

I N D E X

Torrance City Council - March 17, 1992

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Peggy Laverty  
Minute Secretary

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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 17, 1992, at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Councilmembers Applegate, Hardison, Lee, Nakano, O'Donnell, Wirth and Mayor Geissert.

Absent: None.

Also present: City Manager Jackson, City Attorney Nelson, City Clerk Bramhall, and Staff representatives.

Taken out of order at this time...

20a. EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

Mayor Geissert read the following statement into the record.

The City Council will now recess to closed session to confer with the City Manager and/or the City Attorney on the following subject:

- Salaries, salary schedules and compensation for certain unrepresented employees and represented employee groups as well as certain other personnel matters.

Authority to hold an executive session for this purpose is contained in Government Code Section 54957.6 (a).

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At 5:31 p.m., the City Council recessed to executive session, returning at 7:29 p.m. No action was required as a result of this executive session.

Additional executive session matters were considered later in the meeting - see Page 15.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Mr. Bill Lettunich led in the salute to the flag.

INVOCATION

The invocation for the meeting was provided by Father Paul Doyle, St. Matthews Orthodox Church.

3. MOTION RE FURTHER READING

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved that after the City Clerk has assigned a number and read title to any resolution or ordinance on the agenda for this meeting, the further 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. His motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardison and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

MOTION RE POSTING OF AGENDA

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. This motion, seconded by Councilwoman Hardison, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS

City Manager Jackson requested withdrawal of Agenda Item 9a: ENGINEERING FEES -- to be returned at a later date [see Page 5].

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

None scheduled.

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6. COMMUNITY MATTES

- 6a. PROCLAMATION declaring March 22 through 28, 1992, as "Torrance Adult School Week."

SO PROCLAIMED by Mayor Geissert. This proclamation was accepted, with appreciation, by Mr. Bill Lettunich, Adult Education Principal.

- 6b. PROCLAMATION naming March 24, 1992, as the day to give special recognition to the "Principal for a Day" program of the Torrance Unified School District.

SO PROCLAIMED by Mayor Geissert and presented to Dr. Carol Riley, Assistant Superintendent, Torrance Unified School District.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 7a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 11, 1992.

- 7b. AWARD OF CONTRACT - Installation of Reflective Pavement Markers on Selected Streets (B92-10)

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department of Transportation recommends that the City Council: 1) Accept the construction bid from, and award a contract to, Sterndahl Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$31,255 and 2) Reject all other bids.

- 7c. APPROPRIATION OF GAS TAX FUNDS FOR ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY AT 23624 ARLINGTON AVENUE

RECOMMENDATION:

The Engineering Department recommends that an appropriation of \$228,000 from Gas Tax Funds be made for the acquisition of property located at 23624 Arlington Avenue.

Ms. Eileen Hawkins, 1303 Date Avenue, requested and received expanded information relative to this agenda item. Ms. Hawkins advised the Council that there are various locations in the City where grass is growing through cracks in the streets -- Street Maintenance Superintendent Garcia to investigate.

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7d. DONATIONS FOR YOUTH SPORTS AND YOUTH TENNIS

RECOMMENDATION:

The Parks and Recreation Commission and the Parks and Recreation Director recommend that the City Council accept donations from Irene Hino in the amount of \$300 and from South Bay Junior Tennis in the amount of \$300 and appropriate the funds into the Youth Sports and the Youth Novice Tennis Tournament programs respectively to cover costs of supplies.

Councilman Wirth acknowledged the above generous contributions and expressed sincere appreciation for same.

7e. COUNCIL AWARD OF CONTRACT - To furnish the City's Annual Requirement of Paper

Ref: Bid No. B92-07  
Anticipated Expenditure: \$75,221.77 including sales tax.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Purchasing Division and the Central Services Division recommend that your Honorable Body award annual contracts to the following responsible low bidders.

	<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>NUMBER OF ITEMS</u>	<u>TOTAL AMOUNT</u>
1.	Kirk Paper Downey, CA	10	\$46,365.10
2.	Noland Paper Buena Park, CA	2	\$11,886.93
3.	Butler Paper City of Industry, CA	11	\$9,487.50
4.	Nationwide Paper Los Angeles, CA	2	\$7,482.24

7f. COUNCIL AUTHORIZATION OF CONTRACTS - For the purchase of one (1) Dodge Caravan Mini Van, Two (2) 1/2 Ton GMC Pickups, and Two (2) 3/4 Ton Ford Pickups as a cooperative purchase with the State of California

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Ref: State Contract #1-91-23-20  
Expenditure: \$69,175.96 (including sales tax)

RECOMMENDATION:

The Purchasing Division and the Fleet Services Department recommend that your Honorable Body allow the City of Torrance to participate in this cooperative purchase and authorize the award of contracts to Suburban Ford in the amount of \$28,342.02, John Ehret Dodge in the amount of \$15,083.56, and Truck & Bus Group-GMC in the amount of \$25,750.38 (all contract amounts include sales tax).

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to approve Agenda Items 7a through 7f, inclusive. His motion, seconded by Councilman Nakano, carried by unanimous roll call vote [Councilmembers Lee and O'Donnell abstained on 7a].

9. TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC WORKS MATTERS

9a. UPDATING OF ENGINEERING FEES

Held - to be returned at a later date [see Page 2].

10. POLICE/FIRE MATTERS

10a. ESTABLISHMENT OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT FEES

RESOLUTION NO. 92-33

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE ESTABLISHING FEES TO  
RECOVER THE COST OF THE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to adopt Resolution No. 92-33. His motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardison.

Following an overview of this agenda item by Fire Chief Adams, Mayor Geissert invited audience comments.

Mr. Chuck Anderson, CPA, Anderson, Murphy and Associates, 369 Van Ness Way, Suite 740, requested further details as to the implementation of the subject fee schedule and the role of the Fire Department as administering agency as designated by State law. This expanded information was provided by Fire Chief Adams and by City Manager Jackson.

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Roll call vote on the motion to adopt Resolution 92-33 was unanimously favorable.

\* \* \*

At 7:55 p.m., the City Council met in joint session with the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Torrance. During that joint session, the following City Council agenda item was considered as a companion to an Agency agenda item.

11. PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

Companion to Agency Item 4a...

11a. REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ANNUAL REPORT

RECOMMENDATION:

Redevelopment staff recommends that the City Council accept the Redevelopment Agency's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1990-1991, including the Independent Auditors' Report on Financial Statements and the Independent Auditors' Report on Compliance, and file said report without further action.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to concur with the above recommendation of the Redevelopment Agency's Deputy Executive Director. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wirth and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

At 7:58 p.m., the meeting of the Redevelopment Agency was formally adjourned and the regular City Council agenda order was resumed.

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12. PERSONNEL MATTERS

12a. CHANGES TO CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION PROCESS

ORDINANCE NO. 3348

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING SECTION 14.22.1 AND SECTION 14.22.2 AND ADDING SECTIONS 14.22.3, 14.22.4, 14.22.5, 14.22.6 AND 14.22.7 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE PERTAINING TO EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

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MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to approve Ordinance No. 3348, at its first reading. His motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardison and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

13. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

13a. OPPOSITION TO AB 2067 (FLOYD) -- CHANGES TO PUBLIC OFFICERS PROCEDURAL BILL OF RIGHTS

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of the City Manager and the Chief of Police for the City Council to adopt a position opposing AB 2067 (Floyd), and that letters outlining the City's position be drafted for the Mayor's signature and sent to appropriate State legislators.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Manager as stated above. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wirth and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

13b. PRE-BUDGET WORKSHOP

I. PRESENTATION BY CITY MANAGER

City Manager Jackson outlined the City's budget process and provided background information as to the purpose and procedures of the Pre-Budget Workshop.

Finance Director Giordano-Specht reviewed the broad economic outlook, as well as the City's General Fund budget status at mid-year. Written material [of record] supporting Ms. Giordano-Specht's presentation was distributed at this time.

An overview of the following options [detailed in agenda backup material] was presented by the City Manager.

1. Establish a budget using the current year's budget appropriations, plus projected wage cost based on current expenditures, which would result in an across-the-board cutback budget with today's costs.
2. A priority cutback budget.

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3. The exploration of revenue increases, including fees, increase in current taxes or imposition of new taxes, such as...

- Paramedic subscription fee
- Sidewalk repair fee
- Transient occupancy tax increase
- Utility users tax increase.

4. The use of alternate sources of revenue.

Areas of focus for prioritizing City services were set forth as follows by Mr. Jackson...

- A coordination of effort geared towards youth
- A coordinated effort of economic development in the City
- Improved service to the public
- A coordinated approach to dealing with external mandates
- Joint efforts in providing greater public safety.

## II. QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION BY THE COUNCIL

Councilman Lee suggested that staff investigate the shifting of staff from park sites to middle school sites in the afternoons as a means of gearing efforts toward youth.

Mr. Lee also recommended, with the concurrence of a majority of the Council, creation of a Customer Service Representative position, as well as establishing a fee schedule for citizens wishing their trees trimmed for views.

City Manager Jackson will provide discussion papers.

\*

Councilwoman Hardison favored establishing the budget using the current year's expenditures; approved of the approach presented for establishing priorities and possible reallocation of funds; concurred with the prospect of addressing youth services; approved of a coordinated effort for economic development; and requested that external mandates and joint efforts to enhance public safety be dealt with.

Ms. Hardison opposed revenue increases and requested that justification for overtime be explored as well as alternative sources of revenue as presented in staff material.

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Councilman Wirth opposed the raising of taxes and recommended that City employees be involved in the budget at an early point in the process.

Mr. Wirth requested that Police Chief De Ladurantey provide feedback regarding the possible use of forfeiture funds to enhance public safety.

The importance of retaining major businesses in the area and encouragement of the reinvestment of Federal funds in high-tech industries in the area were noted. Establishment of fees for tree trimming and certain Parks and Recreation programs was also encouraged by this Councilmember.

\*

Councilwoman O'Donnell expressed concerns regarding revenue increases and voiced her opposition to paramedic and sidewalk repair fees.

\*

Councilman Applegate requested that staff check into the possibility that the repair of damage to sidewalks caused by tree roots might be covered under the typical homeowners insurance policy.

Mr. Applegate recommended that the greatest efforts be put forth in the area of increased public safety with other services preserved at their current level.

\*

Councilman Nakano favored maintaining the current level of service but without new fees; conceded to the possibility of an offset for improved public safety in the area of crime and gang-related problems. Mr. Nakano encouraged a coordination of effort geared toward youth, especially the youth basketball program, and also a coordinated effort of economic development in the City with a line of communication with large corporations.

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Mayor Geissert favored: maintaining the current level of service without raising fees; putting existing resources to optimum use; bringing employees into the process; coordinating efforts toward youth, with attention directed toward middle school age students; etc.

The Mayor agreed with her colleagues regarding a coordinated effort with the Chamber of Commerce focusing on economic development. A debriefing with the Hughes Electronics firm [which elected to remain in Torrance] in order to gain beneficial insight which would assist with other major firms in the City was suggested by Mrs. Geissert.

### III. AUDIENCE INPUT

Mr. Chuck Anderson, Anderson, Murphy and Associates, 369 Van Ness Way, Suite 740, Chairman of the City Budget Review Committee for the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, stated that the Chamber would like to be involved in attempting to attract and retain businesses in the City. The City's difficult and lengthy permit process was noted by Mr. Anderson as an impediment to development.

\*

Ms. Eileen Hawkins, 1303 Date Avenue, called attention to graffiti on buildings on Carson Street east of Western Avenue and suggested the City attempt to influence the responsible jurisdiction to remove same in order to discourage the inroad of such activity into the City of Torrance. Ms. Hawkins also suggested that empty buildings throughout the City be utilized before new development is encouraged. Responding to Ms. Hawkins' inquiry regarding the City's expenditure on legal fees, Finance Director Giordano-Specht advised that this information is included in the budget.

\*

Mr. Burton Fletcher, 21707 Hawthorne Boulevard, #204, concurred with Councilman Nakano's suggestion regarding coordinating economic development efforts with the business community and further recommended the formation of an Economic Development Commission or Business Commission. He urged that small, as well as large, businesses be addressed.

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This speaker recommended the allocation of sufficient funds for police presence in the Alondra Park area of North Torrance. A foundation for the Community Center and coordination of efforts with the Chamber of Commerce in their Adopt-a-School program were also mentioned by Mr. Fletcher.

\*

Mr. Rick Bongard, 1701 Crenshaw Boulevard, requested consideration of the Critical Incident Stress program [currently a green sheet item] and supplemental health insurance. Mr. Bongard urged concentration on youth-related problems in the community and a heightened effort to protect citizens.

#### IV. CLOSING REMARKS

Mayor Geissert summarized the foregoing comments by noting the desire that the current level of services be maintained as much as possible without raising taxes and fees -- priorities and services to go in the direction of public safety, with emphasis on youth -- concerns regarding responsiveness to the public's needs.

The Mayor urged employee groups, as well as citizen representatives, be involved in this year's budgetary process.

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At 9:30 p.m., Mayor Geissert called a recess. The Council reconvened at 9:55 p.m.

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#### 13c. MID YEAR BUDGET REVIEW

##### RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of the Council Finance Committee that your Honorable Body, as a whole, accept the mid year budget review report and concur with the Committee in the following:

1. Authorize the reserve of the PERS AB 702 credit as a non-interest bearing account;
2. Appropriate \$1,000,000 from the self insurance catastrophe reserve to the self insurance fund.

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MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to concur with the recommendation of the Council Finance Committee. His motion was seconded by Councilman Applegate and roll call vote was unanimously favorable.

13d. SCHEDULE OF BUDGET WORKSHOPS/HEARINGS

The following dates were established by consent of the Council...

May 18, 1992, 5:00 p.m. - First Budget Workshop  
May 20, 1992, 5:00 p.m. - Second Budget Workshop  
June 1, 1992, 5:00 p.m. - Third Budget Workshop

May 19, 1992, 5:30 p.m. - First Public Hearing  
June 2, 1992, 5:30 p.m. - Second Public Hearing.

14. HEARINGS

14a. ZC 91-0501 (EAS 91-0501): CITY OF TORRANCE

Mayor Geissert announced that this was the time and place for City Council consideration of a request for a Zone Change from R-1 (single-family residential) to R-1 (PP) (single-family residential with a Precise Plan overlay) on property located between the Dominguez Channel and 166th Street at Glenburn Avenue. ZC 91-0501 (EAS 91-0501): CITY OF TORRANCE.

Proof of publication was filed without comment.

Councilman Lee announced that, inasmuch as he had voted on this matter at the Planning Commission level, he would abstain during the Council consideration. He then departed from the Council Chambers.

During his staff report, Senior Principal Planner Gibson noted that the Planning Commission and the Planning Department recommend approval of the request.

Public input was invited by the Mayor. There being no response, Councilman Applegate moved to close the public hearing. His motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardison and roll call vote was unanimously favorable [Councilman Lee abstained].

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ORDINANCE NO. 3347

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING DIVISION 9 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO RECLASSIFY CERTAIN PROPERTY BETWEEN DOMINGUEZ CHANNEL AND 166TH STREET AT GLENBURN AVENUE FROM R-1 (SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO R-1 (PP) (SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL WITH A PRECISE PLAN OVERLAY)  
ZC 91-0501: CITY OF TORRANCE

MOTION: Councilman Nakano moved to approve Ordinance No. 3347 at its first reading. His motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hardison and roll call vote was unanimously favorable [Councilman Lee abstained].

Councilman Lee rejoined his colleagues at this time.

14b. EDISON PIPELINE FRANCHISE HEARING

Mayor Geissert announced that this was the time and place for a public hearing regarding the Southern California Edison Company pipeline franchise.

Proof of publication was filed without comment.

City Attorney Nelson recommended that the subject hearing be continued to April 28, 1992.

MOTION: Councilman Applegate moved to continue Agenda Item 14b to Tuesday, April 28, 1992, 7:00 p.m. His motion was seconded by Councilman Wirth and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

19. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

19a. Councilman Applegate inquired regarding the City's ability to back-charge to Motorola expenses involving radio problems. City Manager Jackson will provide an update.

19b. Councilwoman Hardison suggested the possibility of utilizing JTPA funds to aid the Middle School at-risk groups. Mrs. Hardison urged that the City meet the challenge involving the needs of these young people.

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19c. Councilman Nakano commented on the success of the recent "Sullivan Run".

19d. Councilman Nakano commented on the merits of a "Say No to Drugs" program at the fifth grade level which he witnessed at the Sam Levy School.

19e. Councilman Nakano requested that Police Chief De Ladurantey provide the Council with information as it becomes available regarding a recent attack on an individual from Thailand.

19f. Councilwoman O'Donnell described the manner in which St. Patrick's Day is observed in Ireland.

19g. Councilman Wirth noted the receipt of a petition from North Torrance residents indicating complaints regarding fliers being placed on their doors and requesting an ordinance to prohibit this activity.

City Attorney Nelson provided information regarding an ordinance to be presented to Council in the future and indicated, in response to Councilman Applegate, that the possibility of tying businesses into the ordinance will be investigated.

Mr. Wirth requested further research in the area of liability and responsibility for related trash, etc.

19h. Councilman Wirth inquired regarding left-turn signalization at Anza and Pacific Coast Highway. A status report of that intersection, as well as others in the City, was provided by Director of Transportation Horkay.

19i. Mayor Geissert suggested a meeting with area residents regarding the Elm Avenue reservoir. City Engineer Burttt advised that the matter is being addressed and a report will be forthcoming.

19j. Ms. Shirley Turner, 23216 Juniper Avenue, speaking on behalf of the Friends of Madrona March, described the 20th gala anniversary of Friends of the Marsh -- "ART IN NATURE" -- held March 6 and 7.

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19k. Mr. Rick Bongard, President of the Torrance Firefighters Association, announced the March 21st spaghetti dinner, the proceeds from which will benefit burn victims.

20. EXECUTIVE SESSION

20a. EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS (Cont. - See Pages 1 and 2)

Mayor Geissert read the following statement into the record.

The City Council will now recess to closed session to confer with the City Manager and/or the City Attorney on the following subjects:

- Salaries, salary schedules and compensation for certain unrepresented employees and represented employee groups as well as certain other personnel matters.
- Litigation entitled Securities and Exchange Commission vs. Institutional Treasury Management, Inc., United States District Court, Central District of California Civil Action Case No. 91-6715RG (Ex).
- Negotiations regarding ground lease with Whittlesey Toyota Motors located at 2955 Pacific Coast Highway, Torrance, California.
- Pending litigation entitled City of Torrance vs. Walter J. Egan, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. C 013630.
- Pending litigation entitled Artistic Landscape and Engineering, Inc. vs. City of Torrance, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. C 750048.
- Pending litigation entitled Derrick Anderson, et al. vs. City of Torrance, et al., United States District Court Case No. 91 3473 HLH (JRx).
- Potential litigation entitled Aerospace Corporation vs. State Board of Equalization.

Authority to hold an executive session for these purposes is contained in Government Code Sections 54957.6 (a), 54956.9 (a) and 54956.9 (c).

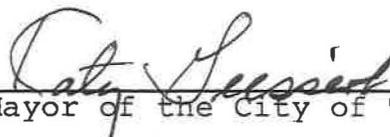
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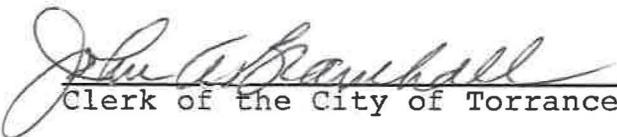
At 10:46 p.m., the City Council recessed to executive session, returning at 11:31 p.m. No action was required as a result of the executive session.

21. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:31 p.m., this meeting was formally adjourned to Tuesday, March 24, 1992, 5:30 p.m. for purposes of an executive session -- the regular meeting of that date will commence at 7:00 p.m.

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Mayor of the City of Torrance

  
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Clerk of the City of Torrance

Peggy Laverty  
Minute Secretary

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