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**TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – OCTOBER 7, 2014**

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At 9:48 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with regular business commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber. The City Council Federal Legislative Advocacy Committee will meet at 3:00 p.m. in the City Manager assembly room.

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance City Council convened in an adjourned regular session at 5:37 p.m. on Tuesday, October 7, 2014 in the Council Chamber at Torrance City Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Councilmembers Ashcraft, Barnett, Goodrich, Griffiths, Rizzo, Weideman and Mayor Furey.

Absent: None.

Present: City Manager Jackson, Assistant City Manager Giordano, Assistant City Attorney Sullivan, City Clerk Poirier and other staff representatives.

Agenda Item 18 was considered out of order at this time.

**18. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The City Council immediately recessed to closed session to confer with the City Manager and the City Attorney on agenda matters listed under 18A) Conference with Labor Negotiator, 18B) Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation, 18C) Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation, 18D) Real Property – Conference with Real Property Negotiator, pursuant to California Government Code §54957.6, 54956.9(d)(2), 54956.9(d)(4) and 54956.8.

The City Council reconvened at 7:09 p.m. with all members present. No formal action was taken on any matter considered in closed session.

**2. FLAG SALUTE/ INVOCATION**

The flag salute was led by Councilmember Rizzo.

The non-sectarian invocation was given by Councilmember Weideman.

**3. REPORT OF CITY CLERK ON POSTING OF THE AGENDA/ MOTION TO WAIVE FURTHER READING**

City Clerk Poirier reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard on Thursday, October 2, 2014.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Goodrich moved that after the City Clerk has read aloud the number and title to any resolution or ordinance on the meeting agenda, the further reading thereof shall be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilmember the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rizzo and passed by unanimous vote.

**4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS**

No items were withdrawn or deferred; supplemental material was available for Item 13A.

**5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Barnett asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of retired city employee Renard Ricks who passed away October 3 at the age of 61.

Councilmember Ashcraft announced that the City Council Federal Legislative Advocacy Committee will meet on Tuesday, October 14, at 3:00 p.m. in the City Manager Assembly Room for a federal legislative update followed by a meeting of the State Legislative Advocacy Committee at 4:00 p.m. to discuss the November 4 General Election Ballot Measures.

Public Works Director Beste announced that the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is offering a turf removal rebate program with additional information available at [www.BeWaterWise.com](http://www.BeWaterWise.com).

**6. COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**6A. RESOLUTION NO. 2014-111 RE JAMES W. GRANT**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2014-111**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING **JAMES W. GRANT** UPON HIS RETIRMENT FROM THE CITY AFTER THIRTY-THREE YEARS OF SERVICE

**MOTION:** Councilmember Ashcraft moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-111. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Weideman and passed by unanimous vote.

*To be presented at a later date*

**6B. PROCLAMATION RE “RIDESHARE WEEK”**

Mayor Furey presented a proclamation declaring the week of October 6 through October 10 as **Rideshare Week** in the City of Torrance to Kim Fuentes and Carolyn Chun.

**6C. PROCLAMATION RE “FAMILY HISTORY MONTH”**

Mayor Furey presented a proclamation declaring the month of October as **Family History Month** in the City of Torrance to Eric W. Siess, PhD, CG, President, South Bay Cities Genealogical Society; Donna Braly, 1st VP Programs; Lorna Rice, Historian and Liaison to Torrance Family History Center; Lynda Kraemer, Corresponding Secretary; Laurie Pelayo, Librarian; and Lynne Naylor, Newsletter Editor.

**6D. PROCLAMATION RE “NATIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES MONTH”**

Mayor Furey presented a proclamation declaring the month of October as **National Arts and Humanities Month** to Cultural Arts Commission Vice-chair Anil Muhammed and Commissioners Kathryn Endo-Roberts and Dale Korman.

Item 12B was considered out of order at this time.

**12B. ACCEPTANCE/APPROPRIATION OF EXXONMOBIL DONATION FOR JOHN J. NEU LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Chief of Police that City Council:

- 1) Accept a \$10,000 donation from ExxonMobil Corporation; and
- 2) Appropriate \$10,000 to sponsor the John J. Neu Leadership Academy.

Mayor Furey provided an overview of the John J. Neu Leadership Academy program designed to help eighth graders develop leadership skills as they transition into high school.

Police Chief Matsuda and Juvenile Diversion Coordinator Flannery accepted the donation and thanked ExxonMobil for their continued support of this program.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Goodrich moved to accept and appropriate the donation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rizzo and passed by unanimous vote.

**7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1**

**7A.** Bob Chiota and Joel Massa encouraged everyone to support the South Bay Bocce Courts Project, which involves the building of handicap accessible bocce courts at Columbia Park.

**7B.** Lloyd Brown, Torrance, expressed concerns about the lack of response to his requests for information at previous Council meetings and questioned why Little League teams must pay the water bill for the use of Torrance parks while soccer teams that use Columbia Park do not have to do so.

**7C.** Jonathan Beutler, representing the Pediatric Therapy Network, announced that the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Halloween Ball benefitting the Pediatric Therapy Network will be held on Sunday, October 12, 2014 from 4:00 – 9:00 p.m. in a tent in front of the Depot Restaurant, which will feature a dinner buffet, a costume contest and live and silent auctions, with additional information available at [www.PediatricTherapyNetwork.org](http://www.PediatricTherapyNetwork.org).

**7D.** Brandon Matson announced that the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring a Veterans Career and Networking Conference on Friday, October 10, at the 10:30 a.m. at the Toyota Automobile Museum, with additional information available at [www.TorranceChamber.com](http://www.TorranceChamber.com).

**7E.** Leah Boyer announced that Food Forward, a non-profit organization that gleans produce from farmers markets and distributes it to local charities, was seeking volunteers to assist with the program at the Torrance Certified Farmers Market, with additional information available at [www.FoodForward.org](http://www.FoodForward.org).

**7F.** Kathy Sutton announced that the Sensory Integration Education and Research Foundation will be hosting “My Special Afternoon with Santa,” an event for special needs children and their families on December 13 at the Toyota Automobile Museum, with additional information available at [www.SIERF.org](http://www.SIERF.org).

**7G.** Dean Rueter announced that the UCLA/USC tailgate party sponsored by the Torrance and Redondo Beach Rotary Clubs at the Torrance Double Tree Hotel on November 18, which benefits local high schools, has sold out and thanked everyone for their support.

**7H.** Mario Obejas, Torrance, highlighted the new “three-foot rule” concerning bicyclists.

**7I.** Debbie Hays, Torrance Historical Society, announced that THS’s biennial Home Tour, featuring seven historic homes in Old Torrance, will be held on Saturday, October 11, and Sunday, October 12, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**8. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**8A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council approve the City Council minutes of September 9, 2014.

**8B. CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION 2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Cultural Arts Commission and the Community Services Director that City Council accept and file the Cultural Arts Commission Annual Report for July 2013 through June 2014.

**8C. LIBRARY COMMISSION 2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Library Commission and the Community Services Director that City Council accept and file the Library Commission 2013-2014 Annual Report.

**8D. PURCHASE ORDER FOR COMPUTER HARDWARE**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Police Chief and Information Technology Director that City Council:

- 1) Appropriate and allocate \$239,119 of asset forfeiture funds to FEAP #875-Virtual Machine and Storage Area Network Replacement; and
- 2) Authorize a purchase order to QuickBuys of Sunland, CA, for the purchase of Storage Area Network (SAN) equipment and support service in the amount of \$136,584.35.

**8E. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION FOR SPORTS FIELD LIGHTING**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission and Community Services Director that City Council accept a donation of materials and labor in the amount of \$7,685 from the West Torrance AYSO Region 14 for electrical improvements to the sports field lighting control box at Victor School.

**8F. CONTRACT FOR PLAY EQUIPMENT AT GREENWOOD PARK**

Considered separately, see below.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Barnett moved for approval of Consent Calendar Items 8A through 8E. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Griffiths and passed by unanimous vote.

Consent Calendar Item 8F was considered separately at this time.

**8F. CONTRACT FOR PLAY EQUIPMENT AT GREENWOOD PARK**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Community Services Director that City Council authorize a contract in the amount of \$118,987.53 to Dave Bang and Associates, Inc. of Tustin, CA, for the purchase and installation of new playground equipment.

Councilmember Ashcraft reported that she had proposed a mix of playground equipment suitable for both preschool and elementary school children, but apparently this is not possible due to regulations.

Sr. Business Manager Minter explained that there are two distinct categories of playground equipment, one for children aged 2 to 5 years, and one for children aged 5 to 12 years, and they cannot be mixed. He noted that there are two classrooms used for preschool programs adjacent to the park and the park is heavily used by children in this age group.

In response to Councilmember Goodrich's inquiry, Sr. Business Manager Minter advised that staff was recommending an engineered wood-chip base for the play equipment because it is much more cost effective than a rubber surface and equally as safe.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Barnett moved to authorize the contract. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Griffiths and passed by unanimous vote.

## 11. PUBLIC SAFETY

### 11A. RESOLUTION OPPOSING CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 47

#### Recommendation

Recommendation of the Police Chief and City Attorney that City Council adopt a Resolution opposing California Proposition 47, a State-wide initiative to reduce criminal sentences and make certain offenders eligible for release from incarceration.

Deputy Police Chief Anderson provided background information about Proposition 47, which would reduce jail time for certain crimes with the cost savings to be used for substance abuse treatment, truancy prevention and victim services. He advised that the Police Department is opposed to downgrading drug-related crimes and commercial burglaries from felonies to misdemeanors due to the impact on the community.

Assistant City Attorney Sullivan reported that Proposition 47 would drastically increase the City Attorney office's workload.

Lloyd Brown, Torrance, expressed support for Proposition 47 and encouraged voters to research ballot measures before making a decision.

Mayor Furey and Councilmember Rizzo voiced their opposition to Proposition 47.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Goodrich moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rizzo and passed by unanimous vote.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2014-112**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE  
OPPOSING CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 47

**MOTION:** Councilmember Ashcraft moved to adopt Resolution No. 2014-112. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Weideman and passed by unanimous vote.

## 12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

### 12A. CITY COUNCIL AD HOC WEB REDESIGN COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

#### Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that the Mayor appoint the chair and members to the City Council Ad Hoc Web Redesign Committee to:

- 1) Work with staff in review of the existing citywide website;
- 2) Recommend changes; and
- 3) Provide policy direction in the development of the citywide web redesign for TorranceCA.gov.

Senior Management Associate Jones reported that Mayor Furey has appointed Councilmember Griffiths as Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Web Redesign Committee and Councilmembers Ashcraft and Goodrich as members.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Barnett moved to concur with the Mayor's appointments. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Weideman and passed by unanimous vote.

**12B. ACCEPTANCE/APPROPRIATION OF EXXONMOBIL DONATION FOR JOHN J. NEU LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

Considered out of order, see page 2.

**12C. APPROVAL OF STREET CLOSURE FOR HALLOWEEN BALL**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council approve a request for the closure of Cabrillo Avenue at Torrance Boulevard and 213th Street beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 11, 2014 for a Halloween Ball to be held Sunday, October 12, 2014.

Jason Minter, Special Events Team, reported that the Special Events Team has reviewed Chef Shafer's request that Cabrillo Avenue be closed for the annual Halloween Ball benefiting the Pediatric Therapy Network and was recommending that the closure be approved.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Goodrich concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rizzo and passed by unanimous vote.

**13. HEARINGS**

**13A. ORDINANCE REGULATING UNATTENDED DONATION/COLLECTION BINS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that City Council conduct a public hearing and consider options in drafting an ordinance modifying the Torrance Municipal Code to regulate unattended donation/collection bins.

Mayor Furey announced that this was the time and place for a public hearing on this matter. City Clerk Poirier confirmed that the hearing was properly advertised.

Planning Manager Lodan reviewed the proposed standards for regulating unattended donation/collection bins, which include requirements that the bins be at least 500 feet apart, that bins be located so as not to obstruct parking, circulation or sight lines; that bins and the surrounding area be maintained and kept free of overflow; and that signage comply with State law and include a pick-up schedule and warning that no material may be left outside the bin. He advised that staff was recommending that bins be approved via Planning Administrative Action (ADM), with appeal rights to the Planning Commission and the City Council. He noted that the current fee for an ADM permit is \$676 and the permit process takes approximately 3 to 6 weeks.

Mayor Furey noted that the bins have proliferated throughout the City despite the current moratorium and questioned whether there would be some way to distinguish permitted bins from unpermitted bins.

Planning Manager Lodan suggested that the City could issue a sticker to be affixed to permitted bins.

Mayor Furey asked about controlling the number of bins, and Planning Manager Lodan advised that if there was a bin on every available site maintaining the 500-foot required separation, staff estimates there would be a maximum of 350 bins, however this was highly unlikely and it is expected that there would be a maximum of approximately 200 bins.

Councilmember Ashcraft expressed concerns about the blight created by unattended donation/collection bins and indicated that she favored prohibiting them.

Councilmember Rizzo recommended that language be included in the Ordinance requiring bin operators to obtain an informed consent from property owners acknowledging that they understand they are assuming some liability by allowing bins on their property and could be subject to fines. He also recommended that there be a minimum setback from the street and a minimum separation between bins of 1000 feet rather than 500 feet. He suggested that the location of signage prohibiting the leaving of material outside of bins be clarified in the Ordinance as well as the party responsible for posting it and that bin operators be required to check the bins a minimum of once a week. He called for a notation on bins indicating whether they are operated by a for-profit business or a non-profit agency along with a federal identification number for tax purposes.

Councilmember Rizzo questioned whether the City would receive waste diversion credit for recyclables collected in the bins, and Planning Manager Lodan reported that staff has received conflicting information on this issue but was recommending that bin operators be required to provide a report on the amount of material collected.

Councilmember Goodrich disclosed that he has met with bin operators and community members opposed to them and believes there are merits to both sides of this issue. He stated that while he appreciates the benefits of having bins conveniently located, he was also concerned about their proliferation and proposed that there be a trial period to make sure the Ordinance is effective in controlling them.

Councilmember Griffiths stated that he felt waste diversion was an important part of this issue and favored requiring bin operators to provide an accounting of recyclables collected. He called for clear signage indicating whether the bins are operated by a for-profit or non-profit organization.

In response to Councilmember Griffith's inquiry, Planning Manager Lodan advised that the \$676 ADM permit fee is per site and that bin operators would also have to obtain a business license on an annual basis, which includes a per bin fee.

Mayor Furey stated that favored placing a cap on the number of bins allowed in the City along with the 500-foot minimum separation to limit them.

Assistant City Attorney Sullivan suggested that the Ordinance currently requires a 500-foot separation from bin to bin and this could be modified to require the 500-foot separation from property line to property line to further limit the number of bins.

Councilmember Ashcraft related her experience that most residents are under the impression that unattended bins are operated by charities that benefit the community when in fact many are operated by for-profit businesses.

Councilmember Barnett expressed concerns about existing bins on sidewalks near schools, and Assistant City Attorney Sullivan advised that bins will not be allowed on sidewalks and the school district must comply with the regulations in the Ordinance.

Mayor Furey invited public comment.

Julie Dover, CEO of Goodwill SOLAC (Southern Los Angeles County), provided background information about the non-profit organization. She reported that Goodwill SOLAC is currently training 300 individuals for employment in the health care field and this, as well as



other services provided to the community, is funded through the sale of donated goods. She contended that many for-profit bin operators fail to comply with regulations, use deceptive signage to make it seem like they are charitable organizations, and siphon donations from reputable non-profit organizations.

Peter Kelly, representing Planet Aid, reported that Planet Aid is a non-profit organization, which operates 20,000 donation collection bins nationwide and collects 50,000 tons of clothing/shoes annually in order to support programs to end poverty throughout the world. He reported that the company operated 16 bins in Torrance last year, including 6 bins at schools, and the schools have received over \$3500 as a result of this partnership. Voicing support for the proposed Ordinance, he related his belief that it protects the community's interests, while being fair to bin operators and allows residents to take advantage of a convenient way to recycle. He asked that the City remain open to a reduced fee structure for non-profit organizations at some point in the future.

Weston Labar, representing USAgain, a for-profit textile recycling company, stated that the company supports responsible regulations for donation/collection bins and they share the City's concerns about rogue bin operators and the proliferation of bins. He reported that the company is exploring how cities can receive credit toward waste diversion goals for textiles collected in bins, noting that the company has diverted almost 93,000 pounds of textiles from landfills in Torrance alone.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the possibility of having the matter brought back to the Council for review after the Ordinance has been in effect for a certain period of time. It was noted that the Council can request that an Ordinance be reviewed at any time should problems develop.

Councilmember Griffiths expressed concerns that there appears to be no limitation on the size of the bins included in the Ordinance and recommended that this be addressed.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Weideman moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

Councilmember Weideman disclosed that he had met with bin operators, Goodwill representatives and community members on this issue and participated in the March 2013 Planning Commission hearing when this matter first came up in conjunction with an application from Angel Bins. He noted that he made a motion to prohibit donation/collection bins at the June 24, 2014 City Council meeting, which failed to pass, but now believes it's better to regulate them. He proposed the following changes to the proposed Ordinance: 1) that stickers confirming a bin is permitted be affixed to the bin; 2) that the operator be required to obtain an informed consent from property owners; 3) that a cap be imposed on the number of bins allowed in the City along with the 500-foot minimum separation; 3) that the operator be required to empty bins a minimum of once a week; 4) that the operator be required to report the amount of recyclables collected; and 5) that there be a maximum bin size. He requested that staff provide clarification of both one-time and annual fees.

Mayor Furey noted his concurrence with Councilmember Weideman's remarks.

Assistant City Attorney Sullivan recommended that staff bring back a revised Ordinance at the October 28, 2014 City Council meeting incorporating the changes discussed.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Weideman moved to direct staff to bring forward a revised Ordinance at the October 28, 2014 City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

**17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2**

**17A.** Councilmember Barnett congratulated Mayor Furey on his excellent State of the City presentation.

**17B.** Councilmember Goodrich echoed remarks on the Mayor's State of the City presentation; noted that he was looking forward to the Halloween Ball benefitting the Pediatric Therapy Network on Sunday; and reported that there will be a full lunar eclipse tomorrow night beginning at 3:30 a.m.

**17C.** Councilmember Rizzo commended Mayor Furey for an outstanding State of the City presentation.

**17D.** Mayor Furey, with the concurrence of Council, requested that staff bring forward an item for the Council to consider joining the U.S. Conference of Mayors, a non-partisan organization comprised of cities with populations of 30,000 or more.

**18. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1.

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:48 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with regular business commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber. The City Council Federal Legislative Advocacy Committee will meet at 3:00 p.m. in the City Manager assembly room.

Attest:

/s/ Patrick J. Furey  
Mayor Patrick J. Furey

/s/ R. Poirier  
City Clerk Rebecca Poirier, MMC

Approved on October 28, 2014