

Committee Meeting of
January 21, 2022

SUPPLEMENTAL #1

Honorable Chair and Members
of the Armed Forces Day Special Standing Committee
City Hall
Torrance, California


Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Supplemental #1 – Correspondence Received After the Posting of the Agenda

Please find attached correspondence that was received after the posting of the Agenda but prior to the adjournment of 1:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ARAM CHAPARYAN
CITY MANAGER

By 
Eleanor B. Jones
Management Associate

CONCUR:


Aram Chaparyan
City Manager

Attachment:

A) Correspondence

Subject: Armed Forces Day Special Standing Committee

From: Cerise Valmont <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:39 AM

To: Le, Jamie

Cc: Ashcraft, Heidi; Chen, George; Kalani, Sharon; Chaparyan, Aram; Poisson, Sheila; Hart, Jeremiah; Charley, Cody; Furey, Pat

Subject: Armed Forces Day Special Standing Committee

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments, and I hope you take them to heart and that they are considered during your meeting.

I have lived in Torrance my whole life, and I enjoy many aspects of being a resident of the city. I appreciate the variety of events, classes, and amenities the city offers to people who live here and people who come to visit for the mall, restaurants, events and such.

So I was really interested and concerned when I kept getting items in the mail talking about the city's budget problems. Then I tuned in for a presentation earlier this week about the city's financial predicament. It was eye-opening. And then when I saw this meeting on the calendar about the annual military parade, I found it rather surprising that an event of this nature was still being considered for this year given what I heard during the meeting with the finance people, city manager, and police and fire chiefs.

So I decided to do a little digging on your website to try and find out more about the cost of this military parade. I will admit that my internet skills are not as up to speed as they could be, but I could not find a straight answer on your website about how much this parade actually costs the city. I managed to find some information from last year that the parade was canceled because of this coronavirus, which I very much agreed with doing. What I did find shocking was that there was a budget of up to \$17,400 to NOT have a parade. So if NOT having a parade costs that much, I can only imagine how much it costs to put on such a spectacle. https://torrance.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=8&event_id=7346&meta_id=322843

The part that really disturbs me the most about all of this is that residents are being told by fancy mailed flyers and in online meetings that the city is going to cut staff and budgets and public safety, but we are still even talking about a parade. Not to mention that the timing of this really stinks. ***You want residents to support a tax increase on the June ballot just a scant few weeks after spending thousands and thousands of dollars on a parade that lasts a couple hours?***

The talk about "maintaining essential services" rings hollow for me when you contemplate cutting more public safety services, street maintenance, libraries and all kinds of things, but are willing to throw away money on a

parade. A one day a year event does not rise to the same level as these ongoing services that residents rely on for their quality of life.

Please, consider putting this parade off until the city is in a more fiscally sound position. Prioritize the things that really are essential. As someone whose grandfathers served honorably and proudly in the Army, I support our military and am grateful for all who serve. But I also know based on the values my grandfathers passed to their families, that even they would find the idea of spending so much money on a parade this year to be a fool's errand.

C. Valmont