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TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL - MAY 20, 1997

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At 11:37 P.M., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday May 27, 1997, 6:00 P.M. in the City Manager's Assembly Room, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers.	

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Adjourned in Memory of Elsie Pestoff

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May 20, 1997

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

OPENING CEREMONIES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance City Council convened in a joint session with the Torrance Youth Council at 5:40 P.M. on Tuesday, May 20, 1997, in the West Wing Commission Room 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.

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The Youth Council discussed with Council issues raised by participants at the Youth in Government Day including the creation of a teen coffee house/center, job clearinghouse for teens, skateboard park and teen web site (per agenda).

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At 7:16 P.M. the Council reconvened in Council Chambers in a regular session.

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2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Beach Cities Civil Air Patrol Cadet Squadron #107.

Pastor Eric Hoey of South Bay Presbyterian Church gave the invocation for the meeting.

At this time, Mayor Hardison asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Elsie Pestoff, a former Parks & Recreation employee.

3. AFFIDAVIT OF 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 has read number and title to any resolution or ordinance on the agenda for this meeting, 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 Cribbs, and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

4. **WITHDRAWN/DEFERRED ITEMS**

Item 7e was withdrawn from the Consent Calendar and heard jointly with the Redevelopment Agency.

5. **COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Budget Workshops

Wednesday, May 28, 1997

Tuesday, June 3, 1997

Thursday, June 5, 1997

All to be held at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers

2nd Annual City Yard Open House

City Services Facility, 20500 Madrona Avenue

May 31, 1997, 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Displays, demonstrations and giveaways

Councilmember Lee commented on Armed Forces Day activities and noted that attendance was up at the parade.

6. **COMMUNITY MATTERS**

6a. **PROCLAMATION RE "NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK"**

The Council presented a proclamation declaring the week of May 18 through May 24, 1997 as "National Public Works Week" to Richard Burt, Engineering Director; Gene Barnett, Parks and Recreation Director; Richard Garcia, Street Services, and Phil Tilden, General Services Director. Mr. Burt thanked the Council for recognizing the five departments and over 350 men and women who provide for the maintenance and improvement of the City's infrastructure and called attention to the three displays (City Hall, Del Amo Mall and Katy Geissert Library) planned for this week.

6b. **PROCLAMATION RE "MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND"**

The Council presented a proclamation declaring the weekend of May 23 through May 26, 1997 as "Memorial Day Weekend" in the City of Torrance to Larry Fritzen, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Quartermaster Robert Ramsey. Mr. Fritzen noted that this is the 75th year "buddy poppies" have been offered to the public, and that all proceeds go to disabled veterans and their families.

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Agenda Item 20 was considered out of order at this time.

20.. EXECUTIVE SESSION

City Attorney Fellows advised the Council that following last Thursday's posting of the agenda for this Council Meeting, City staff attended a status conference in the pending lawsuit entitled Price v. City of Torrance, United States District Court Case No. 94-6506 KN (Mcx). Since matters raised in that status conference need to be discussed with Council so that action can be taken prior to the start of trial, he requested that this item be added to the agenda pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(b).

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian moved to add the above entitled action to the agenda pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(b). The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lee and passed by unanimous voice vote.

City Attorney Fellows asked that Council recess immediately into closed session as authorized by Government Code Section 54956.9(a).

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At 7:35 P.M. Council recessed to a closed session, returning to Chambers at 7:56 P.M. at which time the meeting reconvened in regular agenda order.

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7. CONSENT CALENDAR

7a. REVISION OF 1996/97 JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT

Recommendation

The Carson/Lomita/Torrance Private Industry Council (PIC) and the Personnel Director recommend that the City Council accept additional funding of \$229,143 and adopt the revised Job Training Partnership Act 1996/97 Operational Plan/Budget of \$7,385,902.

7b. PURCHASE ORDER NEW AND REPLACEMENT PERSONAL COMPUTERS

Recommendation

The Information Systems Director recommends that the City Council authorize a purchase order in the amount of \$69,739.27 to Sys Technology, Inc. of Cypress, CA for the purchase of public use personal computers in the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library and branch libraries.

7c. APPROVAL OF THE 1997 SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

PROGRAM (SYETP) OPERATING BUDGET

Recommendation

The Carson/Lomita/Torrance Private Industry Council (PIC) and the Personnel Director recommend that the City Council approve the 1997 Summer Youth Employment and Training Program (II-B SYETP) operating budget and appropriate \$666,631 to the Employment and Training Budget for FY 1997/98. Of that amount \$133,326 will be appropriated to the 1997/98 Year Round Youth Program (II-C), and \$533,305 will be appropriated to the 1997 Summer Youth Employment and Training Program (II-B SYETP).

7d. AUTHORIZATION RE JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT (JTPA) SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM (SYETP) AGREEMENTS

Recommendation

The Carson/Lomita/Torrance Private Industry Council (PIC) and the Personnel Director recommend that the City Council execute the agreements for the provision of SYETP program services with Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) for \$216,000, Southern California Regional Occupational Center (SCROC) for \$187,582, and Los Angeles Harbor College (LAHC) for \$75,510.

7e. Considered in joint session with the Redevelopment Agency (see page 10).

MOTION: Councilmember O'Donnell moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items Nos. 7a, 7b, 7c and 7d. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

8. LIBRARY/PARKS & RECREATION

8a. CONSTRUCTION OF NATURAL HISTORY CENTER AT MADRONA MARSH

Recommendation

The Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee recommends that the City Council:

- (1) Approve the construction of a Natural History Center not to exceed 8,000 square feet;
- (2) Accept the operating plan for the Natural History Center which includes the funding strategy for construction, operation and maintenance of the Center;
- (3) Direct staff to prepare and transmit Request for Proposal for the hiring of an architect to provide design, plans, specifications, and final cost estimates for the construction of a Natural History Center; and
- (4) Adopt resolutions authorizing applications to the County of Los Angeles Regional Park and Open Space District for Proposition A "Safe Neighborhood Parks" 1992 and 1996 Specified Project Grant Program Funds.

Councilmember Nakano presented the committee's recommendations. In response to Mayor Hardison questions regarding the Staff's recommendation of 6,000 square feet with money remaining for enhancements, he advised that the Committee thought that 8,000 square feet would be preferable with some funds available for limited enhancements.

In answer to Councilmember Lee, Parks and Recreation Director Barnett confirmed that a project is currently designed and funded for a signal and a crosswalk between the proposed Natural History Center and the preserve itself.

Councilmember O'Donnell related concerns regarding the operating cost to the City and suggested the Friends of Madrona Marsh be asked to raise 50 percent of the annual expense. She questioned how permanent Prop A funds were and was advised that they would run the length of the assessment district, 22 years.

Councilmember Walker stated he could accept the committee's recommendation but would personally like to see the 6,000 square foot building with additional money going into improvements on the site, making the marsh the attraction rather than the building.

Mayor Hardison invited input from the public.

Mr. Bart Tendick, Friends of Madrona Marsh, reflected on the uniqueness of the marsh and voiced concern that it would be turned into just another park. He offered support for the Friends' plan, which he believes incorporates the best features and avoids the pitfalls of other centers, and urged Council to consider the greater South Bay region when planning construction of the center.

Mr. Jack Knapp, Friends of Madrona Marsh, indicated that the mission of the Friends is to restore the marsh to a natural condition and the construction of unnecessary man-made structures is inconsistent with that goal. He stated he had asked for an agreement from the City spelling out the duties and responsibilities his group would be expected to provide as volunteers at the center, and it has not been forthcoming.

Ms. Shirley Turner, Friends of Madrona Marsh, reiterated the belief that enhancements, such as permanent trails, platforms, tables and benches, would be impractical and destructive to the preserve, and that the pristine beauty of the marsh must be maintained.

Mr. Mike Brewster, 2230 Gramercy, voiced support for a 17,000 sq. ft. structure, and asserted that there was plenty of parking available for a structure of that size. He read a letter from an instructor at El Camino College addressing the need for a natural history center in the South Bay, and submitted a petition to the City Clerk.

As an instructor of zoology and biology at El Camino College, Ms. Jeanne Bellemin stated that cement walkways and other enhancements would not be good for the flora and fauna at the marsh and would prefer that money be spent on classrooms and labs in the center to accommodate students of all ages.

Ms. Georgan Griswold, Friends of Madrona Marsh, elaborated on possible ways to build a 17,000 sq. ft. facility for the \$1.8 million Prop A funds available. She expressed the hope that the 24-year partnership with the City would continue and urged Council to consider the Friends' input on this project in view of their dedication to the marsh.

Ms. Kathy Benz, read a letter from Kevin Johnson in support of the Friends' plan for the larger structure in order that classed may be offered in classrooms sheltered from the elements, providing instruction to children in the community.

In response to requests for a 17,000 sq. ft. building, it was noted that several members of Council had visited nature centers and National Parks throughout the states and found that much larger preserves did not have centers approaching that size.

Councilmember Walker praised the Friends of Madrona Marsh for their hard work and dedication, but supported the 8,000 sq. ft. center, assuring the Friends that they would ultimately be pleased and proud if this recommendation succeeds. He rejected the idea that enhancements would damage the marsh, since it has survived oil trucks and drilling.

MOTION: Councilmember Nakano moved to concur with the committee's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember O'Donnell. Discussion continued, and no vote was taken at this time.

Councilmember Lee related that he envisioned the marsh, possibly with raised walkways, as a place where families could meander and read interpretation boards at their own pace. He questioned whether the building had become more important than the marsh itself.

Discussion ensued as to whether consideration of enhancements should be a part of the recommendation, the motion was amended.

MOTION: Councilmember Nakano moved to amend the motion by adding a fifth item to the original recommendation, that potential improvements to the preserve as design options (bullet points in material of record) be concurrently considered. The motion was seconded by Councilmember O'Donnell. Discussion continued, and no vote was taken.

Councilmember Messerlian elaborated on the many hours of deliberation that went into constructing a plan that would best serve the City as an educational resource, yet still be affordable. He reminded Council that funds need to be encumbered by July 1, 1998.

Councilwoman Cribbs stated that she was not in favor of combining enhancements to the preserve with the original recommendation and would like to focus on getting the center built.

Mayor Hardison called attention to the fact that most of the visitors to the marsh are school children and scout troops, not the general public, and suggested more needs to be done encourage the community.

In answer to inquiries, Mr. Barnett advised that Prop A funds are to be used only for the building and fixed equipment such as cabinets, and funding for enhancements had not yet been addressed.

Councilmember Walker indicated that he would like to be able to look at potential improvements now so they are not precluded in the future and mentioned some improvements may be insignificant in cost.

There was concern expressed that adding the consideration of enhancements might cause delay and involve the trading of square footage for enhancements. Councilmember Nakano stated that was never his intent. A substitute motion was made.

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian moved to substitute the original committee recommendation for the amended motion. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs. The motion was passed by a 4-3 majority roll call vote, with Councilmembers Lee, Walker and Nakano dissenting.

Discussion continued regarding whether exploration of the cost and funding of enhancements to the preserve should be considered concurrently, and the following motion was proposed.

MOTION: Councilmember Lee moved for the concurrent consideration of potential improvements to the preserve as design options (bullet points in material of record). The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

City Clerk Herbers read aloud the title of Resolution 97-52.

MOTION: Councilmember Nakano moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 95-52. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 97-52

A RESOLUTION BY THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL
AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION TO THE COUNTY OF
LOS ANGELES REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE
DISTRICT FOR PROPOSITION A (NOVEMBER 1992)
"SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS" SPECIFIED GRANT
PROGRAM FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A
NATURAL HISTORY CENTER AT MADRONA MARSH

City Clerk Herbers read aloud the title of Resolution No. 97-53.

MOTION: Councilmember Nakano moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 95-52. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 97-53

A RESOLUTION BY THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL
AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION TO THE COUNTY OF
LOS ANGELES REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE
DISTRICT FOR PROPOSITION A (NOVEMBER 1996)
"SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS" SPECIFIED GRANT
PROGRAM FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A
NATURAL HISTORY CENTER AT MADRONA MARSH

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Council recessed at 9:55 P.M. and reconvened at 10:05 P.M.

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11. **PLANNING & ZONING MATTERS**

11a. **RESOLUTION RE SECTION 8 RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Recommendation

The Planning Director recommends the approval of a resolution adopting the revised Administrative Plan for the City of Torrance Section 8 Rental Assistance Program in accordance with changes in the Federal Regulations governing the program.

Senior Principal Planner Bihn presented the staff report (per written material of record).

City Clerk Herbers read aloud the title of Resolution No. 97-54.

MOTION: Councilmember Nakano moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 97-54. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 97-54

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING THE REVISED
ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF TORRANCE
SECTION 8 RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

13. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

13a. PROPOSED LEGISLATION OF THE 1997-98 SESSION

Recommendation

The City Manager and the Acting Chief of Police recommend that the City Council:

- (1) Review the following proposed legislation:
 - (a) Assembly Bill 247 - Firearms Sales; Local Regulation/Prohibition;
 - (b) Senate Bill 11 - Local Law Enforcement Supplemental Funding; Deposit of County COPS Funds in Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund;
 - (c) Senate Bill 546 - Public Safety Officers; Definition of Terms, Modification of Investigative Restrictions and Basis for Civil Action;
 - (d) Senate Bill 1325 - Vehicles; Release of Vehicles Removed by Police;
- (2) Concur with Staff's recommendation to support or oppose the proposed bills; and
- (3) Direct staff to forward to the State Legislators letters of support or opposition.

Acting Chief of Police presented the staff report (per written material of record, and provided clarification for Mayor Hardison regarding the fees for the release of vehicles removed by police.

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian recommended that the Council support Assembly Bill 247 and Senate Bill 11 and oppose Senate Bill 546 and Senate Bill 1325 and instructed staff to send appropriate letters to the appropriate legislators and committees in a timely manner. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lee and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

13b. RESOLUTION RE POLICE CAPTAINS PAY GRID

Recommendation

The City Manager recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution enhancing the Police Captains pay grid by .19 percent (.19%) effective July 7, 1996.

City Manager Jackson presented the staff report (per written material of record).

City Clerk Herbers read aloud the title of Resolution No. 97-55.

MOTION: Councilmember Nakano moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 97-55. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 97-55

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COUNCIL OF
TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 96-80
GOVERNING EMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FOR
SAFETY MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEES**

13c. ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE LAWSUIT

Recommendation

The City Attorney recommends that the City Council approve an additional appropriation of funds in the amount of \$75,000 to fund the existing purchase order with the law firm of Latham & Watkins to defend the City in the Department of Justice lawsuit, United States of America v. City of Torrance, et al, Case No. CV 93-4142 MRP (GHKx).

City Attorney Fellows presented the staff report (per written material of record).

MOTION: Councilmember Lee moved to approve the additional funds. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

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At 10:10 P.M., the City Council met concurrently as the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Torrance. Regular Council business was resumed at 10:14 P.M. in joint session with the Redevelopment Agency.

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Item 7e was heard out of order at this time.

7e. REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1995-96

Recommendation

The staff of the Redevelopment Agency recommends that the City Council accept and file the Redevelopment Agency Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1995-96 including the Independent Auditor's Report on Financial Statements and Compliance and file said report without further action.

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

18. ADDENDUM MATTERS

Price v. City of Torrance, United States District Court Case No. 94-6506 KN (Mcx) was added to the agenda's Executive Session (Item 20) and heard out of order at 7:35 P.M. (see page 3).

19. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

19a. Councilmember Messerlian advised that the rehabilitation of Hawthorne Blvd. between 190th Street and Del Amo Blvd. will begin in July and end in mid-November. The project also includes restriping and traffic signal improvements at eight intersections along Hawthorne Blvd.

19b. Councilmember Messerlian reported graffiti on the park building at DePortola Park.

19c. Councilmember O'Donnell commended the Friends of Madrona Marsh for their work over the years.

19d. Councilmember O'Donnell commented on the solicitation of funds for a Fireman's Ball that is not sponsored by Torrance firefighters.

19e. Mayor Hardison commented on an increase in graffiti at Torrance parks and asked for a report from the Parks & Recreation Director.

19f. Ms. Georgean Griswold, Friends of Madrona Marsh, responded to Council's remarks made during the discussion of the Madrona Marsh item, emphasizing her belief that static walkways would be impossible.

19g. Ms. Shirley Turner, Friends of Madrona Marsh, made additional comments regarding the Madrona Marsh.

19h. Mr. Newton Young, Torrance, voiced concern over programming on CITICABLE Ch 22.

20. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:29 P.M. the Council recessed into a closed session to discuss the matters listed on the agenda pursuant to California Government code Sections 54957.6, 54956.9(a), 54956.9(b) and 54956.9(c), and 54956.8.

At 11:37 P.M. the Council returned to open session in Council Chambers.

No formal action was taken on any matter considered in closed session.

21. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:37 P.M., the City Council adjourned to Tuesday, May 27, 1997, 6:00 P.M. in the City Manager's Assembly Room, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers.

*

Adjourned in Memory of Elsie Pestoff

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Mayor of the City of Torrance



Clerk of the City of Torrance