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**TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023
REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P.M. WEST ANNEX COMMISSION MEETING ROOM**

**THE TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL MAY TAKE ACTION ON ANY ITEM
LISTED ON THE AGENDA**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

ROLL CALL: Youth Councilmembers ___Berga, ___ Chang, ___A. Choi, ___J. Choi, ___Ernst, ___Han, ___Ho, ___Kang, ___Kim, ___E. Lee, ___I. Lee, ___McCallum, ___Miyazato, ___Sharma, ___Suk, ___Tanaka, ___Thai, ___Yalla

2. FLAG SALUTE: Youth Councilmember

INSPIRATIONAL BY: Youth Councilmember

3. REPORT OF THE CITY CLERK ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Bl. and on the City's Website on Thursday, September 14, 2023.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to a 30 minute period)

This portion of the meeting is reserved for public comment on items on the agenda or on topics of interest to the general public. Under the Ralph M. Brown Act, Commissioners cannot act on items raised during public comment but may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed; request clarification; or refer the item to staff. Speakers under this Public Comment period will have no longer than 3 minutes per speaker. Speakers please turn off or leave your cellular phone when you come to the podium to speak.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion and one vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed by a Commissioner from the Consent Calendar and considered separately.

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: No minutes available.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. Student Body – Accept and File Updates Regarding Events and Activities at Each Torrance School - Recommendation of the Community Services Director that Torrance Youth Council accept and file updates concerning:

- Bishop Montgomery
- CAMS
- North High School
- South High School
- Torrance High School
- West High School

7B. Youth Councilmember – Provide Updates and Information Regarding Meetings of the City Council and Various City Commissions.

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that the Torrance Youth Council:

- 1) Report on any meetings attended; and
- 2) Discuss and share information; and
- 3) Assign Councilmembers for upcoming meetings.

7C. Discussion and Approval – Youth Council 2022-2023 Annual Report

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that the Torrance Youth Council discuss status of the 2022-2023 Annual Youth Council Report: ASB Bowl, Youth Forum, Senior Tech Day, Publicity, BTO's Scholarship Program, Happy to Chat Bench and Time capsule.

7D. Committee Sign-Ups – Discuss and Approve

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that the Torrance Youth Council discuss and assign the 2023-2024 committees.

- 1) ASB Bowl/City Council
- 2) Senior Event (Senior Tech Day or Talent Show)
- 3) Youth Forum/Community Outreach
- 4) Beat the Odds Scholarship
- 5) Publicity
- 6) THE ATTIC/Happy to Chat Bench

7E. Discussion –TYC Apparel and Logo

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that the Torrance Youth Council discuss the 2023/2024 apparel and logo.

7F. Discussion – 2023 Turkey Trot Event

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that the Torrance Youth Council discuss their role at this year's Turkey Trot event.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2 – Youth Council/Staff

9. ADJOURNMENT

9A. Adjournment of the Torrance Youth Council Meeting to WEDNESDAY, October 4 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Room; 3031 Torrance Blvd.

**TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL
2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL**

PURPOSE OF THE TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL

The Torrance Youth Council is composed of Torrance high school students whose purpose is to identify and take action on problems affecting the youth of Torrance, as well as to advise and confer with City professional staff, various City Commissioners and City Council on such matters. Members are interviewed each June by a selection committee comprised of Community Services Department Commissioners and Youth Council Members and appointed by the City Council in August. The Youth Council meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, at 7 p.m., in the West Annex Commission Room at City Hall. All meetings are open to the public and youth are encouraged to address the Youth Council on matters of concern to the Youth in the community.

2022-2023 MEMBERS OF THE TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL

Camron Berga, Julia Choi, Alexis Choi, Sonia Curze, John-Milo Ernst, Nikash Gounder, Selah Han, Leah Ho, Chole Kang, Kenny Kantisiri, Matthias Kim, Irene Lee, Troy Miyazato, Summer Phan, Khushi Sharma, Haena Suck, Tue Thai, and Rithika Yalla.

During 2022-2023, eighteen Youth Council members have continued the excellent tradition of their predecessors, by representing the voice of the Youth of Torrance. New faces, various cultures, new ideas and an amazing amount of energy of these talented members played a key role in turning ideas into successful realities for the Torrance Community.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022 – 2023 PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Throughout the year, this diverse assembly of youth became a cohesive group, which began at their Annual Team Building Workshop on August 22, 2022. Each got the opportunity to know each other through leadership games and activities. Elections were held on September 7, 2022 with Khushi Sharma elected as Chairperson; Summer Phan as Vice Chairperson, Selah Han as Secretary; Chloe Kang as Sergeant-At-Arms, and Julia Choi, John-Milo Ernst, Tue Thai and Sonia Curze as Historians.

The Senior Events Committee: Aiming to foster greater connection and interactions between the youth and senior citizens of Torrance, the Youth Council organized and implemented Senior Tech Days, student-led events held on the first Saturday of every month at the Bartlett Senior Center. TYC members, along with student volunteers from various Torrance high schools, were paired up with senior citizens to help resolve issues or uncertainties related to technology. Senior citizens were able to bring their electronic devices and develop new skills under the guidance of high school students, whether this was learning how to download the latest update on their cell phones or getting a refresher course on how to utilize certain applications. In return, the students were able to experience meaningful interactions with the senior citizen residents of Torrance. This

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recurring event was enjoyed by both demographics as it allowed them to socialize with each other on a monthly basis, and contributed to creating a more tightly-knit community.

ASB Bowl: The 2023 ASB Bowl was held on Tuesday, April 18th, at the ATTIC Teen Center, entirely run and facilitated by the ASB Bowl Committee of the Torrance Youth Council. During the ASB Bowl, ASB members from all four Torrance high schools and CAMS came to compete against each other's ASB in small games and activities. This year's theme for the ASB Bowl was the Disney movie *Inside Out*, where each school represented an emotion corresponding to their school color. For example, the West was Joy, the North was Sadness, etc. Youth Council started by introducing the Youth Council members and a schedule of events for the night. Each ASB member went out with their colors as they played *Inside Out*-themed games from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The fun started with a speed dating icebreaker, then capture the flag game, and ended with *Inside Out* trivia. The Youth Council also provided sandwiches and chips for the ASB members as a snack. Since the second two activities were a competition between emotions, Youth Council members wrote down the scores from each feeling per game and tallied them at the end. After all games and activities concluded, North High School had the most points. As a prize for winning the ASB Bowl, North High students got to take back the ASB Bowl trophy. This trophy has passed through all other ASB Bowl winners in the past, the most recent being West High School in 2022. As the winners of the 2023 ASB Bowl, North High School continues the tradition of the Torrance ASB Bowl for many generations to come.

Youth Forum: The Youth Forum is one of the events hosted by the Torrance Youth Council (TYC), which focuses on encouraging civic engagement in the committee. The committee prepares and runs the Youth Forum in either March or April of each year. It unites youth from all over Torrance to raise their voices and speak up about current-day events and issues that affect us. Like a Socratic seminar-style debate, topics ranging from environmental factors, ocean vs. space exploration, or Taylor Swift are debated and discussed. We aim to create a fun, relaxed atmosphere that encourages people to comfortably speak up, make new connections, and learn to understand different perspectives. The committee meets before each regular scheduled TYC meeting (like most committees) to plan the event group discussions, event logistics, and select speaking topics, a guest speaker, and snacks.

The Annual Beat the Odds Scholarship: The Beat the Odds Scholarship was awarded to graduating seniors in the Torrance Unified District who demonstrated academic excellence and played a vital role in the community despite the obstacles they had to overcome. The youth council members, alongside a representative from the Parks & Recreation Committee and the Commission on Aging Committee, met to review each application. During this discussion, six individuals were selected to be awarded with \$1,000 each for their strength, determination, and accomplishments. After each applicant was notified of their acceptance, they were invited to attend the award ceremony on May 11, 2023, where they received a plaque in honor of their achievement. The award ceremony was held at the Attic Teen Center and was decorated to match the theme of a red carpet. The attendees were provided with snacks and light refreshments.

Happy to Chat / ATTIC Advisory Committee (AAC) is responsible for communicating with the Attic by attending their monthly meetings and taking note of what occurs while also providing input to any decisions the committee may make. Additionally, we make sure to inform the rest of the TYC about upcoming events at the ATTIC Teen Center, along with advertising them to our schools. We were also assigned the role of monitoring the recently developed Happy to Chat Bench located at Hickory Park which aims to encourage conversations and connections between visitors.

Publicity Committee: The publicity committee promoted events and opportunities that the Torrance Youth Council organized using various platforms. Whether through physical and digital flyers, social media posts on the Torrance Recreation Instagram account, or by notifying the college counselors and staff at their respective schools, the committee strived to bring about more awareness and participation among the youth of Torrance.

TYC Time Capsule: The 2022/2023 year was genuinely unforgettable because of moments like the TYC Time Capsule. The year started strong in early November as TYC members had the honor of unearthing a piece of history preserved in our city ground from twenty-six years ago. The unearthed time capsule revealed memorabilia from TYC's past. Baseball cards, old agendas, mini-figures, magazines, tapes, and pictures decorated the table and displayed to those visiting. The coolest thing is that someone who was a part of creating the time capsule twenty-six years ago came by and shared with us her memories of TYC. This event showcased what a community the City of Torrance is and how our values last over the decades. In addition, TYC was able to take part in this event by preparing a time capsule of our own for the next TYC to uncover. We filled our PVC pipe with letters, school newspapers, ticket stubs, music, photos, COVID supplies, and more that genuinely represented the time and generation that we were living in. We buried it together, with our names on the time capsule pipe, for the next group of empowered youth to find. The next TYC time capsule unearthing date is set on our calendars for 2047... Hopefully, some of us will make it out to the next one!

CONCLUSION

Youth Council is grateful to the City Council for their continued support of Torrance youth, as well as to the Community Services Departments Commissions.

Respectfully submitted,



Khushi Sharma, Chairperson
2022-2023 Youth Council