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TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL - MAY 14, 1996

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**MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance City Council convened in an adjourned regular meeting on Tuesday, May 14, 1996, at 5:40 P.M. for the purpose of a joint session with the Torrance Youth Council. Council recessed at 7:08 P.M., reconvening at 7:20 P.M. in the Council Chambers of Torrance City Hall to conduct its regularly scheduled business.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Absent:** None.

**Also present:** City Manager Jackson,  
City Attorney Fellows,  
City Clerk Herbers and  
staff representatives.

**2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION**

The Flag salute was led by Boy Scout Troop Number 310, Scoutmaster Bruce Maass.

Deacon Richard Shinkle, St. James Catholic 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 and it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

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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 and it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

4. **WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS**

None.

5. **COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**Finance and Governmental Operations Committee**

***Cultural Arts Center Business Plan***

**May 21, 5:30 P.M.**

**3rd Floor Assembly Room**

None.

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Issues and events associated with the City's 75th Anniversary celebration, Fire Services Day and the 37th Annual Armed Forces Day Parade were announced by the Police and Fire Chiefs and Mayor Hardison.

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6. **COMMUNITY MATTERS**

6a. **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT GENERAL LLOYD W. NEWTON**

**RESOLUTION NO. 96-32**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL LLOYD W. NEWTON, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, FOR HIS PARTICIPATION AS THE GRAND MARSHAL IN THE 37TH ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE AND OBSERVANCE**

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**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 96-32. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and roll call vote proved unanimously favorable.

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

6b. **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING USAF BAND OF THE ROCKIES**

**RESOLUTION NO. 96-33**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE "BAND OF THE ROCKIES"**

**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 96-33. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and roll call vote proved unanimously favorable.

For adoption only to be presented at a later date. Lt. Jennifer Spears, USAF, was present to discuss USAF participation in the Armed Forces Day Parade.

6c. **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAJOR PATRICK C.G. COULTER, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS (RETIRED)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 96-34**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO MAJOR PATRICK C.G. COULTIER, USMC (RETIRED)**

**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 96-34. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and roll call vote proved unanimously favorable.

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

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6d. RESOLUTION HONORING FIRE DIVISION CHIEF WILLIAM J. PETERSON

RESOLUTION NO. 96-35

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING WILLIAM J. PETERSON FOR HIS DEDICATION, PROFESSIONALISM AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF TORRANCE

**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 96-35. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and roll call vote proved unanimously favorable.

Accepted with appreciation by Division Chief Peterson, subsequent to adoption.

6e. RESOLUTION HONORING POLICE COMMUNICATIONS OPERATOR KAREN ADAMS

RESOLUTION NO. 96-36

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING POLICE COMMUNICATIONS OPERATOR KAREN ADAMS FOR HER DEDICATION, PROFESSIONALISM AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF TORRANCE

**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 96-36. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and roll call vote proved unanimously favorable.

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

6f. PROCLAMATION recognizing the month of May, 1996, as "Older Americans Month" in the City of Torrance.

*So proclaimed* by Mayor Hardison and accepted with appreciation by Mr. Art Callen, Chair of the Commission on Aging.

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**6g. OLDER AMERICAN AWARDS FOR 1996**

In conjunction with a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Director and the Commission on Aging, Mr. San Geruc, Mrs. Hilda Corliss and Mr. Frank Wolf were recognized as this year's recipients of the Older Americans Awards for 1996. Recognition plaques were presented by the Mayor.

**6h. PROCLAMATION** recognizing the week of May 13-19, 1996, as "Blue Ribbon Week" and May 17, 1996, as "Peace Officers' Memorial Day" in the City of Torrance.

*So proclaimed* by Mayor Hardison and accepted with appreciation by Officer Raul Ramirez.

**6i. PROCLAMATION** commending the South Bay Conservatory for its participation in the British Arts Awards.

*So proclaimed* by Mayor Hardison and accepted with appreciation by Debbie Clark-Rogers and Linda Dryer, South Bay Conservatory.

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Mr. Stan Roberts, a member of the El Paso, Texas, City Council presented the Torrance City Council members with souvenirs from the City of El Paso.

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**7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**7a. INFRASTRUCTURE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM [GIS] FOR MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM**

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended by the Engineering and Information Systems Directors that the City Council approve the professional engineering services agreement [of record] with Psomas and Associates; and authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to this Agreement on behalf of the City, for creation of electronic base maps and databases for the Infrastructure Geographic Information System (GIS) for the Municipal Water System in an "not to exceed" amount of \$96,700.

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**7b. P.O. FOR 1996 FORD CROWN VICTORIA SEDANS**

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended by the General Services and Fleet Services Directors and the Fire Chief that the City Council authorize a purchase order for an anticipated amount not to exceed \$106,264 to Wondries Ford, Alhambra, CA, for the purchase of five 1996 Ford Crown Victoria sedans as a Special Opportunity Purchase with Los Angeles County.

**7c. CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 182ND STREET AT GLENBURN AVENUE**

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended by the Planning Department that the City Council accept the construction bid from and award a contract to Lobana Engineering in the amount of \$27,621 and reject all other bids.

**7d. INSURANCE POLICY RENEWALS**

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended by the City Manager that the City Council approve the following insurance policy renewals:

Boiler and Machinery Insurance for the period  
May 15, 1996 to May 15, 1997 - premium \$7,137.

Property Insurance for the period May 15, 1996 to  
May 15, 1997 - premium \$175,408.

**7e. CONTRACT FOR CITYWIDE NETWORK DESIGN**

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended by the Information Systems Director and the Automation Team that the City Council authorize the award of a purchase order contract to KLC Software and Training, Inc. for the design and development of specifications for a high-speed data network for the City in the amount not to exceed \$35,970 (\$32,700 + 10% contingency.)

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**MOTION:** Councilwoman O'Donnell moved to concur with Consent Calendar Items 7a through 7e. Councilman Walker seconded the motion, which carried with unanimous approval following roll call vote.

9. **TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC WORKS MATTERS**

9a. **MASTER AGREEMENT WITH CALTRANS FOR FEDERAL-AID PROJECTS AND ADOPTION OF LOCAL DESIGN STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

A brief overview was provided by Engineering Director Burt, after which the Deputy City Clerk was asked to read number and title to the following:

**RESOLUTION NO. 96-37**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN MASTER AGREEMENT, ADMINISTERING AGENCY-STATE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AND THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA NUMBERED 07-5249**

**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 96-37. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and roll call vote proved unanimously favorable.

**RESOLUTION NO. 96-38**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE ENGINEERING DIRECTOR TO APPROVE LOCAL DESIGN STANDARDS AND EXCEPTIONS THERETO FOR FEDERAL-AID PROJECTS**

**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 96-38. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and roll call vote proved unanimously favorable.

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10. **POLICE/FIRE MATTERS**

10a. **SEMS TRAINING**

In accordance with a recommendation by the Police Chief and the City Manager, the City Council received the Executive Course of the Standardized Emergency Management System [SEMS,] presented by Los Angeles Police Department Sgt, Robert Gandy.

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A recess was ordered by Mayor Hardison 8:45 P.M. Council reconvened at 9:03 P.M.

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13. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

13a. **AMENDMENT TO MOU FOR TORRANCE LIBRARY EMPLOYEES ASSN.**

Considered after tonight's executive session matters; see page 13.

13b. **AIRPORT TIE-DOWN RATES**

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended by the Airport Commission that the City Council approve the following:

1. Lowering the Torrance Airport tie-down rate to \$60 per month for six months.
2. Adjusting the monthly tie-down rate after six months, if necessary.
3. Advertising the temporary tie-down rates in recognized flight/pilot publications for two months.

Staff report was summarized by Airport Manager Hriz, who provided background and responded to numerous Council inquiries regarding the proposed rate adjustment.

Following a suggestion by Councilwoman Cribbs, who requested further related information about other airports, as well as input from all FBO's as to the potential economic impact of a rate adjustment, early consensus was reached toward not increasing the rates at this time.

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Council members indicated a preference toward aggressively advertising the Airport through trade magazines, in an attempt to fill more spaces, with the Airport Commission reviewing the matter again in six-months, making a recommendation to the Council at that time.

Accordingly, Councilman Messerlian offered the following:

**MOTION:** Councilman Messerlian moved that the existing tie-down rate be maintained at the Airport and that staff be directed to aggressively advertise the current tie-down rate in trade magazines, as appropriate, for the next six months at which time it shall be returned to the Airport Commission for review, with a recommendation to be made to the Council. Councilwoman Cribbs seconded the motion.

Mayor Hardison requested that while staff is aggressively marketing the tie-downs that all potential issues pertaining to the low occupancy rate be explored and reported to the Council in specific detail.

Roll Call vote was taken and proved unanimously favorable.

Councilman Lee suggested that surveys be conducted when individuals move from the Airport to ascertain reasons.

14. **HEARINGS**

14a. **PRE 95-0009, WAV 95-0016: ROBERT LAIRD A.I.A. AND JIM AND MARY COX**

Mayor Hardison noted that this was the time and place for a public hearing on City Council consideration of an appeal of a Planning Commission decision approving a Precise Plan of Development and a Waiver of the maximum height for a one-story residence to allow the construction of a new residence located in the Hillside Overlay District in the R-1 Zone at 365 Paseo de Gracia.

**PRE 95-0009, WAV 95-0016: ROBERT LAIRD A.I.A. AND JIM AND MARY COX**

Proof of publication was received and filed, without comment.

Staff presentation was provided by Senior Principal Planner Gibson who utilized overheads to illustrate specifics of the proposed request, noting that it is the recommendation of both the Planning Department and the Planning Commission to deny the appeal and approve the request.

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During the presentation, Mr. Gibson noted that the project, as presented tonight, is the result of having been lowered in overall height by four feet, in response to concerns raised at Planning Commission hearings.

Following the slide presentation, Mr. Gibson requested that the Council not take action on the resolutions accompanying the Item, stating that staff would return the resolutions at a later date, with appropriate findings of fact. He provided further information about the proposed retaining wall, in response to Councilman Nakano.

Audience input was invited and the following individuals spoke to Council:

Applicant James Cox, 4020 Knobhill Dr., Sherman Oaks, discussed his efforts to alleviate concerns of neighbors throughout the design process. He read a statement pertaining to the integrity of the builder and the architect associated with the project.

Architect Robert K. Laird, 143 N. Harvard Ave., Suite F, Claremont, provided details of the project, specifically as it relates to other surrounding homes. He disputed certain remarks, of record, made by the resident of 229 Via los Altos

Mr. G. R. Enright, Jr., 229 Via los Altos, offered a critique of staff material in relation to his interpretation of the proposal. He also cited sections of the Hillside Overlay Ordinance, maintaining that the project would adversely affect his home in terms of impacts to view, property value, etc. Mr. Enright presented slides depicting several suggested design alternatives and illustrating his various points.

Ms. Patricia Brick, 1115 Mar-Les West, Santa Ana, lent support to several positions taken by Mr. Enright, maintaining that the project as proposed would detrimentally impact adjacent homes in terms of impacts to view, privacy and property value.

Mr. Greg Taylor, 221 Via los Altos, expressed his appreciation to Council members for their individual visits to his property. He subsequently objected to the revised design due to its impact on the view from his home, indicating that he would like to see the project further reduced in height by 12" to 18".

Mr. Hal Holker, 364 Paseo de Gracia, commended the architect for the proposed design, stating that 80-90% of the neighbors in the area support the project. He noted that it has been redesigned two times in an attempt to accommodate the needs of opponents and requested the Council's favorable support.

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Mr. McKenzie, 116 Via los Miradores [no speaker card,] while stating that he is not directly impacted by the proposed project, reported that he is opposed to one person impacting another's view, in general.

It was moved by Councilman Walker that the hearing be closed. Councilwoman Cribbs seconded the motion and roll call vote reflected the approval of all but Miss O'Donnell, who was absent from Chambers from 10:35 to 10:40 PM.

**MOTION:** Councilman Walker moved to deny the appeal and approve the project. Councilwoman Cribbs seconded the motion.

Prior to roll call, discussion resumed after the Mayor requested further clarification from Senior Principal Planner Gibson about the design of the project as well as the proposed retaining wall. She subsequently stated that she does not agree with comments made pertaining to impact on available parking on Paseo de Gracia and would not be considering the comment in making her decision.

While expressing some concern about the large retaining wall, Mrs. Hardison stated she feels anything built on the property would impact Mr. Enright, in that the lot has been vacant for so many years. After noting that she would have liked to have seen everyone satisfied with the proposal, Mayor Hardison called for a roll call vote on the above motion, which proved unanimously favorable.

Mr. Gibson affirmed that he would be returning the resolutions to the Council, with appropriate findings.

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At 10:47 P.M., the City Council recessed and reconvened as the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Torrance. The meeting of the Redevelopment Agency was adjourned at 10:48 P.M., and consideration of regular Council business was resumed.

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#### 19. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

19a. The City Clerk announced that applications to fill a vacancy on the Disaster Council could be obtained in the City Clerk's Office.

19b. Councilwoman Cribbs requested and received clarification regarding renovation plans for certain areas of the Police Department and also inquired

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about the number of multiple copies being made in the City. Staff will continue to pursue this issue.

19c. Councilman Lee commented on the popularity of both the City Yard open house and Fire Services Day events, noting that he is looking forward to the upcoming Police Department open house as well as the Armed Forces Day Parade. He suggested that future open houses at the PD be planned for weekends.

19d. Councilman Messerlian noted that a street sign at 230th Street and Hawthorne Boulevard is in need of repair.

19e. Councilman Nakano reported on his attendance at El Camino College President's Preview, a part of its 50-year anniversary celebration; discussed events associated with Fire Services Day observance; and extended best wishes to Assistant City Manager Ng for a speedy recovery.

19f. Councilwoman O'Donnell announced a Household Hazardous Waste Roundup at the Rancho Palos Verdes City Yard on June 8, 1996, and provided related information.

19g. Mayor Hardison requested and received Council concurrence with a request that the Citizen Award of Valor be presented to three deserving individuals at an upcoming City Council meeting.

20. EXECUTIVE SESSION

20a. EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

Mayor Hardison read the following statement into the record:

The Council will now recess to closed session to confer with legal counsel and/or the City Manager on those agenda matters listed under Item 20.a.1, Conference with Labor Negotiator; 20.a.2, Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation; 20.a.3, Conference with Legal Counsel - Pending Litigation; and 20.a.4, Conference with Real Property Negotiator - Real Property.

Redevelopment Agency Executive Session

None.

Further detail is contained on the agenda cover.

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A closed session on these matters is authorized by California Government Code Sections 54957.6, 54956.9(a), 54956.9(b)(3)(B) and 54956.8.

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At 11:00 P.M., the City Council met in executive session, returning to Chambers at 12:47 A.M., to take the formal action shown below.

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Consideration returned to ...

13a. AMENDMENT TO MOU FOR TORRANCE LIBRARY EMPLOYEES ASSN.

RESOLUTION NO. 96-39

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
TORRANCE LIBRARY EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION  
SUPPLEMENTAL #1

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

**MOTION:** Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 96-39. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and roll call vote proved unanimously favorable.

City Attorney Fellows recommended that the City Council take action to join in the following:


ICA Amicus Brief re: County of San Bernardino et al. v. City of San Bernardino, et al.

Councilman Nakano **SO MOVED.** Councilman Messerlian seconded the motion and roll call vote proved unanimously favorable.

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21. **ADJOURNMENT**

**At 12:50 A.M. [5-15-96,] this meeting of the City Council was formally adjourned to May 21, 1996, 7:00 P.M.**

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

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