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TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 18, 2012

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At 9:18 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, September 25, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

**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 7:05 p.m. on Tuesday, September 18, 2012 in the North Torrance High School Library.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Barnett, Brewer, Furey, Rhilinger, Sutherland and Mayor Scotto.

Absent: Councilmember Numark.

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

2. FLAG SALUTE/ INVOCATION

Colors were posted by North High School Color Guard, Sgt. Major Duran.

The flag salute was led by Congresswoman Maxine Waters.

The non-sectarian invocation was given by Councilmember Rhilinger.

**3. REPORT OF CITY CLERK ON POSTING OF THE AGENDA/ MOTION TO
WAIVE FURTHER READING**

City Clerk Herbers reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard on Thursday, September 13, 2012.

MOTION: Councilmember Rhilinger 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 Furey and passed by unanimous vote (absent Councilmember Numark).

4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLMENTAL ITEMS

None.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Brewer reported that the City Council Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee met on Monday, September 17, to discuss the Torrance Bridge beautification and maintenance.

Mayor Scotto announced that the City Council Ad Hoc State Legislative Advocacy Committee will meet on Monday, October 1, at 4:00 p.m. in the City Manager assembly room to discuss the November ballot measures.

Councilmember Sutherland announced that the next City Council Community Outreach meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the Dee Hardison Sports Center at Wilson Park located at 2400 Jefferson Street.

City Clerk Herbers announced that National Voter Registration Day, which is sponsored by a broad-based group of national and local non-partisan organizations seeking to increase voter registration, will be held on Tuesday, September 25. Voter registration forms are available at the City Clerk's office and libraries or online at www.lavote.net.

City Clerk Herbers announced that residents may register for the free Commissioner Certification Training class on Tuesday, October 30, by contacting the City Manager's office at 310.618.5880 or online at www.TorranceCA.gov/CommissionerCert.htm. The class is required for Torrance residents to be eligible to submit applications for Commission appointments in January 2013 and the certification is valid for two years.

City Clerk Herbers announced that the Torrance Artists Guild Gallery of Fine Art 2012 will be held Saturday, September 29, and Sunday, September 30, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Toyota Auto Museum located at 19600 Van Ness Avenue.

Mayor Scotto asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of long-time North Torrance resident Pierre Deutsch who passed away August 26.

Congresswoman Maxine Waters reported that she is running for re-election in the 43rd Congressional District, which includes North Torrance; noted that she has enjoyed participating in the Armed Forces Day Parade, the Centennial Community Parade and other civic events; and related her observation that Torrance is a well-run city with great community participation.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MEASURE E

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council adopt a Resolution supporting the El Camino Community College District Measure E to provide funds to upgrade facilities to enhance training programs and place the education bond measure on the November 2012 ballot.

Dr. Francisco Arce, Vice President Academic Affairs for El Camino Community College, provided background information about Measure E, which would provide \$350 million in bond funds for facility improvements. He noted that each fall 40% of graduates from Torrance high schools enroll in El Camino Community College.

Councilmember Sutherland encouraged people to vote for Measure E, pointing out that Torrance has always placed a high priority on education.

Voicing support for Measure E, Councilmember Furey, an El Camino alumnus, related his belief that the college greatly benefits the community.

Noting that he is also an El Camino alumnus, Mayor Scotto reported that he recently toured the campus, which is in need of upgrading, and encouraged support of Measure E.

Dillan Horton, Vice President of El Camino ASO Student Government, stated that the organization supports Measure E for the benefit of future students.

Tim Marshall, resident and Torrance realtor, noted that educational facilities in and around Torrance add to property values.

MOTION: Councilmember Rhilinger moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Furey and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Numark).

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-72

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE SUPPORTING THE EL CAMINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT 2012 FACILITIES BOND MEASURE E

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett moved to adopt Resolution No. 2012-72. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brewer and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Numark).

6B. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NORTH TORRANCE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Mayor Scotto presented a certificate of recognition to Robert Rudolph, president of North Torrance Homeowners Association, commending the organization for its efforts to better the community. He also recognized Fred Casstevens, founder and first president of NTHA.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

7A. Debbie Hays, Torrance Historical Society, announced that THS in conjunction with the North Torrance Homeowners Association will be hosting a Centennial event on Thursday, October 4, commemorating Torrance's opening day in October 1912, which will include a viewing of maps from that era and a presentation by Judi Gerber, author of *Farming in Torrance*.

7B. Janet Payne, Torrance Historical Society, announced that there will be a free walking tour of Downtown Torrance on Sunday, September 23, at 1:30 p.m. beginning in front of the museum located at 1345 Post Avenue.

7C. Janet Payne, Torrance Centennial Committee, announced that the South Bay Cities Genealogical Society will be presenting a Centennial event "Torrance Who Do You Think You Are?" on Wednesday, September 19, at 7:00 p.m. at the Armstrong Theatre.

7D. Suzan Hubert, Bobbie Snyder and Mary Garrity, Friends of Madrona Marsh, announced that the annual Moonlight Magic fundraising celebration will be held on Saturday, September 29, at 5:00 p.m. at the Madrona Marsh Preserve located at 3201 Plaza Del Amo.

7E. Dick Amemiya, resident, urged the Council to seek funding from local businesses, such as Del Amo Fashion Center, for the 4th of July fireworks show at Wilson Park because this event is greatly missed by residents. He thanked the Torrance Police Department for their responsiveness to accidents and other incidents in North Torrance.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8A. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION 2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Community Services Director that City Council accept and file the Parks & Recreation Commission annual report for July 2011 through June 2012.

8B. PURCHASE OF EVAPORATIVE CONDENSER FOR WEST ANNEX AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM

Recommendation

Recommendation of the General Services Director that City Council authorize the purchase of a RECOLD JC-110 evaporative condenser from SPX Cooling Technologies of Brea, CA at a cost not to exceed \$55,000 including tax and delivery for the West Annex air conditioning system.

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to approve Consent Calendar Items 8A and 8B. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Numark).

12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

12A. PROPOSITION A FUND EXCHANGE AGREEMENT WITH PALOS VERDES ESTATES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Finance Director that City Council approve a multiyear (fiscal years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014) agreement with the City of Palos Verdes Estates for an exchange for \$69,000 and \$138,000 in City of Torrance General Funds for \$100,000 and \$200,000 respectively of Proposition A Local Return Funds from the City of Palos Verdes Estates and appropriate \$207,000 from the General Fund Proposition A Exchange Reserve.

Audit Manager McDonough reported that staff was recommending that the Council approve a two-year agreement with the City of Palos Verdes that would allow the City to exchange General Funds for Proposition A funds at an exchange rate of \$0.69 on the dollar.

MOTION: Councilmember Rhilinger moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Furey and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Numark).

15.2. OTHER

15.2A. PRESENTATION ON COMMUNICATION DELIVERY METHODS

Cable and Community Relations Manager Michael Smith reviewed the various methods that the City uses to communicate with residents, including the City's website, social media, Torrance Events Calendar, Torrance Seasons quarterly magazine, CitiCABLE, Government Access and Educational Access Channels, eNotify, and CitiSOUNDS AM 1620 Radio.

15.2B. UPDATE ON LIBRARY AND PARK IMPROVEMENTS IN NORTH TORRANCE

Community Services Director John Jones provided an update on enhancements to the library, parks and recreational programs that service the North Torrance community. He noted that the North Torrance Branch Library has been completely remodeled; that there are plans to renovate McMaster Park and expand the Herma Tillim Senior Citizen Center; that the first annual Cherry Blossom Festival was held earlier this year at Columbia Park to celebrate the blooming of the 110 cherry trees donated by Soka Gakkai Inc.; that sport courts at El Nido, Guenser and La Carretera Parks will be resurfaced in 2013; and that new play equipment will be installed in Phase I of Pueblo Park renovations and vacant land added to the park will be landscaped in Phase II.

15.2C. PRESENTATION ON COMMUNITY ALERT/NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS

Fire Chief Racowschi discussed the various community alert/community notification systems used to notify residents in the event of an emergency, including the City Watch reverse 911 system, the Radio Alert Network, the ExxonMobil Community Warning Siren, the Crenshaw/Del Amo/Maple Barrier System, and the Emergency Alert System.

15.2D. PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY INFORMATION

Police Lieutenant Mark Underwood, Watch Commander for North Torrance, reported on crime trends in the North Torrance area and encouraged residents to call police if they observe anything suspicious.

Sergeant Pat Hunt, supervisor of the Community Lead Officer (CLO) Detail, explained that CLO's are charged with investigating quality of life issues, including those involving the transient population, neighborhood disputes, and environmental issues, such as unkempt yards and hoarding. He invited residents to contact the North Torrance CLO if they have any concerns.

Detective Rob Waldrop, Gang Detail, reported that he and his partner are responsible for the oversight of parolees and probationers who are on supervised release per AB109, and they also investigate crimes involving gangs, the vast majority of which are committed by gang members who live outside the City of Torrance.

Detective Sean O'Rourke, Gang Detail, noted that criminals released under AB109 include violent felons and career criminals, and the majority are gang members, and TPD is making every effort to ensure that they are sent back to state prison with maximum sentences when they victimize residents of Torrance.

Police Chief Neu discussed the burden placed on local police departments by AB109 due to the needed to supervise criminals who have been granted an early release from prison.

Sergeant Chris Roosen, supervisor of the Community Affairs Division, reported that the division focuses on crime prevention and community outreach programs, including Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch and Emergency Preparedness programs, and coordinates home security inspections, vacation security checks and speaker requests.

Lieutenant Steve D'anjou, Traffic and Special Events Division, reviewed the varied responsibilities of this division, including the Animal Control program and special events such as the Armed Forces Day Parade. He reported that texting while driving is a major concern and urged the public not to engage in this practice. Noting that school is back in session, he cautioned parents that parking enforcement officers will be out in force videotaping parents who park in restricted areas while dropping off their children and they can be issued citations via mail. He noted that the opening of the Del Amo Boulevard extension has prompted speeding complaints so there is extra traffic enforcement in this area.

15.2E. UPDATE ON CAPITAL PROJECTS IN NORTH TORRANCE

Public Works Director Rob Beste provided an overview of the five divisions in the Public Works Department – Sanitation, Streetscape, Street Operations, Water and Engineering.

Transportation Planning Manager Ted Semaan reported on Capital Projects currently underway in the North Torrance area, including sidewalk replacements and the slurry sealing of streets. He noted that the City is working with Southern California Edison on the undergrounding of utilities on Hawthorne Boulevard from Del Amo Boulevard to 186th Street, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2014.

Engineering Manager Craig Bilezerian noted that the Del Amo Boulevard extension was recently completed, which will result in a lower volume of traffic on other east/west arterials in the North Torrance area. He reported on upcoming pavement rehabilitation projects on Crenshaw Boulevard and 190th Street.

15.2F. REPORT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO TORRANCE TRANSIT ROUTES AND SCHEDULES

Transit Director Turner reported that major changes are being proposed to Torrance Transit routes and schedules with the goal of improving service.

Ian Dailey and Bradley Tollison, Transit Department, briefly reviewed proposed changes to Torrance Transit routes affecting the North Torrance area, which were designed to improve reliability, make it easier to connect with regional network, increase the span of service, and simplify access to the transit network.

Mayor Scotto noted that there is a great deal of work involved in holding a City Council meeting at another venue and thanked City staff for the efforts. He advised residents that representatives of various City Departments would be available following the meeting to answer any questions they may have.

17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

17A. Councilmember Barnett commended the North Torrance Homeowners' Association for their efforts.

17B. Councilmember Barnett thanked all who participated, planned and organized the Centennial Community Parade and the dedication of the Centennial Plaza and Time Capsule last Sunday.

17C. Councilmember Barnett wished Councilmember Furey a happy birthday.

17D. Councilmember Brewer reported that construction will begin soon on improvements to North High funded by the bond measure passed a few years ago.

17E. Councilmember Brewer commented positively on the new Centennial Plaza and thanked everyone who worked on it.

17F. Councilmember Brewer announced that the South Bay Cities Genealogical Society will be presenting a Centennial event "Torrance Who Do You Think You Are?" on Wednesday, September 19, at 7:00 p.m. at the Armstrong Theatre.

17G. Councilmember Furey thanked North Torrance residents for attending this meeting and encouraged them to discuss any concerns they have with City staff following the meeting.

17H. Councilmember Furey commented on his enjoyment of the Employment Variety Show on Saturday evening the Centennial Community Parade on Sunday.

17I. Councilmember Rhilinger echoed comments on the Centennial Community Parade and thanked City staff for their efforts.

17J. Councilmember Rhilinger announced that the Torrance Artists Guild and the Torrance Historical Society will present "Views of Torrance," an art exhibit and sale in conjunction with the historical society's Fall Tour of Historic Homes on October 13 and 14 from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Torrance Women's Club, located at 1422 Engracia Avenue.

17K. Councilmember Sutherland thanked City staff for their efforts on the Centennial Community Parade, along with the Centennial Committee and sponsors.

17L. Councilmember Sutherland reported that he participated in the cleanup of Torrance Beach last Saturday, noting that there was less trash on the beach, but fewer participants.

17M. Mayor Scotto echoed birthday wishes to Councilmember Furey.

17N. Mayor Scotto related his belief that the Centennial Community Parade will long be remembered as a "signature event" and thanked City employees who volunteered their time to make it a success.

18. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

19. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:18 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, September 25, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

***Adjourned in Memory of
Pierre Deutsch***

Attest:

/s/ Frank Scotto
Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ Sue Herbers
Sue Herbers, CMC
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on October 16, 2012