

I N D E XCity Council - March 7, 1972

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Ava Cripe  
Minute Secretary

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Adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

# # #

March 7, 1972

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

OPENING CEREMONIES:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Torrance City Council convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 1972, at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present were Councilman Brewster, Johnson, Sciarrotta, Surber, Uerkwitz, Wilson, and Mayor Miller. Absent: None.

Also present: City Manager Ferraro, Assistant City Manager Scharfman, City Attorney Remelmeyer, and City Clerk Coil. Absent: City Treasurer Rupert.

3. FLAG SALUTE:

Mr. Paul Anderson led in the salute to the flag.

4. INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Reverend Milton Sippel, First Christian Church.

STANDARD MOTIONS:

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Sciarrotta moved that the minutes of February 22, 1972 be approved as recorded. His motion, seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

6. APPROVAL OF DEMANDS:

Councilman Johnson moved that all regularly audited demands be paid. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

7. MOTION TO WAIVE FURTHER READING:

Councilman Uerkwitz moved that after the Clerk has given a number and read title to any resolution or ordinance on tonight's agenda, the further reading thereof be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilman the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brewster, and roll call vote proved unanimously favorable.

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8. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS:Public Works:

Met this date; report will be forthcoming at a later date.

Council Committee/School Board:

Meeting hour has been revised to Monday, March 13th, at 6:00 P.M., instead of 7:00 P.M.

PRESENTATIONS:

9. Presentation of Permaplaque commending DON GIOVANNI SCIARROTTA for donating his sound recording studio and talents to the City of Torrance.

Councilman Wilson, on behalf of the Council, recognized the considerable talents of Don Sciarrotta, as well as his generosity in sharing these talents in the Recreation Department's production on Leisure Time.

PROCLAMATION:

10. "National Park Month" - March, 1972  
11. "Girl Scout Week" - March 12-18, 1972.

So proclaimed by Mayor Miller.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS:

12. Madison School Site Study.

RECOMMENDATION OF STAFF:

That this item be referred to the Park and Recreation Commission, returning then for Council Committee consideration.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur with the above recommendation of Staff. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

13. ORDINANCE extending Vista Montana Moratorium.

ORDINANCE NO. 2313

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE EXTENDING A MORATORIUM PREVIOUSLY IMPOSED ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF DWELLING UNITS WITHIN THE AREA DESCRIBED HEREIN AND DECLARING THE PRESENCE OF AN EMERGENCY.

(Vista Montana)

Emergency

Councilman Uerkwitz moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 2313 at its first and only reading. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

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14. RESOLUTION amending Master Plan No. 1

RESOLUTION NO. 72-41

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING MASTER PLAN NO. 1 IN ACCORDANCE WITH ZONE CHANGE NO. 70-26.

Councilman Wilson moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 72-41. His motion, seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

STREETS AND SIDEWALKS:

15. IMPROVEMENT OF DEL AMO BOULEVARD from Van Ness Avenue to Western Avenue (Job No. 67051) - Corrected Final Payment.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY ENGINEER:

That the corrected final amount be paid to the contractor, Radjan Company, Inc.

MOTION: Councilman Uerkwitz moved to concur with the above recommendation of the City Engineer. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson; roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

16. RESOLUTION re: Proposed Vacation of a portion of Hawthorne Boulevard Service Road north of Del Amo Boulevard.

RESOLUTION NO. 72-42

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO VACATE A PORTION OF HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD SERVICE ROAD NORTH OF DEL AMO BOULEVARD IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE; FIXING A TIME AND PLACE FOR A HEARING THEREON AND PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS RESOLUTION.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 72-42. The motion was seconded by Mayor Miller, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

SEWERS AND DRAINAGE:

17. NOTICE OF COMPLETION - Storm Drain from Los Arboles Park to Newton Street - (Job No. 72119)

RECOMMENDATIONS OF CITY ENGINEER:

1. That the work be accepted on the basis of as-built quantities; and
2. That final payment be made to the contractor, Stone Construction Company.

(This project is a joint venture between the City of Torrance and Mr. Harry Kissel with each party sharing costs. The City's share is financed by an appropriation of \$9,500 made from the Drainage Improvement Fund on October 5, 1971.)

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MOTION: Councilman Brewster moved to concur with the recommendations of the City Engineer, including the above noted appropriation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

18. NOTICE OF COMPLETION - Construction of Storm Drain from 300 ft. e/o Bellanca Way to Flood Control Project 9827 at Torrance Municipal Airport (Job No. 72121).

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY ENGINEER/AIRPORT MANAGER:

1. That the work be accepted; and
2. That final payment be made to the contractor, K.E.C. Company. (This project is financed by \$7,500.00 appropriated from the Airport Retained Earnings Fund on February 1, 1972.)

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur with the above recommendation of the City Engineer and Airport Manager, including the appropriation as noted. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES, AND SIGNS:

19. COMPLETION OF SOUTHEAST TORRANCE LIBRARY.

This item held, pending Executive Session.

TRAFFIC AND LIGHTING:

20. TEMPORARY TRAFFIC SIGNAL INSTALLATION - Plaza Del Amo and Carson.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY TRAFFIC ENGINEER:

If the Council concurs in the concept of installing the temporary signal with City forces for the eight to twelve month period, an appropriation of \$8000 out of Gas Tax Funds will be necessary.

MOTION: Councilman Surber moved to concur with the recommendations and concept of the Traffic and Lighting Department, and to approve an appropriation of \$8000 out of Gas Tax Funds. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

An affirmative vote was cast by Councilman Sciarrotta after he ascertained that the actual cost would be approximately \$3800, some \$4200 being salvagable.

FISCAL MATTERS:

21. POPULATION ESTIMATE.

RECOMMENDATION OF FINANCE DIRECTOR:

1. That Council adopt the subject resolution, and
2. That there be an appropriation of \$725 from the present \$31,676 unappropriated balance in the General Fund.

RESOLUTION NO. 72-43

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE FOR A POPULATION ESTIMATE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

MOTION: Councilman Wilson moved to concur with the above recommendation of the Finance Director and for the adoption of Resolution No. 72-43. His motion was seconded by Councilman Surber, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

22. LEASEBACK FINANCING - City Yard and Fire Department Facilities.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY MANAGER:

That Council approve the proposed division of the leaseback projects into Series A, Fire Stations Nos. 3 and 6 -- and Series B, City Yard, Fire Station No. 1 and tennis courts.

MOTION: Councilman Johnson moved to concur with the above recommendation of the City Manager, and the motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz.

It was the comment of Councilman Surber, prior to taking action on the above motion, that, in his opinion, the will of the people would be circumvented without their input. Mr. Surber then offered a SUBSTITUTE MOTION: That there be public hearings on the subject leaseback arrangement. Discussion followed, and at the Mayor's request, Asst. City Manager Scharfman and City Attorney Remelmeyer clarified the Staff findings which resulted in the above recommendation. The substitute motion died for lack of a second.

Specifically noted was the fact that financing arrangements, etc. will be returned to the Council for review and approval. The CITY MANAGER'S NOTE on the February 29, 1972 communication -- re: approval of the subject recommendation and the fact that "details of the projects to be financed through Series B will be presented to the interested departments and to the City Council for review and approval before any financing arrangements are made. At the present time, the Staff is merely considering a set of alternative methods of organizing certain City functions and has not made any decisions at all regarding the City Yard and Fire Station No. 1. As directed by the Council, the Staff is presently making a feasibility study as to whether the tennis court complex can be financed through leaseback methods. The tennis court complex would be included in Series B only if the feasibility study shows it is desirable and the Council approves." -- was duly acknowledged by the Council.

Councilman Johnson's motion to concur with the City Manager's recommendation carried, with roll call vote as follows:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Brewster, Johnson, Sciarrotta, Uerkwitz,  
Wilson, and Mayor Miller.

NOES: COUNCILMEN: Surber.

ELECTION MATTERS:

23. RESOLUTION calling the General Municipal Election to be held April 11, 1972, establishing Polling Places and Appointing Election Officers.

RESOLUTION NO. 72-35  
(Corrected Version)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, CALLING AND GIVING NOTICE TO THE HOLDING OF A GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN SAID CITY ON TUESDAY, THE 11TH DAY OF APRIL, 1972, FOR THE ELECTION OF THREE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF SAID CITY AS REQUIRED BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Sciarrotta moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 72-35, as corrected. His motion was seconded by Councilman Brewster, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

POLICE OPERATIONS:

24. PURCHASE OF BASE STATION TRANSMITTER-RECEIVER for new Police radio frequency.

RECOMMENDATION OF COMMUNICATIONS ELECTRICIAN, CITY TRAFFIC ENGINEER, AND POLICE CHIEF: That the Council appropriate \$1525 from the General Fund Unappropriated Surplus to purchase a base station transmitter-receiver for our new police radio frequency.

MOTION: Councilman Johnson moved to concur with the above recommendation. His motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Praise for Communications Electrician Crockett's efforts and contributions to the City's radio activities was expressed by City Manager Ferraro.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

25. ATTENDANCE OF TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES AT ONTARIO YOUTH IN ACTION CONFERENCE.

RECOMMENDATION OF YOUTH COMMISSION:

That the Council send two Torrance Youth Council representatives as delegates to the Ontario Youth in Action Conference March 28 and 29, and allocate an amount not to exceed \$75 to cover their expenses from the General Fund Unappropriated Reserve.

It was clarified by Sr. Recreation Supervisor Klement that it is now desired to send 4 Youth Council representatives, instead of two, with no increase in the requested amount of money, noting that it is not proposed to stay overnight at the Conference. There were no objections.

MOTION: Councilman Wilson moved to concur with the above recommendation of the Youth Commission, amending the request to reflect attendance by four Youth Council representatives. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sciarrotta, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

It was the request of Councilman Surber that such future requests be presented earlier and that agendas of the conference programs be furnished.

NONCONTROVERSIAL ITEMS:

26. EXPENDITURES OVER \$300:

RECOMMENDATION OF FINANCE DIRECTOR:

That Council approve the following purchases:

A. BUDGETED.

1. \$1208.47 to Safeway Sign Company for 86 only traffic and pedestrian control signs of the 30" x 36" size as requested by the Traffic and Lighting Department.
2. \$802.20 to Western Water Works Supply for 50 only water service angle valves -- 1½" size as requested by the Water Department.
3. \$318.15 to Engine Parts Company for one only replacement Ford Truck V8 engine block (exchange) as requested by the City Garage.
4. \$653.27 to Howard Supply Company for miscellaneous hand tools as requested by the Water Department for field service work.
5. \$398.95 to Paul's Photo for one only replacement Rolleiflex camera which will be used for crime investigation work by the Police Department.
6. \$1738.38 to Needham Book Finders for 445 only adult titled books as requested by the Library Department.
7. \$325.50 to Oscar B. Stiskin for 62 only adult titled books as requested by the Library Department.
8. \$2631.62 to Campbell & Hall for 210 adult titled books and 199 juvenile titled books as requested by the Library Department.

B. REIMBURSABLE:

9. \$795.47 to Harley Davidson of Los Angeles for parts and labor to repair a 1970 Police motorcycle -- Unit #7811 involved in an accident. Billings for these costs back to the responsible party are in process.

27. CLAIM of LINDA J. DRURY and JASON DRURY for personal damages.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY CLERK:

That the above claim be DENIED due to filing beyond the 100-day limitation. The City Attorney is in concurrence with the above recommendation.

28. CLAIM of MICHAEL KEITH MARTIN for property and personal damages.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY CLERK:

That the above claim be DENIED and referred to the City Attorney.

29. CLAIM of DAN E. BUTCHER for property damages.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY CLERK:

That the above claim be referred back to claimant to provide further information.

30. CLAIM of ALAN BRYAN CORDOVA for false arrest.

RECOMMENDATION OF CITY CLERK:

That the above claim be referred back to claimant to provide further information.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved to concur with the recommendations on agenda items #26, 27, 28, 29, and #30. His motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

# # #

At 6:05 P.M. Councilman Sciarrotta moved to recess as City Council and reconvene as the Redevelopment Agency. His motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

A recess followed at 6:06 P.M., said recess incorporating an Executive Session regarding pending litigation. The Council returned to its agenda at 6:35 P.M.

# # #

Taken at this time:

BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES, AND SIGNS:

19. COMPLETION OF SOUTHEAST TORRANCE LIBRARY.

RECOMMENDATION OF BUILDING AND SAFETY DIRECTOR:

That Council accept the building as being complete; authorize the changes and final contract price, per February 29th communication; approve the amount of liquidated damages; and authorize final payment, as specified in the contract documents.

MOTION: Councilman Uerkwitz moved to concur with the above recommendation of the Building and Safety Director. His motion was seconded by Councilman Surber.

Speaking at this time was Mr. Tom Faust, principal in the firm of Abbey Construction Company, the prime general contractor on the subject project, who stated that he is present at this meeting on the advice of counsel to categorically deny all the allegations set forth in the recommendation now before the Council as they relate to the liquidated damage clause. Further, according to Mr. Faust, this is being done because they feel there is a definite ambiguity that exists, and the City Attorney of Torrance has read this as he sees fit.

Roll call vote on Councilman Uerkwitz' motion was unanimously favorable.

PLANNING AND ZONING HEARINGS:

31. APPEAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION DENIAL of CUP 71-58, ROBERT E. BARRON, on property located at 2325 Torrance Boulevard in the C-1 zone.

An Affidavit of Publication was presented by City Clerk Coil, and it was ordered filed, there being no objection.

Mayor Miller announced that this is the time and place for the subject public hearing.

A petition bearing the signatures of 27 homeowners opposed to the proposed beer bar was presented by City Clerk Coil, this being in addition to letters of protest on record.

The designer of the project, Mr. Roy Bayer, 1505 Crenshaw Boulevard, pointed out that what is proposed is planned to replace the existing "Branch Office" across the street; therefore, no increase in this type of operation will result.

It was determined by Councilman Surber that the "Branch Office" has been in operation for nine years, minus any Police Department problems.

City Attorney Remelmeyer noted that the subject request is for a liquor license -- there is no question about the restaurant itself, this being a C-1 zone which provides for restaurant development.

A number of interested citizens were present, one of whom inquired regarding the parking, and learned that the requirements have been met.

There being no one else who wished to be heard, Councilman Sciarrotta moved that the hearing be closed. His motion was seconded by Councilman Surber, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

MOTION: Councilman Surber moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Department for APPROVAL OF CUP 71-58, subject to conditions. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

Mayor Miller indicated that his was a "qualified yes" vote on the basis that the Council has desperately tried to do something about the central downtown Torrance area, one of the big problems being the old delapidated buildings there -- there is a need to create some initiative to develop modern buildings which will ultimately increase land and property values for a prosperous future.

Concurrence with the Mayor's comments was expressed by Councilman Surber -- however, he indicated his sympathy with the petition-signers, having endured a similar situation in the past. The proposed development will be a better establishment than the "Branch Office" (which is apparently problem-free) in that it will be a restaurant rather than a bar; hence Councilman Surber's "yes" vote.

Questions were permitted from the audience at this time, directed to the property owner, Mr. Robert Barron -- Mr. Barron responded that the proposed building will be soundproofed; that he will not have an entertainment license (no juke boxes and dancing), that his primary interest is the opportunity to move into a new, upgraded building, after 9 years at the "Branch Office".

32. (Informal Hearing)

APPEAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION DENIAL for modification of PP 71-9, RONALD E. MORAN, on property located at 4343 - 190th Street in the C-3 (PP) zone.

Mayor Miller announced that this is the time and place for the hearing on the subject appeal.

There was clarification of this matter by Planning Director Shartle, following which Mr. Larry Bowman, on behalf of the proponent, reiterated the request for modification made to the Planning Commission on February 16th, the problems now confronted, and their desire at this time to have the 4 ft. parkway and 4 ft. sidewalk, running their property right up to that sidewalk thereby eliminating the Code requirement of a 5 ft. setback -- it is their further desire to have the 4 ft. parkway with 24-inch box trees, the 4 ft. of sidewalk, and 3 ft. of planting behind the sidewalk. There are further problems with the required block wall, according to Mr. Bowman, in that the subject lot is 2 ft. below grade -- also noted by Mr. Bowman was the fact that the landscaping requirements are fulfilled, without involving the astro turf. The Council generally indicated approval with the use of astro turf, based on personal observations, and minus any evidence that it is an unsatisfactory arrangement.

There being no one else who wished to be heard, Councilman Uerkwitz moved that the hearing be closed. His motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

MOTION: Councilman Sciarrotta moved that the subject modification be allowed. The motion was seconded by Councilman Uerkwitz.

Prior to roll call vote, it was confirmed by the Council and Mr. E. Moran at Planning Director Shartle's request for clarification that the proponent will be permitted to landscape the southerly 3 ft. of his property adjacent to sidewalk with astro turf -- there will be 24-inch box trees in the parkway, as will the other trees on the premises, per Mr. Moran.

Roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

# # #

10. City Council  
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ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

33. Councilman Johnson requested that the City Attorney submit the pending nonconforming use ordinance section pertaining to oil wells and tanks.

34. Previous consideration of possible free bus rides for Senior Citizens was noted by Councilman Johnson, with the request that Staff prepare a report and recommendation as to the present 10¢ fare for Senior Citizens and whether or not it is feasible at this time to initiate free bus rides for these people.

35. Consolidation of Federal and State buildings on Redevelopment area land -- buildings such as the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Employment, and the Internal Revenue office -- was deemed worthy of Staff study and consideration by Councilman Johnson, with the request that they return with a general conceptual plan as to possible feasibility.

36. The status of the Gardena/El Camino annexation was questioned by Councilman Surber -- Sr. Administrative Assistant Meyer reported on forthcoming meetings with the School District and necessary review.

37. Next questioned by Councilman Surber was the status of pending legislation pertaining to the formation of new counties -- City Manager Ferraro reported on the follow-through regarding this bill, as well as a Council Committee meeting scheduled for consideration of this matter.

38. Councilman Uerkwitz requested that Staff prepare a report pertaining to temporary relief in the City Yard until the proposed arrangements are worked out.

39. Councilman Uerkwitz referred to a recent press release regarding one of Torrance's newest citizens, a young lady from Rumania, and asked that she be invited to a future Council meeting for an appropriate welcome to Torrance.

40. It was pointed out by Councilman Wilson that mugs recently gifted the Council were from the AYSO organization; a "thank you" should go forward.

41. Councilman Wilson noted recently enacted requirements pertaining to General Plans for California cities, and requested that Staff expedite incorporation of Torrance's Goals into the General Plan, with routing via the Planning Commission, etc. prior to final adoption by the Council.

The role of the Citizens Advisory Committee in future responsibilities, and guidelines therefor, was also noted by Dr. Wilson who requested that Staff make such recommendation to the Council Committee for review as to appropriate activities for this group.

42. The compilation of Torrance history would be enhanced by oral interviews with early residents, and the involvement of photography classes in securing pictures (old and new), in the opinion of Councilman Wilson who referred this suggestion to the Library Commission and the City Librarian, as well as the Cultural Arts Heritage Committee.

43. Mayor Miller reported on the creditable community efforts of the Mayfair Creamery -- the introduction of the vacuum processing of milk, plastic cases for schools, plastic bottles, and a recycling machine therefor; the first company to convert delivery trucks to natural gas engines in order to reduce smog, to name a few -- and requested that these contributions be recognized by way of a permaplaque resolution, and written recordation of Mayfair's unique accomplishments which have been so valuable to the community.

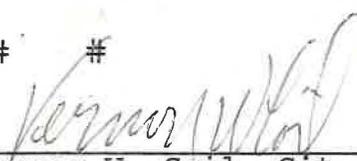
44. Mr. James R. Clark, 19510 Tomlee Avenue, furnished an addendum to his recent Freeway Report, and recommended a verbal presentation pertaining to this new material by a State Division of Highways representative.

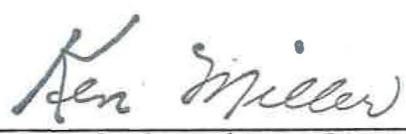
A "town hall meeting" to permit citizen review of this information was recommended by Councilman Sciarrotta who MOVED that this material first be referred to the Traffic Commission for study and recommendation, followed by a "town hall meeting" at the Recreation Center on a date set aside for this one problem. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson; there were no objections, and it was so ordered.

45. Mr. Dan Walker, 2617 Highcliff Drive, noted recent heroic efforts of Torrance residents in the widely publicized rescue of a six-year old boy. City Manager Ferraro will obtain additional information in this regard, and report back to the Council.

The meeting was regularly adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

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 Vernon W. Coil, City Clerk  
 of the City of Torrance

  
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 Mayor of the City of Torrance