

December 5, 2000

**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 6:02 p.m.\* on Tuesday, December 5, 2000, in City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

\*Deputy City Clerk Robinson announced at 5:30 p.m., the stated time of the Torrance City Council and the Torrance Redevelopment Agency meetings, that there was no quorum present and that a quorum was expected at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Councilmembers Cribbs, Messerlian, Nowatka, Scotto, Witkowsky, and Mayor Hardison.

Absent: Councilmember Walker.

Also Present: City Manager Jackson, City Attorney Fellows, Deputy City Clerk Robinson, and other staff representatives.

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Agenda Item 16 was considered out of order at this time.

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 6:02 p.m., pursuant to Government Code Sections 54957.6, 54957 and 54956.8, the Council recessed to closed session to discuss matters listed on the meeting agenda. Councilmember Messerlian left City Hall at 6:40 p.m.

The Council reconvened in Council Chambers at 7:12 p.m. with Councilmember Messerlian absent.

**2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Takubo, Assistant Principal, South High School.

Pastor of Student Ministries Evan Chase, First Baptist Church, gave the invocation for the meeting.

**3. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING/WAIVE FURTHER READING**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Cribbs 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 Nowatka and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison (absent Councilmembers Messerlian and Walker).

**MOTION:** Councilmember Cribbs 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 Nowatka and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison (absent Councilmembers Messerlian and Walker).

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Mayor Hardison asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory Ken Knowles, former Street Services employee; Jim Drinkward, former Building and Safety Senior Inspector; and Police Officer Peggy Ross.

**4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS**

None.

**5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Scotto announced that the Transportation Committee met on Monday, December 4, 2000, and that two additional meetings would be scheduled to discuss possible changes to the Taxicab Ordinance.

Deputy City Clerk Robinson announced that applications were being accepted in the City Clerk's office for appointments to various City Commissions; that applicants must be registered voters in the City of Torrance; and that appointments would be made by the City Council on Tuesday, January 16, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. Complete information is available on the City's website and by calling 618-2870.

**6. COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**6a. PROCLAMATION RE "ADOPT-A-SCHOOL WEEK"**

Mayor Hardison presented a proclamation declaring the week of December 4 through December 8, 2000, as "Adopt-a-School Week" in the City of Torrance to John Schoen and Bill Tokubo, Adopt-a-School co-chairs; and Marcella Low, Vice President of Foundation for Torrance Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Schoen introduced representatives of the following businesses, recognizing them for participating in the program by partnering with Torrance schools: South Bay Bank; Hawthorne Savings; Pacific Bell; Costco; Radium Open Air Market; Time Warner Communications; Hitachi Automotive Products; Torrance Marriott; American Honda Motor Company; TRW Inc.; Daily Breeze; Del Amo Savings Bank; Moog Aircraft; Courtyard by Marriott; Dow Chemical; Ralphs Grocery; Honeywell International; Toyota Motor Sales USA; Virco Manufacturing; First Bank; Exxon Mobil Corp.; Torrance Memorial Hospital; Little Company of Mary Hospital; Sunrider International; and Hilton Torrance.

**6b. PROCLAMATION RE "AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DAY"**

Mayor Hardison presented a proclamation declaring Wednesday, December 13, 2000, as "Automobile Club of Southern California Day" in the City of Torrance to Aprille Isham, District Manager, Auto Club of Southern California Torrance.

**6c. PROCLAMATION RE TORRANCE WOMAN'S CLUB**

Mayor Hardison presented a proclamation commending and congratulating the California Federation of Women's Clubs, and in particular the Torrance Woman's Club, in celebration of their "Century of Service" to Barbara Austin, President, Torrance Woman's Club; and members Shirley Walker, Connie Hodgson, Janet Payne, Judy Burrow, Maria Elena Rendon, Lenore Ulrich, Marlys Judd, Elizabeth Diener, Frankie Menker, Carol Quinn, and Madonna Davenport.

**7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**7a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 14, 2000**

**7b. INVESTMENT REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2000**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Treasurer that City Council accept and file the monthly investment report for the month of October 2000.

**7c. LIBRARY COMMISSION REQUEST TO HOLD MEETINGS AT BRANCHES**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Library Commission that City Council grant permission to convene five regularly scheduled meetings at branches, rather than at Katy Geissert Civic Center Library, in order to encourage greater public participation. Meetings will be held on January 8, 2001 at Walteria Library; March 12, 2001 at El Retiro Library; April 9, 2001 at North Torrance Library; May 14, 2001 at Henderson Library; and June 11, 2001 at Southeast Library.

**7d. PURCHASE ORDER RE DUMP TRUCKS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the General Services Director that City Council authorize the award of a purchase order to Westrux International, Santa Fe Springs, California; in the amount of \$142,026.10 for the purchase of an International 3-axle dump truck and an International 5-yard dump truck and body.

**7e. YOUTH COUNCIL DONATION RE MAKE\*A\*CIRCUS PROGRAM**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Torrance Youth Council that City Council approve a \$6,030.00 donation from the Torrance Youth Council Donation Fund to the Torrance Parks and Recreation Department's Make\*A\*Circus program.

**7f. PURCHASE ORDER RE BIKE RACKS FOR BUSES**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Transit Director that City Council approve a purchase order with Sportsworks to install bicycle racks (FEAP 171) on the Torrance Transit bus fleet at a project cost not to exceed \$52,000.

7g. **PURCHASE ORDER RE GENERATORS FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT AND WATER OPERATIONS DIVISION**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Fire Chief and the Engineering Director that City Council:

- 1) Authorize a purchase order be issued to Western Power Industrial Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$137,306.01 for the purchase and installation of two generators – one 150KW generator at Station 1 to be used by Fire Department and another 250KW generator at Station 4, which will be used by both Water Operations Division of Engineering Department and Fire Department; and
  - 2) Appropriate \$25,106.37 from the Water Fund Balance to pay for the additional cost associated with the purchase of the 250KW generator at Station 4.
- Ref: Bid B2000-32

7h. **RENEWAL OF DELINQUENCY PREVENTION PROGRAM CONTRACT**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Chief of Police that City Council accept and endorse the County of Los Angeles Delinquency Prevention Program contract in the amount of \$29,069.66 so that the needed assistance to our children can continue.  
Ref: Contract C2000-257

7i. **PURCHASE ORDER RE TWO REPLACEMENT FIRE VEHICLES**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the General Services Director and the Fire Chief that City Council authorize a purchase order be issued in the amount of \$47,099.58 to Bob Wondries Ford of Alhambra, California, for the purchase of two (2) Ford Interceptors. This purchase price does not include any future equipment or installation costs necessary to complete the fire vehicle packages.  
Ref: Bid B2000-34

**MOTION:** Councilmember Cribbs moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 7a through 7i. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmembers Messerlian and Walker).

11. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

11a. **MODIFICATION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS RESOLUTION**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council adopt a Resolution for Elected Officials realigning the pay plan for the City Treasurer.

Assistant to the City Manager Keane presented the staff report (per written material of record), noting a change in the format of the pay grid.

## RESOLUTION NO. 2000-140

### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2000-131 GOVERNING COMPENSATION PROVISIONS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS

**MOTION:** Councilmember Witkowsky moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2000-140. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmembers Messerlian and Walker).

#### 11b. SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY PURCHASE OF HYBRID ELECTRIC BUSES

##### Recommendation

Recommendation of the Transit Director that City Council approve an "Assignment of Contract" between the City of Torrance and the Foothill Transit Zone for the acquisition of two (2) hybrid electric buses for a cost not to exceed \$1,335,917 of highly restrictive federal Congestion Management Air Quality (CMAQ) funds and authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest said agreement.

Mayor Hardison noted supplemental material available at the meeting.

Transit Director Whittle reported that staff has done extensive research on the various engine, fuel and propulsion systems that are becoming available to reduce air emissions and believes that these hybrid electric buses have high potential and low risk for the future.

Commenting on changing South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) regulations, Mayor Hardison voiced concerns that the City might be limiting its options. Transit Director Whittle explained that after this year's rather large purchase of buses, there will be no need to purchase buses until FY 2004, when the new air quality emission standards will be in place, and because this transaction requires no major capital commitment for alternative fuel infrastructure, the City will be keeping all options open.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Cribbs moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmembers Messerlian and Walker).

#### 11c. FY 2000-01 FIRST QUARTER BUDGET REVIEW

##### Recommendation

Recommendation of the Finance and Governmental Operations Committee that City Council concur with the following recommendations:

- 1) Accept and file period three (1st quarter 2000-01) financial report;
- 2) Approve the allocation for fiscal year 1999-00 carryover in the amount of \$7,338,149 as presented in the report;
- 3) Approve program modifications for the Finance Department, the General Services Department, the Parks and Recreation Department, and the Transit Department.

Assistant Finance Director Flewellyn presented the Committee report (per written material of record). He advised that General Fund revenues exceeded budgeted expectations for FY 1999-2000 and that the excess revenues, combined with under-budget expenditures, resulted in a net carryover of \$7,338,149. He outlined the Committee's recommendation for the allocation of the carryover and briefly discussed the proposed program modifications for the Finance Department, the General Services Department, the Parks and Recreation Department, and the Transit Department. He noted that revenues and expenditures for the first quarter of FY 2000-01 were within budget projections.

Noting that it has been several years since revenues have exceeded expectations, Mayor Hardison commented that she thought the City was being prudent by reserving the carryover for items that do not require additional funding in future years.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Cribbs moved to concur with the Committee recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmembers Messerlian and Walker).

**11d. PARTIAL RENOVATION OF THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Finance Director that City Council appropriate \$40,000 from unallocated 1999-2000 year-end carryover for the renovation of the Finance Department.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Cribbs moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmembers Messerlian and Walker).

**12. HEARINGS**

**12a. GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT TO UPDATE THE HOUSING ELEMENT**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Planning Director and the Planning Commission that City Council accept public testimony, review and comment, and endorse as to content a Negative Declaration and a General Plan Amendment to update the Housing Element of the Torrance General Plan for the planning period 1998-2005.

Mayor Hardison announced that this was the time and place for a public hearing on this matter. Deputy City Clerk Robinson confirmed that the hearing had been properly advertised.

In a slide presentation, Planning Manager Tate provided background information regarding the purpose of the Housing Element; noted that an update of the Housing Element is required to be completed by the end of this year; and advised that this hearing was being conducted in order to solicit input from the City Council and the public. She reported that the draft Housing Element was submitted to the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for review in November and that their suggested revisions, along with any modifications identified in the course

of this hearing, will be incorporated into the final draft, which will be returned to the City Council for adoption in January at a noticed public hearing. She noted supplemental material available at the meeting clarifying inconsistencies in some of the data presented in the Housing Element.

Mayor Hardison suggested that tables listing census data as a source of information specify that "1990" census data was used in order to avoid confusion in future years.

Mayor Hardison stated that she was pleased that Torrance continues to try to provide a range of housing options, although high land prices which are common to coastal communities throughout the region, limit the availability of low- and moderate-income housing, and commented on the importance of maintaining the existing housing stock and providing assistance to residents who do not have the means to repair their homes.

Councilwoman Cribbs thanked staff for responding to her written questions.

In response to Councilmember Witkowsky, Planning Manager Tate provided clarification of Table 25: Future Construction Need, explaining that the percentage of units needed per income category are assigned by Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) as target numbers based on a regional housing needs assessment and do not necessarily reflect existing needs.

Mayor Hardison invited public comment on the Housing Element.

Mr. Russ Nolte, 5209 Paseo de Pablo, voiced concerns about the deficiency of affordable senior housing.

Mr. Frank Wolf, 2409 W. 180<sup>th</sup> Place, urged the Council to implement the Housing Team Program as proposed in the 1992 Housing Element in order to identify suitable sites for senior housing and increase the availability of affordable senior housing.

Mayor Hardison related her understanding that staff is doing everything possible to encourage the development of affordable senior housing in the City, given the limited resources available, and stated that she was not convinced that having a formalized committee would improve the situation.

(Councilman Messerlian returned to Council Chambers at 8:22 p.m.)

Mr. Pat Brady, 3235 W. 188<sup>th</sup> Street, stated that he believes access is the most important issue facing disabled residents; related his understanding that 24 percent of Torrance residents have special needs; and suggested that the City require that at least 24 percent of new construction be built with wheelchair access for the disabled.

Mayor Hardison stated that she would need more information before she could support a policy such as the one proposed by Mr. Brady, pointing out that one could be disabled without necessarily being confined to a wheelchair.

Councilman Messerlian suggested including a policy statement that the City shall encourage future housing developments to be handicapped accessible, or words to that effect, rather than mandating specific percentages.

Ms. Irene Griffith, 3416 W. 229<sup>th</sup> Street, commended Mayor Hardison for her efforts to encourage more senior housing in the City, but voiced concerns that future mayors might not place the same emphasis on this issue and suggested that having a Housing Team would help keep this issue alive. She expressed the hope that communication would be improved between the Planning Department and the Commission on Aging so that information regarding future senior housing projects could be more readily shared. She questioned whether “granny flats” are permissible in R-2 zoned areas.

Planning Manager Tate advised that the City has an ordinance in place which allows families to provide separate living quarters for elderly relatives in single-family homes, even in R-1 zones, as long as certain requirements are met. Mayor Hardison suggested that this information be shared with the Commission on Aging.

Mr. Kurt Nelson, JCC Homes, 3480 Torrance Boulevard, stated that he sympathized with elderly residents who are being priced out of the market and noted that a recent Supreme Court decision may again make it feasible to build attached condominium units which are a little more affordable than detached units. He stated that while he had no answers to the senior housing problem, he would be happy to participate if a Housing Team is formed.

Dr. John Anagnost, 4022 W. 242<sup>nd</sup> Street, urged the Council to encourage the development of single-family homes instead of the high-density condominiums that are springing up on vacant parcels throughout the City and detracting from the quality of life.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Messerlian moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Walker).

Councilmember Witkowsky related her understanding that the City provides assistance to seniors and people with disabilities who need to add devices, such as grab bars and railings, to their homes or apartments to help them cope with physical limitations. Planning Manager Tate advised that that City’s Home Improvement Program provides this type of service for no fee to those who meet certain requirements and noted that Title 24, adopted by the State of California, requires that all new rental housing be constructed for handicapped accessibility.

Councilwoman Cribbs stated that she thought it was important for people manning telephone lines at Focal Point to be aware of all the assistance programs available so they can provide that information when people call. She recommended that that Planning Department set up regular briefings with the Commission on Aging. She indicated that she favored encouraging access for the handicapped wherever possible, but would be reluctant to mandate it for single-family or multi-unit housing, except for structures specifically built for that purpose. She noted that one of the limitations of the census data is that people with mobility and self-care limitations are listed in a single category with no breakdown of their specific needs. She commented that she was very concerned about maintaining the integrity of single-family neighborhoods, but also



recognized the need to provide opportunities for mixed use and the addition of units on underutilized sites. She noted that high rents are a problem for young families, as well as seniors, who wish to live in the City. She commended staff for a very informative report and thanked the Commission on Aging for their input.

In response to Mayor Hardison's inquiry, Planning Associate Gardea advised that HCI Gardens, a federally funded senior housing development, indicated to him that they plan to renew their HUD contract when it expires in 2002.

Mayor Hardison requested that Planning Department staff explore ways of keeping the lines of communication open with the Commission on Aging. She suggested that it might be helpful if Focal Point would keep a more detailed record of the inquiries they receive about housing.

Mayor Hardison stated that she was aware of some concerns about the City's interpretation of Section 8 guidelines, and Planning Director Gibson advised that that issue would be addressed in a future item on the Section 8 program, which will include an administrative plan.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Messerlian moved to endorse as to content a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Walker).

**MOTION:** Councilmember Messerlian moved endorse as to content a General Plan Amendment to update the Housing Element of the Torrance General Plan, incorporating suggestions and comments from this hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Walker).

**12b. PRE00-00027: ERIK HIGGINS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Planning Commission and Planning Director that City Council deny the appeal and approve as conditioned a Precise Plan of Development to allow first story and lower level additions (including a semi-subterranean garage) to an existing one story single family residence on property located in the Hillside Overlay District in the R-1 zone at 203 Via Pasqual.  
PRE00-00027: ERICK HIGGINS

Mayor Hardison announced that this was the time and place for a hearing on the matter. Deputy City Clerk Robinson confirmed that the meeting was properly advertised.

Planning Manager Isomoto presented the staff report (per written material of record).

Responding to questions from Councilmembers about the accuracy of the silhouette, Planning Manager Isomoto confirmed that the current silhouette accurately represents the plans. She noted that, included in the conditions of approval, there is a requirement that the height of the structure be certified, both at the highest point and at the ridgeline of the living room over the garage, prior to the installation of roofing.

Noting that the driveway will be located on a hill and a curve, Councilmember Cribbs asked if safety factors were considered. Planning Manager Isomoto advised that the driveway will be located as far away from the corner as possible, adjacent to the existing driveway of the house to the west, and that staff did not believe it would be a problem.

Councilmember Messerlian noted a correction to Condition No. 9, requiring the garage to be equipped with an electric roll-up garage door.

Mr. James Connolly, 206 Via Pasqual, appellant, stated that, over the years, he has lost portions of his view due to remodels in the area and that he did not want to lose any more. He further stated that, while he appreciated Mr. Higgins efforts to minimize the impact, he felt that more could be done. He noted that Mr. Higgins recently trimmed trees on his property, which greatly improved the view. With regard to the silhouette, he explained that he did not believe the east side of the silhouette matches the plans and that he was concerned because the silhouette already had to be corrected once.

Councilmember Nowatka asked Mr. Connolly to elaborate on what alterations he believed could be made in order to preserve his view. Mr. Connolly suggested changing the pitch of the roof or dropping the semi-subterranean garage further into the ground.

In response to Councilmember Witkowsky's inquiry, Planning Manager Isomoto confirmed that some reduction in the height of the addition could be achieved by changing the pitch of the roof.

Responding to the Councilmember Messerlian's inquiry, Building and Safety Director Jim Isomoto discussed the ramifications of lowering the garage, noting that the second-level floor of the addition would not match with the second level of the balance of the house, necessitating a step-down, and commented on potential drainage problems.

Mr. Erik Higgins, 203 Via Pasqual, proponent, explained that, in designing the addition, he paid very careful attention to preserving view corridors and maintaining compatibility with surrounding homes. He noted that the plans call for a shallow pitched roof, minimum ceiling heights, and less than half the Floor Area Ratio allowed by Code. He stated that when he found out there was an error in the silhouette, he immediately corrected it, had it re-certified, and notified neighbors, and that he has no intention of building anything other than what is shown on the plans.

Mayor Hardison commented that there appeared to be some confusion among neighbors about the boards on the roof that extend above the silhouette, and Mr. Higgins indicated that the boards are braces for the silhouette.

Mayor Hardison questioned whether any trees would be removed during construction. Mr. Higgins stated that a large City tree in the area of the new driveway would have to be removed and that he believed this will afford the Connollys a much better view than the one they are losing along the top his garage. He reported that he previously removed a large olive tree at Mr. Connolly's request and indicated that he would continue to trim the trees every October.

Mayor Hardison asked about the possibility of imposing a condition regarding the trimming of trees. Deputy City Attorney Whitham advised that, while conditions requiring the maintenance of trees can be legally imposed, they are very difficult to enforce because applicants and their neighbors frequently have differing views as to what maintenance means.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Nowatka moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Walker).

**MOTION:** Councilmember Nowatka moved to deny the appeal and to approve PRE00-00027 with the following modification: Condition No. 9: That the garage shall be equipped with an electric roll-up garage door. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and discussion briefly continued.

Mayor Hardison indicated that she would support the motion because she saw no way to lower the garage without creating a sunken living room, which could be a problem with small children in the home. She stated that she understood the Connollys' concern about the chipping away of their view and that she hoped Mr. Higgins would be true to his word and trim the trees on a regular basis.

The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Walker).

#### **RESOLUTION 2000-141**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING A PRECISE PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT AS PROVIDED FOR IN DIVISION 9, CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 41 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALLOW THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TWO-STORY SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE WITH A SEMI-SUBTERRANEAN GARAGE ON PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE HILLSIDE OVERLAY DISTRICT IN THE R-1 ZONE AT 203 VIA PASQUAL**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Messerlian moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2000-141 as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Walker).

#### **14. 2<sup>ND</sup> READING ORDINANCES**

##### **14a. SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 3489**

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 3489**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 18 OF CHAPTER 3 OF DIVISION 1 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO APPOINTMENT AND TERMS OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON AGING**

**MOTION:** Councilmember Messerlian moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3489. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Walker).

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The Redevelopment Agency met from 9:59 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

## **15. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

City Manager Jackson announced that the monthly test of the Community Alert Sirens will be conducted, Wednesday, December 6, 2000 at 11:30 a.m. and that one-minute "chimes" will precede and follow a two-minute testing "wail." He added that it is important to note that the "wail" tone carries a greater distance and may be heard in areas beyond the reach of the "chime."

Deputy City Clerk Susan Robinson announced that acrylics of Torrance Artist Guild Member Candy Paula are on display in the City Clerk's office for the month of December as a continuing Art on View project.

Councilmember Cribbs announced Torrance Little League sign-ups.

Councilmember Cribbs also reported on a meeting held by Senator Bowen that she and Councilmember Witkowsky attended. The topics discussed were: energy costs and conservation; regulation of the generation of electricity; AB970 funds; and LED traffic signals. She requested that staff look into the feasibility of if LED traffic signals and the possibility of offering energy conservation information to homeowners' groups.

City Manager Jackson noted that Southern California Edison requested that people delay turning on their Christmas lights until after 7:00 p.m. because of energy shortages.

Noting that streets in the Hollywood Riviera area are in the process of being slurry sealed, Councilmember Messerlian reported that Vista Montana, between Newton Street and Paseo de las Tortugas, is in very poor condition and that he was not sure slurry sealing it would be sufficient. City Manager Jackson indicated that he would relay that information to Street Department staff.

Councilmember Witkowsky reported that she will be attending the National League of Cities 2000 Congress of Cities in Boston and looked forward to bringing back valuable information to the City.

## **16. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 10:09 p.m., the Council adjourned to closed session to continue consideration of items listed on the agenda. The Council reconvened in open session at 11:26 p.m. No formal action was taken on any matter considered in closed session.

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 11:27 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, December 12, 2000, at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

*Adjourned in memory of  
Ken Knowles, Jim Drinkward and Peggy Ross*