

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance City Council convened in an adjourned regular session at 6:32 p.m. on Tuesday, February 15, 2005 in City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Councilmembers Lieu, Mauno, McIntyre, Nowatka, Scotto, Witkowsky and Mayor Walker.

Absent: None.

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

\*

Agenda Item 17 was considered out of order at this time.

**17. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Council immediately recessed to closed session to confer with the City Manager and the City Attorney on agenda matters listed under 17A) Real Property – Conference with Real Property Negotiator, pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.8.

The Council reconvened in Council Chambers at 7:02 p.m. No formal action was taken on any matter considered in closed session.

**2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Nowatka.

Councilmember Witkowsky gave the non-sectarian invocation for the meeting.

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

**MOTION:** Councilmember Lieu 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 Witkowsky, and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Lieu moved that after the City Clerk has read aloud the number and title to any resolution or ordinance on the meeting agenda, the further reading thereof shall be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilmember the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mauno and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS**

None.

**5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Scotto announced a meeting of the Finance and Governmental Operations Committee to be held on Tuesday, March 8, at 4:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers to discuss the mid-year budget review.

Councilmember Scotto announced a meeting of the Ad Hoc Armed Forces Parade Committee to be held on Thursday, March 10, at 10:00 a.m. in the Garden Room of the Cultural Arts Center. Fellow committee member Councilmember Mauno noted that the Coast Guard will be the featured service at this year's event.

Mayor Walker announced that the hearing on the Shea Homes residential development has been rescheduled to the March 22 City Council meeting.

City Clerk Herbers announced that applications would be accepted through Wednesday, March 2, to fill vacancies on the various commissions, with appointments to be made at the March 8 City Council meeting. [Cable Television Advisory Board (2 seats), Civil Service Commission, Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission, and the Library Commission]

Mayor Walker asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Arlene Ghio, recently retired Community Relations Manager, who passed away on February 8, 2005.

**7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**7A. AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ASCENT MEDIA SYSTEMS & TECHNOLOGY SERVICES, LLC**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council approve Amendment No. 1 to the contract services agreement with Ascent Media Systems & Technology Services, LLC (C2004-215).

**7B. AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT WITH PETDATA, INC.**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **Chief of Police** that City Council approve an amendment to the existing contract with PetData, Inc. (C2004-051), for animal licensing services, for the period from March 1, 2005 to February 28, 2006.

**7C. RELEASE OF SUBDIVISION BONDS FOR TRACT MAP NO. 53382**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **Community Development Director** that City Council approve the release of three subdivision bonds for Tract Map No. 53382, which was subdivided by Silzan Company, Inc., and located at 1653 Cravens Avenue.

**7D. RELEASE OF SUBDIVISION BONDS FOR TRACT MAP NO. 53339**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **Community Development Director** that City Council approve the release of three subdivision bonds for Tract Map No. 53339, which was subdivided by Silzan Company, Inc., and located at 1653 Cravens Avenue.

**7E. VOLUNTEERS' PICNIC AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FAIR**

Considered separately, see page 4.

**7F. CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH VERDASEE SOLUTIONS, INC.**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **Chief of Police** that City Council approve an amendment to the contract with VerdaSee Solutions, Inc., (C2004-017) to track weapons inventory, extending the term of the contract to the end of the 2004-2005 Fiscal Year, at no additional cost.

**7G. PURCHASE OF HARDWARE FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH CENTERS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **Information Technology Director, Fire Chief and Police Chief** that City Council authorize a purchase order be issued to Advanced Electronics in the amount of \$37,944.91 to purchase the necessary hardware and provide the required labor to move and combine the Public Safety dispatch centers.

**7H. CURB, GUTTER AND SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROGRAM (I-1) AND RESIDENTIAL STREETS REHABILITATION PROGRAM (I-5)**

Considered separately see page 4.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Scotto moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7F, and 7G. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lieu and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Consent Calendar Items 7E and 7H were considered separately at this time.

**7E. VOLUNTEERS' PICNIC AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FAIR**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **Chief of Police** that the Police Department Emergency Services Coordinator, in conjunction with City-sponsored volunteer groups (TARA, CERT, Area G Veterinary Team, Neighborhood Watch) and other City-affiliated groups (CVAN), host a volunteers' picnic and conduct an emergency preparedness fair.

**City Manager's Note:** This item is in response to a request made by Councilwoman Hope Witkowsky at the City Council meeting of February 1, 2005 directing staff to subsidize the volunteers' picnic.

Councilmember Witkowsky announced that she was abstaining from consideration of this item because of a conflict of interest due to her involvement with the CVAN program and exited the dais.

Mayor Walker, echoed by Councilmember Nowatka, thanked the volunteers who were present in the audience for all of their hard work.

Deputy Police Chief Besse reported that this would be the second year the City has hosted a picnic for above-mentioned volunteer groups and that the City, in conjunction with these groups, plans to conduct an emergency preparedness fair later in the year.

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

Councilmember Witkowsky returned to the dais.

**7H. CURB, GUTTER AND SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROGRAM (I-1)  
AND RESIDENTIAL STREETS REHABILITATION PROGRAM (I-5)**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **Acting Deputy Public Works Director** that City Council:

- 1) Appropriate Bond Proceeds in the amount of \$2,000,000 for the Curb, Gutter and Sidewalk Replacement Program (I-1);
- 2) Appropriate Transportation Development Act, Article 3 Funds (TDA3 Funds) in the amount of \$96,468 for the Curb, Gutter and Sidewalk Replacement Program (I-1);
- 3) Appropriate Bond Proceeds in the amount of \$1,500,000 for the Residential Streets Rehabilitation Program (I-5);
- 4) Approve a consulting services agreement with Case Land Surveying, Inc. in the amount of \$89,700 to provide surveying services in conjunction with the Curb, Gutter and Sidewalk Replacement Program (I-1);
- 5) Approve a contract services agreement with Labelle-Marvin, Inc. in the amount of \$15,455 to perform pavement structural evaluations in conjunction with the Residential Streets Rehabilitation Program (I-5);
- 6) Authorize the Mayor to execute and City Clerk to attest to said agreements; and
- 7) Approve streets identified for improvement under the programs pursuant to the selection criteria previously approved by City Council.

Patrick Furey, President of Northwest Torrance Homeowners Association, stated that he was pleased that this project was going forward and thanked staff for recognizing and addressing street and drainage problems in this area.

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

**11. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**11A. CRITERIA FOR NAMING CITY BUILDINGS AND PARKS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation that City Council provide direction to staff regarding the process used in naming City buildings and parks.

Councilmember Nowatka explained that he asked that this item be brought forward, because he was taken by surprise at the last meeting when Mayor Walker announced that the Stage II Theatre was being renamed for George Nakano. He stated that his concerns about this issue have nothing to do with George Nakano, who is an honorable man who has represented Torrance well, both as a City Councilman and a State Assemblyman. He apologized if this matter has caused Mr. Nakano any discomfort, noting that he personally endorsed him all three times he ran for election to the California State Assembly.

Councilmember Nowatka stated that he objected to this decision made by fiat because the community was denied a voice, including stakeholders such as the Cultural Arts Foundation, the Cultural Arts Commission, the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Arts Council of Torrance, the Torrance Public Facilities Building Corporation, the Torrance Improvements Corporation, and the City Council Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee.

Councilmember Nowatka voiced his opinion that it was the City Council's responsibility to make sure that channels of communication are open so that community members have the ability to be involved in important decisions. He stated that the naming of a City building and the awarding of the Jared Sidney Torrance Award are major community events that demand broad participation and the recognition is cheapened when it can be done by one person's decree.

Referring to the record from the May 11, 1999 City Council meeting, Councilmember Nowatka noted that the Ad Hoc Committee on Facility Naming Criteria, of which Dan Walker was a member, recommended that the City Council refer requests to name facilities to staff and/or advisory bodies for input and that the City Council make its determination at a regularly scheduled City Council meeting at which representatives of advisory bodies, civic organizations and the general public could offer testimony. Referring to the minutes from the May 11 meeting, he pointed out that Councilmember Walker dissented when the Council voted to accept and file the Ad Hoc Committee's proposed Policy and Procedures for Facility Naming rather than implementing them.

Councilmember Nowatka expressed concerns that naming a building after an individual who has announced his intention to run for higher office could be interpreted as an endorsement of a candidate; voiced objections to any attempt to make this a racial issue; and urged that this matter not be politicized.

Mayor Walker noted that the naming of two major facilities, the James Armstrong Theatre and the Katy Geissert Library, was done upon recommendation of the mayor without any community involvement. He explained that while he was on the losing side in 1999 when the majority of the Council voted not to establish hard and fast criteria for facility naming, he has since changed his opinion and believes the Council made the right decision.

Mayor Walker stated that he did not make this decision capriciously and recalled that he discussed at the last meeting, why he felt it was appropriate that George Nakano be honored in this way, including the fact that he has worked tirelessly for the community, both as a councilmember and as an assemblyman, and without his efforts the Stage II Theatre would not exist. He reported that the idea was brought to him by a colleague and mentioned by others as well. He disclosed that he informed some, but not all of his colleagues on the Council about his intention to rename the facility and that he discussed the appropriate language for bringing the matter forward with the City Attorney in advance.

In response to Mayor Walker's inquiry, City Attorney Fellows confirmed that that the necessary action to rename the Theatre was completed at the last meeting.

Mayor Walker noted that the issue at hand was whether or not to establish a policy for the naming of City facilities and reiterated his position that the Council made the correct decision in 1999 when the majority elected not to do so. He reported that there has been discussion in the arts community about the monetary benefits of naming rooms, however, there are legal matters that must be worked out and that is a separate issue from the naming of a major building.

Councilmember Witkowsky reported that Mayor Walker informed her about his intention to rename the theater and that she thought it was a great idea at the time and still feels the same way. She noted that Mr. Nakano is the first former councilmember to be elected to the State Assembly, and that in his position as assemblyman, he was instrumental in the City's obtaining funding for the Stage II Theatre, the Japanese garden in the Cultural Arts Center complex, the Veterans' Memorial, and the Artesia Boulevard

beautification project. She voiced her opinion that it was very appropriate to add George Nakano's name to the list of those honored through the naming of a building in Torrance, noting that this practice dates back to the 1960s.

Councilmember Lieu reported that he received several form-letter e-mails suggesting that it was inappropriate to honor Mr. Nakano because he plans to run for the State Senate in the future, but he strongly disagrees.

In response to Councilmember Lieu's inquiry, City Manager Jackson confirmed that Charles Wilson was a sitting congressman at the time Wilson Park was named for him and that other facilities have been named for politicians who were still in office. He also confirmed that the naming of the Katy Geissert Library, the James Armstrong Theatre, the Ken Miller Recreation Center, and the Stanley Remelmeyer Telecommunications Center were all done at the request of the Mayor with the concurrence of the Council without any input from a commission or naming committee.

Councilmember McIntyre reported that councilmembers have been inundated by e-mails concerning the action taken last week and that she was disturbed that a racial issue has been raised when in fact no racial issue exists. She stated that everyone recognizes that George Nakano has been an exceptional statesman and that without his persistent efforts the Cultural Arts Center would never have come to fruition. In addition, she noted that Mr. Nakano was instrumental in establishing sound corporate relations with Honda and Toyota, both of which are substantial contributors to the City of Torrance, and that the highest award in Japan was bestowed upon him last November, the Order of the Rising Sun. She voiced her opinion that it was very appropriate to name the Stage II Theatre after George Nakano, a man who has made a significant effort to improve the cultural life of all who live in Torrance.

Councilmember Mauno noted that he was aware of Mayor Walker's intention to rename the theater, so it did not take him by surprise. He stated that in addition to the accomplishments previously mentioned, he has always been impressed by the fact that Mr. Nakano, in his youth, lived in an internment camp and went on to serve this nation as an educator, a councilmember, and an assemblyman. He added that while he understood those who favor naming a building for a corporate sponsor in order to obtain funding, he preferred to honor an individual who has merited this recognition and has a unique historical perspective.

Councilmember Scotto pointed out that the Council was supposed to be discussing whether or not to establish criteria for the naming City facilities. He explained that he and other people in the community were shocked to learn that the mayor has the ability to unilaterally name buildings without consulting the rest of the Council. He conceded that he was not on the Council when other buildings were named, but reported that he was on the Council when a Sidney Jared Torrance Award was given and councilmembers were afforded an opportunity by the mayor to voice their opinions privately. He stated that while George Nakano is deserving of recognition, some are concerned about political ramifications, and that he would like to these matters to be handled differently in the future, with commission involvement and public input.

Mayor Walker stated that his action should not have been surprising or shocking because it was reasonably consistent with what has occurred in the past.

Councilmember Nowatka wanted to clarify that there was dissent when Mayor Walker brought up this issue last week; that there was a request for additional time on this

item; and that after adjournment, the Mayor asked the City Attorney whether the action could be considered final. He disputed Councilmember Lieu's characterization of the e-mails received in opposition to the renaming of the Stage II Theatre as form letters; noted that e-mails in support of the renaming only started arriving just prior to this meeting at 4:30 p.m.; and indicated that all of the e-mails could be viewed in the City Clerk's office. He noted that he did not object to the recognition of George Nakano but rather objected to the process.

Mayor Walker recalled that only one objection was made at the time he made the announcement; that he asked the City Attorney whether it was sufficient to state. "without majority objection so ordered"; that the City Attorney replied in the affirmative; and that he again asked if there was any objection and after hearing no response, he congratulated George Nakano and went on with other business. He reiterated that his action last week was consistent with what has occurred in the past and suggested that when e-mails from 15 people are received, which use exactly the same terminology, it becomes apparent that there was some collaboration. He noted his agreement with Councilmember Scotto that this discussion should be limited to the policy for the naming of City facilities.

Councilmember Lieu stated that he had no objection to coming up with a new policy for the naming of City facilities, which involves more community input, however, her did not believe it should be retroactively applied to Mayor's action last week.

Councilmember Nowatka noted that the record indicates that there were resolutions adopted by the City Council approving the naming of the Katy Geissert Library and the Ken Miller Recreation Center.

City Attorney Fellows discussed the possibility that the Mayor announced the naming of these facilities and a resolution was brought forward at a later date so it could be presented to the honoree. He related his understanding that it has been the City's policy for a significant period of time to allow the Mayor to name City facilities by making a public announcement.

Councilmember McIntyre asked that a resolution be brought back to the Council reaffirming the naming of the George Nakano Theatre, and hearing no objection, Mayor Walker so ordered.

Councilmember Nowatka indicated that he had no objection to the resolution and that he would be honored to sign it.

Dee Hardison, former mayor of the City of Torrance, wanted to clarify that she told councilmembers several days in advance of her intention to name the Civic Center Library for Katy Geissert; that Councilmember Walker objected because he felt anyone so honored should be out of office for at least 8 years; that she disagreed because she believes people need to be honored while they are still alive; and that she subsequently brought the item forward when the Council was holding a joint meeting with the Library Commission prior to a City Council meeting. She explained that she was surprised when Councilmember Lee, seconded by Councilmember O'Donnell, made a motion to concur with her recommendation and the item was approved without being on the agenda.

Ms. Hardison also clarified that the City's connection with Honda began with former Mayor James Armstrong and Toyota's contributions were cultivated by former Mayor Katy Geissert. She provided background information about the naming of facilities of during her term as mayor; indicated that she appointed a committee to look into developing criteria for the naming of facilities, which included Dan Walker; and reported

that the criteria failed to be approved mainly because of dissention regarding the issue of whether a facility should be named for someone while he or she is still alive.

Mayor Walker noted that there have been a lot of changes since Ms. Hardison was mayor and commented on his efforts to make sure the action he took last week was legal.

Patrick Furey, resident, stated that the entire city was disenfranchised last week when they were denied an opportunity to praise George Nakano and maintained that the City's policy with regard to the naming of City facilities was not compliant with the Ralph M. Brown Act or with the City Council rules.

Mr. Furey reported that the Brown Act, Section 549.54.2, states that no action or discussion shall be undertaken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda except that members of a legislative body or its staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their public testimony rights under another section of the code. Additionally, he reported that the City Council's rules, under Agenda, Section 2.3(a), states that all matters intended for action by the City Council shall be submitted to the Council on an agenda submitted by the City Manager and prepared by the City Clerk. He further noted that Section 2.3(c), states that each agenda for a regular meeting shall provide under oral communications an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the City Council on items of interest to the public that are within the jurisdiction of the City Council provided that no action is taken on an item not appearing on the agenda unless the action is otherwise authorized by Section 2.3(b) which refers to emergency situations. He stated that naming a City building does not qualify as an emergency, therefore the City's action was in violation of these rules and maintained that a policy must be adopted that complies with the law.

Asked to respond to Mr. Furey's comments, City Attorney Fellows stated that he did not believe the Mayor's action at the previous meeting was in violation of the Brown Act.

Ann Smisek, representing the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation, stated that the foundation supports the approval of criteria and guidelines for the naming of City facilities, particularly criteria that would allow for input from residents, because the foundation intends to use naming opportunities at the Cultural Arts Center as one element of its fundraising campaign. She explained that the foundation's mission is to promote cultural enrichment through support of the Cultural Arts Center; that two years ago the foundation embarked on a major campaign to bring in monies for current programs/operations, to establish an endowment fund, and to assist in capital improvements at the Cultural Arts Center; and that as this campaign progresses, naming opportunities at the Cultural Arts Center will be a important element in attracting donations.

Pam Cummings, resident, voiced support for establishing a policy for naming City facilities, which includes a review by the appropriate commission and a properly noticed item on the City Council agenda. She stated that just because something was done in the past does not mean that it's right and that she personally believed the Mayor's action was a violation of the Brown Act.

Janet Payne, resident, stated that she was shocked and surprised at the manner in which the Stage II Theatre was renamed and that she supported the establishment of some system for the naming of buildings. She provided background information regarding the naming of facilities in the past; expressed dismay at the controversy the Mayor's action has provoked; and voiced her opinion that the naming of City facilities should not take place without public input.

Mayor Walker commented that his action was not any different than what was done in the past and this method has functioned very well for a number of years. He stated that the controversy that has developed has absolutely nothing to do with George Nakano, but rather with who brought his name forward.

Tony Kriss, resident, stated that he thought it was incumbent on the City Council to create an advisory body to establish criteria for the naming of City facilities. He suggested that the Mayor's unilateral decision disenfranchised the community at large, as well as his colleagues on the Council, each of whom may have had a nominee for the naming of this facility. He acknowledged the fact that George Nakano is credited with obtaining funding for the Stage II Theatre, but pointed out that these were taxpayer funds and the expenditure had to be approved by the legislature and the governor. He stated that he has nothing but respect for George Nakano and worked for his campaign, however, he believes it would be better to wait to honor him because he plans to run for higher office and the naming of this building could be misconstrued. He called for the Mayor to rescind his action and to allow the establishment of a procedure, which includes community involvement.

Mayor Walker indicated that he had no intention of rescinding this well-deserved honor.

Yvonne Tressel, resident, stated that she was sure that George Nakano would be everyone's choice for the naming of this building, however, she believes that criteria should be established and that the naming of a facility should be announced to the public before it happens.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Scotto moved to establish an ad hoc committee on the naming of City facilities. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka, and discussion briefly continued.

Mayor Walker noted that there are very few opportunities for the naming of buildings and reiterated his position that the current procedure serves the community best. He expressed concerns that should a naming committee be created, there could be a rush to name things as people would feel an obligation to do so.

Councilmember Scotto voiced support for allowing the public to have input on the naming of a City facility by placing it on the City Council agenda rather than having the Mayor make an announcement under orals when few people are present.

Mayor Walker called for a vote on the motion, and the motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Walker appointed Councilmembers Lieu, Mauno and Witkowsky to the ad hoc committee on the naming of City facilities, with Councilmember Witkowsky to serve as chair.

## **12. HEARINGS**

### **12A. CHANGES TO SECTION 8 RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

#### **Recommendation**

Recommendation of the **Community Development Director** that City Council conduct a public hearing, consider any comments received during the hearing, and approve the changes to the Administrative Plan for the Section 8 Rental Assistance Program. The **Community Development Director** also recommends that City Council adopt a Resolution of Approval for the Plan.

Mayor Walker announced that now was the time and place for a public hearing on this matter. City Clerk Herbers confirmed that the hearing was properly advertised.

Responding to questions from the Council, Acting Planning Manager Richardson advised the proposed changes would impact only seven families, none of whom are elderly or disabled. She explained that federal funding cuts have necessitated an increase in the minimum rent paid by a family from \$25 to \$50. She reported there are currently 450 people on the waiting list for this program and the majority of them are not Torrance residents.

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

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

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2005-09**

##### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING CHANGES TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF TORRANCE SECTION 8 RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**MOTION:** Councilmember McIntyre moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2005-09. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scotto and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

#### **16. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**16A. City Manager Jackson** commented on the loss of Arlene Ghio, noting that she worked diligently on the May 1999 report on facility naming criteria and while her name does not appear on any building, she carefully crafted the wording on commemorative plaques on buildings throughout the City to preserve the memory of those honored.

**16B. All councilmembers** expressed condolences to Bill Ghio and family of Arlene Ghio.

**16C. Councilmember Lieu** congratulated West High School for coming in 1<sup>st</sup> place in Los Angeles County Academic Decathlon. He noted that North High School placed 3<sup>rd</sup>, Torrance High School placed 10<sup>th</sup> and South High School placed 13<sup>th</sup> overall.

**16D. Councilmember Lieu** announced a community workshop for the General Plan Update to be held on Wednesday, February 23, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**16E. Councilmember Mauno** as the City's representative to the West Los Angeles Vector Control District, reported that the number of cases of the West Nile virus is expected to be much higher this year and that as warm weather approaches, there will be information as to how people can protect themselves from this threat.

**16F. Councilmember McIntyre** asked, with the concurrence of Council, that a historic preservation element be added to the forthcoming General Plan.

**16G. Councilmember Nowatka** encouraged participation in the General Plan Update workshop.

**16H. Councilmember Nowatka** announced that the first installment of the Works in Progress series will be the *Trial of Lenny Bruce* on February 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the Stage II Theatre of the Cultural Arts Center and cautioned that the language may be offensive due to the subject matter.

**16I. Councilmember Scotto** commended the West High School Academic Decathlon Team, noting that students put in a tremendous amount of time studying and there are many who volunteer their time to coach the teams.

**16J. Councilmember Scotto** asked that staff contact Caltrans about the signals on Hawthorne Boulevard not being synchronized.

**16K. Councilmember Witkowsky** noted that she was not able to be present for the vote on Agenda Item 7E but thanked those from TARA, CVAN and CERT who volunteer their time to help protect the City.

**16L. Councilmember Witkowsky** announced that she has been appointed to the National League of Cities Policy Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security.

**16M. Tony Kriss**, resident, came forward to indicate a member of the audience wished to address the Council.

**16N. Patricia Delany**, resident, reported that she is currently living in a Section 8 apartment that should be condemned due to unhealthful conditions. Mayor Walker invited Ms. Delany to meet with staff following the meeting to discuss this issue.

**16O. Bonnie Mae Barnard**, Save Historic Old Torrance, stated that she was delighted that a historic preservation element would be included the General Plan update. She noted that her organization would be making a presentation on historical Torrance at New Horizons on February 17; invited everyone to attend a fundraiser on March 6 at the Depot Restaurant; and invited the City Council, staff and the public to attend a home preservation/renovation workshop in the Anaheim Colony Historic District on March 26.

**16P. Deena Gibson**, resident, stated that she has been on the waiting list for Section 8 rental assistance for almost four years; expressed concerns about the lack of affordable housing in Torrance; and requested information about the status of her application. Mayor Walker invited Ms. Gibson to meet with staff following the meeting.

**16Q. Sandi Monda**, resident, expressed her disappointment that Councilmember Nowatka, who raised the issue of developing criteria for facility naming, was not appointed to the ad hoc committee.

Ms. Monda noted that she made a public records request for TME-AFSCME financial records, but they have yet to be provided and related her understanding that the last financial statement submitted by this union was dated December 1999.

**City Manager Jackson** advised that TME-AFSCME is in violation of their contract with the City because of their failure to file financial reports; that the union has been notified and asked to file the reports as quickly as possible; and that if they fail to respond, the City Attorney will be exploring what actions to take.

Ms. Monda asked that the City Council remember that the TME-AFSCME bargaining unit is in violation of their contract and not take any action on requests by this union until they comply.

**16R. Alan Lee** apologized to the Mayor and Council for calling Tom Brewer a bold-faced liar at a previous City Council meeting, as he could have conveyed his message in a better manner and intended to do so in the future.

Mr. Lee, representing TME-AFSCME, expressed concerns about the existing employee deferred compensation plan administered by Great West and requested that another provider be considered.

Mr. Lee noted that he always confines his remarks to issues that impact the members of his organization and suggested that requests by homeowners association representatives for TME-AFSCME's financial records were politically motivated.

On the issue of Tom Brewer, Mr. Lee submitted the following documents: 1) a "verbatim transcript" of actions at the January 24, 2005 Civil Service Commission meeting; 2) a letter from a police services officer, indicating that she would be coming before the Civil Service Commission for a disciplinary hearing and asking that Tom Brewer be removed from the commission because she did not believe he could be fair and impartial; and 3) an excerpt from the City of Torrance Commissioner Handbook related to how one should behave as a commissioner. He noted that he had spoken with Mr. Lanier, who indicated that his conversation with Mr. Brewer was not cordial, contrary to Mr. Brewer's sworn declaration.

**16S. Sandi Monda** maintained that Mr. Lee has carried on a personal vendetta against Tom Brewer over the past several months. She stated that there have been no complaints about Mr. Brewer's actions as a Civil Service Commissioner, but rather they relate to his actions as a resident and homeowners association president. She explained that after receiving many e-mails and phone calls, Mr. Brewer called Ken Lanier, a Torrance police services officer, to inquire how the Torrance Police Department obtained personal e-mail addresses. She noted that this question has yet to be answered. She reported that she spoke to Ken Lanier in the lobby of the police station approximately two days after Mr. Brewer's phone call; recalled that Mr. Lanier felt was a big brouhaha over nothing; and offered to submit her written recollection of that conversation to the City Attorney. She stated that there is a process in place to deal with these allegations and expressed the hope that the Council will allow this process to go forward without any more input from Alan Lee under orals.

**16T. Mayor Walker** noted that the City Attorney is defending the unfair labor charge against the City related to Tom Brewer's actions.

**17. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1.

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:45 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, March 1, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. for the regular meeting in the Council Chambers. **Tuesday, February 22, 2005 will be a Council dark night.**

***Adjourned in Memory of  
Arlene Ghio***

Attest:

/s/ Dan Walker

Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ Sue Herbers

Sue Herbers, CMC  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on March 22, 2005

Sue Sweet  
Recording Secretary

City Council  
February 15, 2005