

February 11, 1997

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance City Council convened in an adjourned regular meeting on Tuesday, February 11, 1997, at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Cribbs, Lee, Messerlian, Nakano, O'Donnell, Walker and Mayor Hardison.

Absent: None.

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

Agenda Item No. 12a was considered out of order at this time.

12. **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

12a. **HEARING RE APPEAL OF DISMISSAL OF DOROTHY C. YOUNG**

Recommendation

Dorothy C. Young was dismissed from her position with the Fleet Services Department for misconduct. The Civil Service Commission, following a hearing, sustained the dismissal imposed by the City Manager. Ms. Young has appealed that decision to the City Council. The Civil Service Administrator recommends this appeal be heard.

Mayor Hardison read aloud a prepared statement regarding the appeal of Dorothy C. Young.

Mr. David Larsen, Rutan & Tucker Attorneys at Law, 611 Anton Boulevard, Fourteenth Floor, Costa Mesa, 92626-1998, came forward on behalf of the Fleet Services Department and the City to answer any questions the Council might have.

City Attorney Fellows advised the Council on how to proceed since the appellant was not present. He explained that the appeal should basically be considered on the basis of the written record and that the purpose of appearances this evening was for oral argument to supplement the record. He suggested that Mr. Larsen be asked if he would like to make a presentation and, if not, the matter should be taken under submission.

City Council
February 11, 1997

Mr. Larsen recommended waiving his presentation in that the burden of proof rests with the appellant. He noted written material he previously submitted to the Council.

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At 6:15 P.M. the Council adjourned to closed session to deliberate this matter and returned to Council Chambers at 6:23 P.M.

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Mayor Hardison announced that, during closed session, the Council unanimously denied the appeal of Dorothy C. Young, thereby upholding the dismissal. She read aloud a prepared statement advising that, pursuant to California Government Code Sections 54957, 54956.9(a), 54956.9(c) and 54956.8, a closed session was held to confer with the City's Negotiator and the City Attorney on the agenda items listed under 20.a.(1) "Conference with City Manager," 20.a.(2) "Conference with Legal Counsel - Pending Litigation," 20.a.(3) "Conference with Legal Counsel - Potential Litigation" and 20.a.(4) "Real Property - Conference with Real Property Negotiator."

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Agenda Item No. 20 was considered out of order at this time.

20. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 6:25 P.M., the Council returned to closed session according to the information read aloud above by Mayor Hardison.

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At 7:10 P.M., the Council returned to Council Chambers and the meeting reconvened in regular agenda order.

2. **FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION**

Boy Scout Troop No. 310, Bruce Maass, Scoutmaster, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reverend George Johnson, Cathedral of Life & Police Chaplain, gave the invocation for the meeting.

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Mayor Hardison announced the passing of Ms. Barbara Botiller, a City of Torrance employee for the past 13 years. She asked that the meeting be adjourned in Ms. Botiller's memory.

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

MOTION: Councilmember Lee 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 Cribbs and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

MOTION: Councilmember Lee moved that, after the City Clerk reads number and title to any resolution or ordinance on the agenda for this meeting, the further

City Council
February 11, 1997

reading thereof 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 Cribbs and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

4. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS**

None.

5. **COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee

Monday, February 10, 1997, 5:30 P.M., Third Floor Assembly Room

Subject: Natural History Center

Councilmember Messerlian asked staff to organize a meeting of the Transportation Committee on Monday, February 24, 1997, 5:30 P.M., to discuss the relinquishment of Artesia Boulevard from Cal Trans to the State.

Chairman Lee announced an upcoming meeting of the Finance and Governmental Operations Committee on Wednesday, March 5, 1997, to discuss the Mid-Year Budget Review.

City Clerk Herbers noted the art work by local artists displayed in the City Clerk's Office each month. She invited the public to view the paintings displayed this month by Judith Hurst Baer, recipient of the Torrance 1996 Cultural Arts Commission's Excellence in the Arts Award for visual arts.

6. **COMMUNITY MATTERS**

6a. **RESOLUTION NO. 97-14 RE DAVID G. MARSDEN**

City Clerk Herbers read aloud the title of Resolution No. 97-14.

MOTION: Councilmember Nakano moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 97-14. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

The Council presented Resolution No. 97-14 and a retirement plaque to Police Lieutenant David G. Marsden for his 32 years of dedicated service to the City of Torrance.

Police Chief DeLadurantey highly commended the efforts of Lieutenant Marsden.

Lieutenant Marsden expressed his deep appreciation for his employment with the City.

RESOLUTION NO. 97-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
HONORING POLICE LIEUTENANT DAVID G. MARSDEN FOR HIS

City Council
February 11, 1997

DEDICATION, PROFESSIONALISM, AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF TORRANCE

6b. **RESOLUTION NO. 97-19 RE "CALIFORNIA FIRST" LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**

City Clerk Herbers read aloud the title of Resolution No. 97-19.

MOTION: Councilmember Nakano moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 97-19. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 97-19

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ENCOURAGING ALL OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE "CALIFORNIA FIRST" LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT ON APRIL 11, 1997, AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

7a. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 21, 1997**

7b. **LICENSE AGREEMENT RE UNDERGROUND COMMUNICATION CONDUIT**

Recommendation

It is the recommendation of the Engineering Director that the City Council authorize the Mayor and the City Clerk to execute and attest to a License Agreement with Phenomenex for installation of an underground communication conduit located in 205th Street and Amapola Avenue.

MOTION: Councilmember O'Donnell moved to approve the Consent Calendar as written. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

With regard to Agenda Item No. 7b, Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine advised that, through the efforts of the Engineering Department, this license agreement with Phenomenex for installation of an underground communication conduit will allow businesses in Torrance to grow.

Mayor Hardison related her receipt of a letter commending the quick responses of the Engineering Department and she thanked Engineering Director Burt for his efforts.

9. **TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC WORKS**

9a. **RESOLUTION NO. 97-20 RE VACATING OF SANITARY SEWER EASEMENTS**

Recommendation

City Council
February 11, 1997

It is the recommendation of the Engineering Director that the City Council approve and adopt the resolution summarily vacating two existing sanitary sewer easements located on private property between Carson Street and 214th Street and west of Western Avenue.

Engineering Director Burt provided an overview of this item.

City Clerk Herbers read aloud the title of Resolution No. 97-20.

MOTION: Councilmember Nakano moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 97-20. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 97-20

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ORDERING THE SUMMARY VACATION OF THE EXISTING SEWER EASEMENTS IN LOTS 15, 20 AND 21 OF TRACT NO. 44948

11. **PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS**

RESOLUTION NO. 97-21 RE MIS 96-0152 - JAMES DAHL

Recommendation

The Planning Director recommends that the City Council adopt a Resolution denying the appeal and denying Minor Hillside Exemption for the enlargement of a rear-yard deck on property located in the Hillside Overlay District in the R-1: Single-Family Residential zone at 4305 Paseo de las Tortugas.

City Clerk Herbers read aloud the title of Resolution No. 97-21.

MOTION: Councilmember Nakano moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 97-21. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote, , with Councilmember Lee abstaining due to the fact that he developed a business relationship with the appellant between the time of approval and this date.

RESOLUTION NO. 97-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, DENYING THE APPEAL AND DENYING A MINOR HILLSIDE EXEMPTION AS PROVIDED FOR IN DIVISION 9, CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 41 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALLOW AN EXTENSION OF AN EXISTING DECK ON PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE R-1 ZONE IN HILLSIDE

City Council
February 11, 1997

OVERLAY DISTRICT AT 4305 PASEO DE LAS TORTUGAS

12. **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

Considered earlier in the meeting (see page 1).

13. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

13a. **MEMBERSHIP RE SOUTH BAY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP**

Recommendation

It is recommended by Mayor Hardison that the City Council approve the City of Torrance entering into membership with the South Bay Economic Development Partnership.

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian moved to concur with the staff recommendation to enter into membership with the South Bay Economic Development Partnership. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

13b. **BUDGET FORMATTING AND PROCESS FOR FY 1997-1999**

Recommendation

The City Manager and the Finance Director recommend that the Council approve in concept the revised format for the City's operating budget document and provide direction for the receiving of public input for the Fiscal Year 1997-1999 budget process.

Finance Director Tsao gave a presentation on this item per written material of record distributed at the meeting.

In answer to questions from the Council, staff supplied clarification regarding the information included in the Street Department Matrix on pages 53 and 54 of the document provided for the Council's review and the budgeted staff positions.

Councilmember Cribbs suggested that actual and not budgeted positions be utilized; that an executive summary be included; and that composite payrolls, how they are developed and what they mean, should be explained. She related her continued objection to indirect charges and contended that much more concise information on what they are and how they are developed should be provided. Councilmember Cribbs observed that some of the department goals have been under development for quite some time and she questioned if some of the goals would have a cost benefit. She stated her appreciation of the information provided and commended staff's efforts.

Councilmember O'Donnell recommended that the Street Department matrix on pages 53 and 54 of the document be revised for clarity. She emphasized the importance of the public being able to understand the matrix, particularly since Street Department issues are of utmost importance to the community.

Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine advised that an explanation on how to read the graph would be provided.

City Manager Jackson commented on the difficulty of integrating the Strategic Plan into the overall budget. He noted that the Street Department matrix was the first attempt at doing so and that it could be excluded from the budget and kept as a separate document.

Mayor Hardison requested that the Street Department matrix be returned for the Council's review at a later date. She related her appreciation of the glossary; voiced her agreement with an executive summary; and mentioned that the matrix might not be user friendly and might not have a place in the document. Mayor Hardison suggested that wording be added to show the goals which remain the same, a break out of property taxes before and after Proposition 13, and what the average citizen pays in property taxes.

Councilmember Messerlian related his appreciation of staff's efforts in developing the new budget format. He suggested a mechanism to measure the department against the budget and supported the round table discussions; however, Councilmember Messerlian voiced concern that they would be by invitation and he recommended that those not invited be given the same type of opportunity to provide input.

Councilmember Lee stated his support for the new budget format. He observed that an executive summary would be a user-friendly document and expressed his understanding that the round table process would be more inclusive and would include more focused group discussions.

Councilmember Nakano thanked staff for including more charts and graphs in the new budget format. He suggested that portions of the Street Department matrix be shaded for clarity purposes.

There being no input from the public, the following motion was offered.

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian moved to concur with the staff recommendation to approve the revised budget format in concept. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lee and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

Mayor Hardison noted that the public could be invited to participate in the round table discussions via Channel 22 and homeowner association newsletters.

14. **HEARINGS**

14a. **VAR NO. 96-0001 AND CUP 96-0037 - KILLIAN AND GREENE**

Recommendation

The Planning Commission and the Planning Director recommend that the City Council (1) approve Variance 96-0001 to renew an expired

City Council
February 11, 1997

variance and allow the continued operation of an existing shopping center given a certain mix of uses with less than code-required parking; and (2) deny the appeal and approve Conditional Use Permit 96-0037 to allow the operation of a full-service restaurant with on-premise service of alcoholic beverages within this shopping center on property located in the C-2, General Commercial District at 3914-48 Sepulveda Boulevard.

Mayor Hardison read aloud a prepared statement for this item into the record.

Senior Principal Planner Gibson summarized the staff report.

The Council discussed the difficulty of entering/exiting the parking lot, the need to require improvements to the landscaping, and the truck in the parking lot displaying a large "Beer and Wine" sign.

Senior Principal Planner Gibson advised that a building permit would not be issued until such time as landscaping plans are submitted to and approved by the Building Department and implemented prior to occupancy. He further advised that staff will follow up with the Environmental Division regarding the truck in the parking lot.

Councilmember Messerlian related his impression that the problem at the location might not center around parking problems, but around the City having granted a variance for the building. He commented on the difficulties created by granting variances in this type of situation and suggested that either such developments be denied or the life of the variances be extended.

Senior Principal Planner Gibson advised that the existing buildings and the topography prohibit any opportunities to provide additional parking in and around the site.

There being no input from the public, the following motion was offered.

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

City Clerk Herbers read aloud Resolution No. 97-22.

MOTION: Councilmember Nakano moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 97-22. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 97-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, GRANTING A VARIANCE FROM THE PROVISIONS OF DIVISION 9 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALLOW LESS THAN CODE REQUIRED PARKING, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE RETENTION OF A RESTAURANT IN AN EXISTING RETAIL CENTER ON PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE C-2 ZONE AT 3914-3948 SEPULVEDA BOULEVARD

City Council
February 11, 1997

City Clerk Herbers read aloud Resolution No. 97-23.

MOTION: Councilmember Nakano moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 97-23. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 97-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, DENYING THE APPEAL AND APPROVING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW THE OPERATION OF A FULL-SERVICE RESTAURANT WITH ON-PREMISE SERVICE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN AN EXISTING SHOPPING CENTER ON PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE C-2 ZONE AT 3914-3948 SEPULVEDA BOULEVARD

Mayor Hardison requested that, in the future, the Council discuss options with regard to variances, whether there are alternatives to continuing them, how many there are, etc.

14b. **APPEAL RE PRE 96-0019: TOMARO ARCHITECTURE**

Recommendation

It is recommended by the Planning Commission and the Planning Director that the City Council deny an appeal of a Planning Commission project approval and allow the construction of a new two-story residence on vacant property located in the Hillside Overlay District in the R-1 zone at 136 Via Los Miradores.

A prepared statement pertaining to this item was read aloud by Mayor Hardison.

With the aid of slides showing views of the silhouette from surrounding residences, Senior Principal Planner Gibson provided the staff report. He explained that the Planning Commission's approval of this request was appealed by four neighboring property owners for reasons of incompatibility and potential impact on view, light and air and privacy, with the focus of concern being over the height of the project. Mr. Gibson noted a Planning Commission conditional of approval requiring that the center of portion of the roof shall be lowered an additional six inches.

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At 8:48 P.M., Councilmember O'Donnell departed Council Chambers.

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In answer to questions from the Council, Building & Safety Director Isomoto advised that, should the project be pushed forward, the driveway slope would increase and that it is currently at a slope of 20%, which is the maximum allowed according to City of Torrance requirements. He offered input regarding the many retaining walls which would be needed to sustain a single-story structure on this property.

City Council
February 11, 1997

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Councilmember O'Donnell returned to Council Chambers at 8:50 P.M.

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Senior Principal Planner Gibson responded to inquiries from the Council with regard to the slope at 140 Via Los Miradores. He related staff's understanding of comments previously made by the appellant that there would be significant constructional constraints should the City require the project to be lowered an additional two feet and indicated that the floor area ratio of the project would be .54.

Mr. Louie Tomaro, Project Architect, distributed a survey of roof heights on Via Los Miradores to the Council. He noted efforts to establish a project height which would be in compliance with the neighborhood. He discussed that anything constructed on the vacant lot would affect neighboring property owners; that it would not be possible to lower the height further and have a tile roof with a 3:12 pitch; that an effort was made to minimize the flat portion of the roof due to leaking possibilities; that the project would be approximately 400 square feet less than the maximum allowed on the property; that both chimneys would be at the same height and two feet above any roof line within ten feet; that an effort was made to maintain a safe driveway; and that an effort will be made to work with neighboring property owners to the south with regard to window treatments and potential impact on privacy.

Mr. Tomaro answered questions from the Council concerning the chimneys as depicted on the plans. He confirmed that the chimneys would be no higher than that allowed by the Code. Mr. Tomaro explained how the height of the project would compare to that of various existing residences in the area.

Mayor Hardison opened the public hearing.

Ms. Sue Boehmler, 143 Via Los Miradores, mentioned that the appellant has made no attempt to contact her to discuss the project. She recalled that the project architect previously said the height of the project could be additionally reduced. Ms. Boehmler explained that she does not object to the project, but she stated her concern over the potential impact on views from surrounding residences. She noted that many of the homes measured in the survey provided by Mr. Tomaro earlier in this discussion were built prior to the Hillside Ordinance and height restrictions.

Ms. Jan Baker, 435 Via Linda Vista Drive, Redondo Beach, 90277, voiced her concern over the potential impact of the project on her privacy. She requested a requirement that vegetation shall be planted between her property and the appellant's to reduce impacts on privacy.

Mr. Kirt Strawn, 135 Via Los Miradores, explained that houses to the south of the project were built to their heights for a reason. He distributed photographs to substantiate his opinions and recalled that the project architect previously said the project height could be further lowered, but a difficult framing process would be involved. Mr. Strawn asked that the chimneys not be allowed above the roof line in that they would impact his view of the ocean. He voiced concern that the project would impact the value of his property and that the builder would not occupy the residence.

Ms. Janet McKie, 439 Via Linda Vista, stated her concern that a 3,800 square foot project would be allowed on this property. She said that she would feel differently if a family was building the project.

Mr. Tomaro came forward to address the topic of further lowering the height of the project. He explained that the framing would be much more involved should the height be lowered; that the property owners would like to minimize the flat roof as much as possible; that the project would have a one-story appearance from the front and two stories from the back; that a single-story project would take up the same amount of lot area; and that the property owner would prefer wood-burning fireplaces.

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

Councilmember Walker expressed his support for the project as recommended by the Planning Commission. He commented on the difficulty of constructing a home on a vacant lot in a sensitive area such as the Hillside Overlay District and related his viewpoint that it would not be appropriate to eliminate the fireplaces; that the home would be a positive addition to the neighborhood; that reducing the height an additional five to six inches would not have any impact other than costing more; and that there needs to be cooperation between the owner of the subject property and neighboring residents as to the type of vegetation to be planted.

Councilmember Messerlian related his concern that the project was almost designed by the Planning Commission. Expressing his concern over the driveway slope, the windows and the issue of impact on the privacy of neighboring residents, the roof line and the chimneys, Councilmember Messerlian stated his preference that the project be redesigned.

Councilmember Nakano suggested that the proposed chimney on the right side of the project be lowered to reduce potential impact on views. He pointed out that opaque windows are sometimes used to help minimize impact on privacy and recommended that, should the project be redesigned, consideration be given to lowering the chimneys and mitigating potential impact on privacy at 140 Via Los Miradores.

Councilmember Lee explained that he could support the height and size of the project as proposed and that he would be willing to approve it with a modification that the family room chimney shall be eliminated.

Mayor Hardison commented on the difficulty of this having been a vacant lot, especially in the Hillside Overlay District. She commented that she did not see the concerns about impact on ocean views; observed that, with the possible exception of the family room fireplace, the project would be below any point of ocean views; with regard to setting a precedent, she advised that each case is considered on its own merits; and indicated that she could have supported a further lowering of the height approximately four inches, but roof leakage problems might arise with a flat roof.

MOTION: Councilmember Lee moved for the denial of the appeal of PRE 96-0019, thereby allowing the construction of a new two-story residence on vacant property located in the Hillside Overlay District in the R-1 zone at 136 Via Los Miradores (Louie M. Tomaro), as conditioned and including findings of fact set forth by staff, adding a condition of approval as follows:

Add

- o That the family room chimney shall be eliminated.

Prior to roll call vote, Mr. Strawn asked to address the Council again.

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian moved to reopen the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs and passed by a 6-1 majority roll call vote.

Mr. Strawn stated his belief that both chimneys would be a problem.

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

Mayor Hardison related her reluctance to not allow the chimney.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs.

Before voting on the motion, Council discussion continued with Councilmember Nakano voicing his opinion that the family room chimney would have less of an impact on views than the other chimney.

Councilmember Walker offered his support for the motion to deny the appeal. He said that eliminating the family room chimney would have no impact.

City Clerk Herbers read aloud the title of Resolution No. 97-24.

MOTION: Councilmember Nakano moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 97-24. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by a 6-1 roll call vote, with Councilmember Messerlian dissenting.

RESOLUTION NO. 97-24

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING A PRECISE PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT AS PROVIDED FOR IN DIVISION 9, CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE 2, OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALLOW THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW TWO-STORY RESIDENCE ON PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE HILLSIDE OVERLAY DISTRICT IN THE R-1 ZONE AT 136 VIA LOS MIRADORES

Mayor Hardison asked neighboring property owners to work together with regard to vegetation.

18. **ADDENDUM MATTERS**

None.

19. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

19a. City Engineer Burtt apprised the Council as to a valve failure and main water line break on Crenshaw Boulevard south of Skypark Drive.

19b. City Manager Jackson commended Finance Director Tsao and his staff for their work on the new budget format.

19c. Referring to a memorandum from staff, Councilmember Messerlian asked if the issue of temporary banners and signs at automobile dealers will be presented for the Council's consideration in the future.

Building & Safety Director Isomoto advised that any modifications made to the ordinance for temporary signs and banners would be forwarded to the Council for consideration.

19d. Councilmember Nakano thanked Planning Director Ferren for the information on the signalization of Jefferson Drive and Crenshaw Boulevard.

19e. Following a comment from Councilmember Nakano, Parks & Recreation Director Barnett verified that staff will look into the four large trucks parked at Wilson Park during the day.

19f. Councilmember O'Donnell sent "Happy Valentine's Day" wishes to all.

19g. Mayor Hardison advised that, due to various Councilmembers' attendance at a National League of Cities' Conference, the Council will be dark on Tuesday, March 11, 1997.

19h. Mr. Dave Albert, City of Lomita Councilmember, asked the Council to adopt a resolution approving the flying of a POW/MIA flag in Torrance.

City Attorney Fellows suggested that this item be placed for consideration on a future Council agenda.

A speaker whose name was inaudible, residing at 18914 Wilton Place and commanding the Lomita Post VFW, voiced his support for flying a POW/MIA flag in Torrance.

20. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 10:15 P.M., the Council adjourned into closed session to discuss the matters listed on the agenda pursuant to Government Code Sections 54957, 54956.9(a), 54956.9(c) and 54956.8.

The Council returned to Council Chambers at 11:04 P.M. Mayor Hardison announced that, in closed session, the Council authorized the City Attorney
In closed session by unanimous vote the council authorized the City Attorney

In closed session by unanimous vote the council authorized the City Attorney to join a friend of the court brief in the case of Johanna Trevino v. Daryl Gates, et al. The issue on appeal concerns the relevant legal market for determining attorney's fees awarded to successful plaintiffs in civil rights cases.

to join a friend of the court brief in the case of Johanna Trevino v. Daryl Gates, et. al. and that no formal action was taken on any other matter heard in closed session.

For further information on Executive Session, see page 2.

21. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 11:05 P.M., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, February 18, 1997, 5:30 P.M. for an executive session, to be followed by the regular meeting at 7:00 P.M.