

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 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 19, 2004 in City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Lieu, Mauno, McIntyre, Nowatka, Scotto, Witkowsky and Mayor Walker.

Absent: None.

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 Councilmember Lieu.

Councilmember Mauno gave the non-sectarian invocation for the meeting.

3. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING/WAIVE FURTHER READING

MOTION: Councilmember Lieu 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 Councilmember Mauno, and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

MOTION: Councilmember Lieu 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 Mauno and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS

None.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Scotto announced that a Finance and Governmental Operations Committee meeting would be held on Tuesday, October 26, at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall.

Mayor Walker asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Mary Elizabeth "Pat" Wright, who passed away on October 9, 2004, noting that a memorial service will be held on October 23, at 1:00 p.m. at Torrance High School. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Pat Wright scholarship fund at Torrance High School.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. PROCLAMATION RE “RED RIBBON WEEK”

Mayor Walker presented a proclamation to Debbie Russell, President of Torrance Council of PTAs, and Cheryl Pivovaroff, Red Ribbon Committee Chairperson, declaring the week of October 24-30, 2004 as **Red Ribbon Week** in the City of Torrance and urging all citizens to participate in drug awareness activities throughout the City and display or wear red ribbons during this week to make a strong, visible commitment to live a healthy life.

6B. YOUTH COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Parks and Recreation Director** that the City Council confirm the appointments of 14 members to the 2004-2005 Torrance Youth Council and have them officially sworn in by the City Clerk.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

The following Torrance Youth Council members introduced themselves and were officially sworn in by City Clerk Herbers: **Justin Ahn** and **Nina Sawhney**, California Academy of Math and Science; **Michelle Gnanakone** and **Doo Park**, North High; **Maria Turcios** and **Sheri Vanbrundt**, Torrance High; **Ashley Besmenn**, Shery High; **Philip Gomez** and **Catherine Lloyd**, El Camino College; **Sean Crandall** and **Jennifer Chen**, West High; and **Timothy Lee**, **Vikki Hseih** and **Ashley Hunt**, Members at Large.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

7A. AMENDMENT TO SUBLEASE WITH LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Human Resources Director** that City Council accept and ratify administrative changes to the sublease with the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Social Services (C2004-060).

7B. AGREEMENT WITH GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF LONG BEACH SOUTH BAY

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Carson/Lomita/Torrance Workforce Investment Network (C/L/T WIN) Board** and the **Human Resources Director** that City Council approve an agreement for an amount of \$43,080 with Goodwill Industries to provide a part-time Disability Resource Specialist and video conferencing equipment for disabled residents seeking employment opportunities during the period of September 20, 2004 to June 30, 2005.

7C. AGREEMENT WITH LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND SENIOR SERVICES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Human Resources Director** that City Council authorize the execution of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) agreement from the Los Angeles County Department of Community and Senior Services (DCSS) in the amount of \$66,965 for the period of July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005 to provide employment and training to adult and dislocated workers.

7D. VENDOR CONTRACT WITH GALE SUPPLY COMPANY FOR CUSTODIAL PAPER GOODS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **General Services Director** that City Council authorize a vendor contract with Gale Supply Company of Los Angeles, CA in an amount not to exceed \$88,700. The vendor will provide various custodial paper goods consisting of paper towels, toilet tissue and toilet seat covers on an "as needed basis" for a term of one (1) year, effective November 1, 2004 through October 31, 2005. (B2004-41)

7E. AUTHORIZATION FOR SALE OF SURPLUS VEHICLES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **General Services Director** and **Transit Director** that City Council authorize Ken Porter Auction to facilitate the sale of twenty-nine (29) surplus/obsolete vehicles.

7F. VENDOR CONTRACT WITH POWER FORD FOR LIGHT TRUCK AND EMERGENCY VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PARTS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **General Services Director** that City Council authorize a vendor contract with Power Ford of Torrance, CA in an amount not to exceed \$40,000 to purchase Ford passenger, light truck and emergency vehicle replacement parts on an "as needed" basis for a period of one (1) year, effective October 20, 2004 through October 19, 2005.

7G. PURCHASE ORDER TO FURNISH CRUSHED AGGREGATE BASE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Acting Public Works Director** that City Council authorize a purchase order with F.S.T. Sand and Gravel, Inc. of Corona, CA in an amount not to exceed amount \$70,000, to furnish crushed aggregate base. The purchase order will be effective October 29, 2004 through October 28, 2005. (B2004-40)

7H. ALLOCATION OF ASSET FORFEITURE FUNDS FOR POLICE MOBILE COMMAND STRUCTURE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Chief of Police** that City Council appropriate and allocate \$150,000 from the Asset Forfeiture account to fund the construction of the Police Mobile Command structure.

7I. SUBSIDY OF RENTAL FEES FOR PUBLIC FORUM HOSTED BY CONGRESSWOMAN JANE HARMAN

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council subsidize the rental fees at the Toyota Meeting Hall in the amount of \$599 for a Public Forum hosted by Congresswoman Jane Harman.

7J. CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF OCEAN AVENUE AND 226TH STREET VEST POCKET PARK

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Parks and Recreation Director** that City Council:

- 1) Award a contract to Fleming Environmental for \$293,625 with a 5% contingency of \$14,681 for the construction of the Ocean Avenue and 226th Street Vest Pocket Park Project (FEAP #335) (B2004-30);
- 2) Authorize \$14,681 for interdepartmental services related to the project; and
- 3) Appropriate \$80,000 available through a grant from the Los Angeles County Park and Open Space District and \$146,294.72 from the Parks and Recreation Open Space Fund to finance the expenditure.

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 7A through 7J. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

9. PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

9A. MODIFICATION OF NOTIFICATION POLICIES FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Community Development Director** that City Council adopt a resolution establishing a new policy that expands the public notification area from 300 feet to 500 feet as measured from the property line, and notifies all homeowner associations of public hearings on all development applications for which the Torrance Municipal Code requires public notification.

Planning Manager Bihn noted that at the October 5, 2004 Council meeting, at which the Council adopted a resolution establishing a temporary moratorium on Zone Changes and General Plan Amendments, staff was directed to bring forward a resolution enlarging the notification area for public hearings and adding homeowners associations to the notification list.

Councilmember Scotto suggested including two officers of homeowner associations on the notification list to ensure that these groups are notified should there be a change in officers.

Councilmember Nowatka noted that the staff report indicates that there would be no expenditure to expand the notification area. Planning Manager Bihn explained that the applicant is charged a notification fee that covers the cost in most cases, and that staff will recommend an increase if it turns out that the fee is not sufficient.

In response to Councilmember Witkowsky's inquiry, City Manager Jackson confirmed that the notification area could be expanded at the Council's request for specific projects.

For the benefit of the public, Councilmember Mauno noted that in addition to the notices that are mailed, a sign is posted on the subject property and a notice is placed in the newspaper that lists the time and place of the public hearing.

Sandi Monda, representing a coalition of homeowners associations, voiced support for the resolution, stating that the expanded notification will allow more residents an opportunity to participate in development issues that affect everyone who lives in Torrance. She submitted the names and addresses of representatives of homeowners associations to be added to the notification list.

Linda Gottshall-Sayed, President of West Torrance Homeowners Association, agreed with Councilmember Scotto that homeowners associations should designate a second contact to be notified of public hearings.

City Attorney Fellows explained that the notification list for public hearings on land use issues is not limited to those who live within a 500-foot radius and representatives of homeowners associations, and that any interested party could be added to the list by contacting the City Clerk.

MOTION: Councilmember Lieu moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto, and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-131

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ESTABLISHING A NEW POLICY TO EXPAND THE PUBLIC NOTIFICATION AREA FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS FROM A 300-FOOT TO 500-FOOT RADIUS AS MEASURED FROM THE PROPERTY LINE OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, AND TO NOTIFY ALL HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATIONS OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS FOR WHICH THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE REQUIRES PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

MOTION: Councilmember McIntyre moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2004-131. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lieu and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

11A. STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY RE CAROLWOOD AND SINGINGWOOD

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Manager** and the **City Attorney** that City Council continue the state of local emergency, proclaimed March 2, 2001 for properties located on Carolwood Lane and Singingwood Drive.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McIntyre and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11B. MODIFICATION OF TPSA/TCEA MOU RE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council:

- 1) Adopt a supplemental Memorandum of Understanding for TPSA adding the classification of Information Technology Specialist; and
- 2) Adopt a supplemental Memorandum of Understanding for TCEA deleting the classification of Information Technology Specialist.

Assistant to the City Manager Keane noted that this action was pursuant to direction from the Employee Relations Committee of the Civil Service Commission.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McIntyre and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-132

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2004-73 SETTING FORTH CHANGES REGARDING HOURS, WAGES, AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY THE TORRANCE CITY EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (TCEA)

MOTION: Councilmember McIntyre moved for the adoption of Planning Commission Resolution No. 2004-132. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scotto and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-133

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2004-34 SETTING FORTH CHANGES REGARDING HOURS, WAGES, AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY THE TORRANCE PROFESSIONAL AND SUPERVISORY ASSOCIATION (TPSA)

MOTION: Councilmember McIntyre moved for the adoption of Planning Commission Resolution No. 2004-133. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lieu and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11C. ADOPTION OF POLICE AND FIRE TRAINEES RESOLUTION

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council adopt a revised Police and Fire Trainees Resolution updating pay and health insurance information effective October 17, 2004.

Assistant to the City Manager Keane noted supplemental material available at the meeting consisting of a revised Resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-134

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE SETTING FORTH HOURS, WAGES, AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR POLICE AND FIRE TRAINEES STARTING OCTOBER 17, 2004, AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 2002-86

MOTION: Councilmember McIntyre moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2004-134. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lieu and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11D. NOVEMBER 2, 2004 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT MEASURES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Ad Hoc Legislative Committee** that City Council take a position on seventeen initiatives on the November 2, 2004 general election ballot.

Councilmember Nowatka, Chair of the Ad Hoc Legislative Committee, reported that the Committee held two meetings to discuss the seventeen initiatives on the November 2, 2004 general election ballot. He noted that the following criteria were used to determine whether the City should take a position: Does the proposed measure affect local control? Does it have a fiscal impact on the City? Does it affect public safety?

Olivia Lopez, City Manager's office, outlined each of the seventeen initiatives; provided a summary of the arguments for and against them; and reviewed the Committee's recommendations.

Following a brief discussion, the Council took the following positions:

	Proposition	Position
1A	Protection of local government revenues	Support unanimous
59	Public records, open meetings	No Position
60	Election right of political parties	No Position
60A	Surplus property	No Position
61	Children's Hospital Projects, grant program	No Position
62	Elections, Primaries	No Position
63	Mental Health Services Expansion, funding. Tax on personal incomes above \$1 million	No Position
	Proposition	Position
64	Limit on private enforcement of unfair business competition laws	No Position
65	Local government funds, revenues. State mandates	No Position
66	Limitations on "three strikes" law. Sex crimes. Punishment.	Oppose unanimous
67	Emergency medical services. Funding. Telephone surcharge	No Position
68	Non-tribal commercial gambling expansion. Tribal gaming compact amendments. Revenues, tax, exemptions	No Position
69	DNA samples. Collection. Database. Funding	Support unanimous
70	Tribal gaming compacts. Exclusive gaming rights. contributions to state	No position
71	Stem cell research. Funding. Bonds	No position
72	Health care coverage requirements	Oppose with one dissension (Lieu)
Measure A	Los Angeles County Public Safety, Emergency Response and Crime Prevention	Oppose: Lieu, McIntyre, Scott, Walker Support: Mauno, Nowatka, Witkowsky

Commenting on his dissenting vote, Councilmember Lieu stated that he supports Proposition 72 because it would expand health care coverage to approximately 1 million more Californians by requiring large and medium-sized businesses to provide healthcare coverage for their employees or pay into a state program to purchase health care coverage.

Ms. Lopez noted that opponents were concerned that Proposition 72 would be a "job killer" because of the added expense to employers.

With regard to Measure A, which would increase Los Angeles County sales tax by ½ percent to fund public safety, local anti-terrorism, and homeland security efforts, Councilmember Lieu stated that he did not support raising the sales tax because it could dampen economic growth in the region and because Torrance would not receive its fair share of the proceeds. He explained funds raised by the ½ cent sales tax will be given to L.A. County and redistributed based on population, therefore, Torrance, which has a large commercial base, could end up putting in as much as \$18 million and only getting back \$8 million.

Councilmember Mauno stated that he shared some of the same concerns but believed it was critical for law enforcement to have adequate funding.

For the benefit of the public, Councilmember Nowatka clarified that the funds Councilmember Lieu referred to would come from revenues generated by the increase in sales tax and not from the City's budget. He indicated that there was no strong feeling either way on this issue among Committee members and noted that the City has resisted taking a position on this in the past.

Councilmember McIntyre pointed out that L.A. County would have the highest sales tax in California should Measure A be approved and that retail customers have the option of choosing another venue in which to shop.

Mayor Walker voiced his opinion that increasing the sales tax made no sense as it would do nothing but drive business out of L.A. County.

Councilmember Nowatka encouraged everyone to study the propositions before voting on them in November.

12. HEARINGS

12A. CUP04-00018: THE TORMED BUILDINGS (DAVID BUXTON)

Recommendation

The **Planning Commission**, by virtue of a tie vote, was unable to reach a consensus for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP04-00018) to allow the establishment of controlled access parking for an existing medical office complex on property located in the Hawthorne Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan, Hospital, Medical, Dental Sub-district at 3400 and 3440 Lomita Boulevard.

The **Community Development Director** recommends that City Council adopt a Resolution approving an appeal of the Planning Commission's tie vote, and approve as conditioned CUP04-00018.

CUP04-00018: THE TORMED BUILDINGS (DAVID BUXTON)

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

Planning Manager Isomoto reviewed the proposal to implement controlled access parking for a medical complex, noting that the first hour of parking would be free, with a maximum charge of \$1 for all day. She noted that the applicant was allowed to implement controlled parking on a trial basis to study its effectiveness.

William Beverly, 3424 Carson Street, representing the applicant, noted that David Buxton provided background information about the history of parking problems at this location, the current status of the parking program, and the proposed improvements in his letter dated September 13, 2004 (of record). He reported that the parking controls that have been put into effect have been working and the applicant would like to go forward with the proposal to make the controls permanent.

Councilmember Mauno questioned whether the applicant would object to a condition requiring any increase in rates to be approved by the Community Development Director.

Mr. Beverly stated that the applicant would like to be able to set their own rates, explaining that the parking controls are not a revenue-generating feature and the fees will only offset the cost. He noted that tenants may purchase an unlimited number of validations, so a doctor would have the option of paying for a patient's parking if the visit exceeds one hour.

Noting that she is a frequent visitor to this medical complex, Councilmember Witkowsky related her observation that the parking controls have greatly improved the parking situation, but expressed concerns about the backup that sometimes occurs at the exit.

David Buxton, representing The Torred Buildings, explained that the backup will be dramatically reduced once the proposal is fully implemented because there will be two exits instead of one for patients and a separate entrance/exit for doctors and staff.

MOTION: Councilmember Scotto moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Indicating he would support the proposal, Councilmember Lieu stated that he believes government intrudes too much on businesses; that he found it odd that the City was involved in how to control this parking lot and setting fees; and that he thought it was entirely appropriate for this business to do what they want on private property.

Councilmember McIntyre voiced her opinion that the proposal was a very workable solution to what is on many days an intolerable situation. She noted that the parking provided exceeds Code requirements.

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved to concur with the Community Development Director's recommendation to approve the appeal and approve the project as conditioned. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-135

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTROLLED ACCESS PARKING FOR AN EXISTING MEDICAL OFFICE COMPLEX ON PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD CORRIDOR SPECIFIC PLAN HOSPITAL MEDICAL DENTAL SUB-DISTRICT AT 3400 AND 3440 LOMITA BOULEVARD

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2004-135. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

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The Council met as the Redevelopment Agency from 8:08 p.m. to 8:10 p.m.

16. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

16A. City Clerk Herbers reminded everyone that October 27 would be the last day to apply for an absent voter ballot for the November 2 election, noting that information on absent voter ballots and early electronic voting could be found on the City's website or www.lavote.net. She explained that ballots must be received no later than 8:00 p.m. on election day and voted Los Angeles County ballots could be dropped off at any polling place in Los Angeles County. She noted that polling locations are listed on the back of the sample ballot and the LA County website www.lavote.net and that the City Clerk's office would provide assistance at 618.2870.

16B. City Clerk Herbers announced that the Northwest Torrance Homeowners Association would hold a panel discussion/debate on Torrance Measure T at North High School Library on Thursday, October 28, at 7:00 p.m., and that Southwood Homeowners Association would hold a meeting on Torrance Measure T on Monday, November 1, at 7:00 p.m. at Anza School.

16C. Councilmember Lieu noted that Ray McCoy and Pastor Milton Herring are two of several Torrance residents serving in the military overseas and wished them good health and safety during their deployment.

16D. Councilmember Lieu encouraged everyone to vote on November 2nd.

16E. Councilmember Mauno congratulated the Torrance High School JROTC unit for placing 3rd in their division at the annual 10K Mud Run competition at Camp Pendleton.

16F. Councilmember Mauno reported that he attended the grand opening of the Panasonic DVD RW production line in Torrance and was very impressed with the facilities. He noted that this is the only such production line outside of Japan and it will produce approximately 6 million disks annually.

16G. Councilmember Mauno noted that he attended a meeting of the L.A. County West Vector Control Board and learned that as of October 2004, there have been 714 people infected with the West Nile virus in California, resulting in 19 deaths. He explained that the virus becomes less prevalent as cold weather approaches, however, it is expected that the state will experience two more years of heavy activity, after which the virus will taper off.

16H. Councilmember McIntyre called attention to Consent Calendar Item 7J, which provides for the construction of vest pocket park at Ocean and 226th Street. She noted that the park is very innovative and will include a tot lot, ADA accessible play equipment, and fragrant plants specifically selected to engage patrons' sense of smell.

16I. Councilmember Nowatka reported that according to a memo from Cable TV Administrator Michael Smith, 1665 Torrance residents are members of the military, out of which 474 are on active duty; 331 are reservists; and 850 are retirees. He commended Lance Corporal Victor Grijalva, son of a former colleague on the police department who died of cancer, for his service to our county, noting that he just returned from a second deployment in Iraq and will be leaving on a 7-month tour of duty in Afghanistan in May.

16J. Councilmember Scotto extended well-wishes to Ron Scanlon on his recent operation.

16K. Councilmember Scotto expressed concerns about a new traffic light on Carson Street, which is causing traffic to back up on Carson Street, interfering with access to Jefferson Middle School. He suggested the possibility of implementing a "Keep Clear" zone, and Community Development Director Gibson agreed to look into the matter.

16L. Councilmember Scotto congratulated Assemblyman George Nakano, who will be receiving an award bestowed by the Emperor of Japan, the Medal of the Rising Sun, on November 6 in recognition of his efforts to foster relationships between Japan and the United States.

16M. Councilmember Scotto announced that the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce would be hosting the State of the Region address by Congresswoman Jane Harman on Tuesday, October 26, at the Torrance Marriott.

16N. Councilmember Scotto noted that some residents have been notified that they will be receiving a bill for three years of trash collection because California Water neglected to bill for trash collection during that time. He urged those involved to contact the City at 618.5923 because the City recognizes that this could cause a hardship for residents and there is a good chance they won't have to pay.

16O. Councilmember Witkowsky reported that she recently had surgery to remove skin cancer caused by years of exposure to the sun and felt very fortunate that she was now cancer free. She urged everyone to use protection when out in the sun and to schedule an annual appointment with a dermatologist.

16P. Mayor Walker announced the Riviera Garden Club tour, featuring a tour of seven private gardens on Saturday, October 23, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. He noted that proceeds from the tour will be used to fund civic beautification projects and to support local environmental organizations.

16Q. Patrick Furey, resident, stated that he and other community members are embarrassed by what has occurred under Orals at recent Council meetings and that he thought the Mayor displayed a lack of respect for Tom Brewer when he spoke at last week's meeting. He urged that the decorum be maintained at meetings and that people be treated with respect.

Mr. Furey reported that some residents are upset about telephone calls they have received about Measure T and have questioned the ethics of those involved. He stated that given the fact that he is Senior Deputy Counsel for L.A. County, a Little League umpire of many years, President of Torrance Education Foundation, a Civil Service Commissioner, and President of Northwest Torrance Homeowners Association, he could probably call people and tell them what position to take on Measure T, however, he believed it would be unethical to do so.

Mr. Furey voiced his opposition to Measure T, citing a June 15 memo from Deborah Wright of the L.A. County Registrar-Recorder's Office to all city clerks, which mentions her recent report to the Board of Supervisors recommending denial of requests by cities to consolidate/coordinate their elections with the County in June or November of even-numbered years and indicating that the first Tuesday of November in odd-numbered years is available to any city wishing to consolidate with County elections. He noted that requests from Sierra Madre and Irwindale to consolidate elections have already been denied, but apparently Torrance carries more weight.

Addressing the argument that Measure T would save money, Mr. Furey suggested that coordinating the City election with the Torrance Unified School District's school board election in November of odd-numbered years would save both TUSD and the City of Torrance 50% of election costs, which in November of 2003 amounted to approximately \$95,600. He stated that if proponents were really interested in saving taxpayers' money, they would have asked to consolidate these elections, thereby saving the City and the school district considerable sums and maintaining the independent elections that Torrance has enjoyed for more than 30 years. He urged a "no" vote on Measure T.

16R. Curtis Reeder, resident, stated that he believed Mayor Walker was the author of Measure T because consolidated elections favor incumbents and that is the only way he can get reelected. He related his understanding that Mayor Walker voted to continue stand-alone elections in 1999 and questioned why his position had changed. He maintained that it takes more money to run for local office in a consolidated election, leaving Torrance at the mercy of developers and unions. He urged a "no" vote on Measure T.

16S. Mayor Walker reported that he received many positive comments about the manner in which discussions under Orals were handled at last week's meeting. He stated that he did not want to get into a debate but felt compelled to correct misinformation. He explained that the 1999 election was simply an election to determine whether the City's election would be consolidated with the State of California

or moved to May for a stand-alone election; that the election was subsequently combined; and that the consolidated election was very successful financially and in terms of voter turnout. He noted that articles in the *Daily Breeze* on that and subsequent elections support this conclusion.

Quoting from the argument in favor of Measure T included in the booklet provided to voters, which was signed by the Mayor and Councilmembers Lieu, Mauno, McIntyre and Witkowsky, Mayor Walker stated the following:

A "yes" vote on Measure T cuts the cost of City elections in half, saving between \$80,000 and \$100,000 each election, doubles voter turnout, and protects our combined election. The *Daily Breeze* when describing the 2000 combined election said, "Torrance scored two big prizes by consolidating its local polling with state and presidential elections. More than twice as many voters turned out and the City's election bill plummeted by more than two-thirds from \$180,000 in 1994 to an estimated \$57,000. The turnout was a whopping 48.5% in Torrance, up from 9.3% in 1998." Residents who normally don't make a separate trip to go to the polls for a stand-alone election got involved in the combined election. Your "yes" vote ensures a combined election for half the cost with twice the voter turnout. Who could possibly be against it? The same people who five years ago wanted to change the election date to May regardless of the cost in order to have a stand-alone, low voter turnout election. Taxpayers rejected the idea and voted to allow a combined election, save money and increase voter participation. In the history of our nation, many have fought and died to gain and protect our right to vote. Government should make it easier for people to vote, not more difficult. Vote "yes," it's good government and the right thing to do.

16T. Dee Hardison, resident and former mayor, maintained that some of the facts presented by Mayor Walker were incorrect. She encouraged everyone to attend the panel discussion/debate sponsored by the Northwest Torrance Homeowners Association on October 28 at North Torrance High, stating that that was the appropriate forum for a debate on Measure T.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

18. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:44 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, October 26, 2004 for the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, with an executive session following the regular meeting.

***Adjourned in Memory of
Mary Elizabeth "Pat" Wright***

Attest:

/s/ Dan Walker

Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ Sue Herbers

Sue Herbers, CMC

City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on January 25, 2005

Sue Sweet
Recording Secretary

City Council
October 19, 2004