise would not be sufficient; and voiced his hope that all employees will be treated equally.

Mr. Kevin Smith, 2560 El Dorado Street, Parks Grounds Keeper, explained that it is difficult for him to afford to live in Torrance and he noted the need for Miscellaneous Employees' salaries to keep up with Fire and Police Department employees' salaries.

On behalf of all City of Torrance Miscellaneous Employees, Mr. John Elliott, President of AFSCME, Local 1117, offered his feeling that this issue is a matter of respect and that all City employees are not treated the same. He recalled a commitment by the Council, the City management and the employee groups approximately eight years ago that salary surveys would be done and an attempt would be made to bring employees up to wages comparable to their classifications in other cities; but, the salary surveys were abandoned and the thought of bringing salaries up, particularly for Miscellaneous Employees, was discarded when the City experienced economic difficulties. He discussed that the employees are not asking for everything at once, but for a commitment; that it is difficult to maintain City facilities with a reduced number of employees, some of whom are lesser qualified; and that Police Department employees have been given a disproportionate piece of the pie; and that all City employees should be treated equally.

Ms. Sheri Wiseman, 2619 Sonoma Street, mentioned that many members of her family work for the City. She commented on the great difficulty of raising a family of four on her husband's salary as a Parks and Recreation Department employee; said that City employees are over worked and underpaid; and mentioned her hope that Miscellaneous Employees will receive salary increases somewhat comparable to those given to Police Department employees.

Mr. Milo Stanko, Refuse Department employee, said that he takes great pride in his work and appreciates the opportunities available to him as a City employee. He agreed with previous speakers' comments that this matter is not about money, but about equality amongst employees.

Mayor Hardison stated her concern that a recent newspaper article on this topic was incorrect. She asked staff for relevant input.

Assistant to the City Manager Keane related the staff recommendation that the Council unilaterally extend for one week the Memorandums of Understanding for those groups with which the City is still bargaining and she provided information (per written material of record) on the proposals the City has extended to those groups.

**Mayor Hardison declared that Agenda Item No. 13b would be considered in Executive Session.**

**18. ADDENDUM MATTERS**

18a. Considered earlier in the meeting (see page 3).

\*

At 8:22 P.M., the Council recessed and reconvened as the Redevelopment Agenda of the City of Torrance. The meeting of the Redevelopment Agency was adjourned at 8:26 P.M., when consideration of regular Council business resumed.

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**19. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

19a. Fire Chief Adams offered input on the recent fire at the Mobil Oil Refinery and on the effectiveness of the Community Alert Network (CAN).

19b. City Clerk Herbers announced that September is Voter Registration Month. She advised citizens of the October 7, 1996 voter registration deadline for the November 5, 1996 General Election and she noted that voter registration forms are available in the City Clerk's Office and in Torrance libraries.

19c. Councilwoman Cribbs asked staff to contact the owner of the corner lot on the east side of Artesia Boulevard and Van Ness Avenue to clean up debris and remove an extremely large political sign which has been there for much time.

19d. Councilwoman Cribbs advised that she recently attended a Joint Citizen Development & Enrichment Committee / School Board Committee meeting; related that she visited Lincoln School, where there is a debris problem; and voiced her hope that better enforcement will be provided at the School.

19e. Concerns over the Redondo Beach Firing Range being used during school hours were expressed by the Council. The Council requested that the Torrance Unified School District and the City of Redondo Beach be contacted to discuss this problem; suggested that the noise at the Firing Range be monitored; and recommended that, prior to any legal action, a subcommittee of the Councils from Torrance and Redondo Beach to discuss this issue.

City Manager Jackson and Police Chief DeLadurantey supplied information on the City's efforts to contact the Redondo Beach Police Department about this matter. Mr. Jackson confirmed that the noise at the Range will be monitored.

19f. Councilman Messerlian requested input from staff on the status of follow-up on a petition recently received concerning hazardous traffic conditions at Arlington Avenue and 230th Street.

Wendy Selogie  
Minute Secretary

City Council  
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City Manager Jackson verified that this item has been referred to the Transportation Division of the Planning Department. He affirmed for Mayor Hardison that the traffic accident statistics for the intersection will be provided and that the business on the corner, which has an excellent view of the intersection, will be contacted.

19g. Councilwoman O'Donnell recalled her previous request that staff examine the intersection of El Dorado Street, Arlington Avenue and Engracia Avenue to look at the possibility of installing additional stop signs. City Manager Jackson advised that the intersection was part of a Planning Department study, which he will obtain and distribute.

19h. Following a comment from Councilwoman O'Donnell, Police Chief DeLadurantey provided information about the City's K9 program.

19i. Councilwoman O'Donnell mentioned that she attended a recent Oktoberfest celebration at Alpine Village, the proceeds from which benefited 12 local charities. She highlighted that Mayor Hardison opened the festivities and led those present in the Macarena dance.

Mayor Hardison advised that Hans and Teri Rotter of Alpine Village have raised over \$1,000,000 which has been donated to charities over the 11 years they have sponsored Oktoberfest.

19j. Mayor Hardison announced the beginning of Councilman Messerlian's six-month term as Mayor Pro Tem.

19k. Councilman Messerlian called attention to the need to remove political signs in the vicinity of Carson Street and Crenshaw Boulevard.

19l. On behalf of the Torrance Airport Association, Mr. Jim Gates, 142 Via Pasqual, Redondo Beach, related his understanding that, per the recommendation of a previous study on mitigating community noise from Torrance Airport operations, runway extensions for take offs have not been implemented because a pending project would preclude them. He recommended that the Airport Commission review any pending projects before any action is taken and asked the Council to look into this matter.

## 20. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:50 P.M., Mayor Hardison announced that, according to California Government Code Sections 54957.6 and 54956.9(a), the Council would be recessing to an Executive Session to confer with the City's negotiator on agenda matters listed under 20.a.1, Conference with Labor Negotiator, and 20.a.2, Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation.

The City Council returned to Council Chambers at 10:10 P.M. Mayor Hardison advised that the Council met in an Executive Session to discuss the items listed on the agenda.

Wendy Selogie  
Minute Secretary

City Council  
September 10, 1996

City Clerk Herbers read aloud the titles to Resolution Nos. 96-110 through 96-114, which were adopted as follows.

**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 96-110. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote, absent Councilman Walker.

**RESOLUTION NO. 96-110**

**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. 96-111. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote, absent Councilman Walker.

**RESOLUTION NO. 96-111**

**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. 96-112. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote, absent Councilman Walker.

**RESOLUTION NO. 96-112**

**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. 96-113. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote, absent Councilman Walker.

**RESOLUTION NO. 96-113**

Wendy Selogie  
Minute Secretary

City Council  
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**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 & SUPERVISORY ASSOCIATION**

**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 96-114. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote, absent Councilman Walker.


**RESOLUTION NO. 96-114**

**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**

21. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:15 P.M. the meeting was formally adjourned to Tuesday, September 17, 1996, 5:30 P.M. for the purpose of an Executive Session, with the regular meeting to be held at 7:00 P.M., in Council Chambers.

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

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