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Torrance, California
August 27, 1946

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, August 27, 1946 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor Sherfey called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. Absent: Councilmen: None.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag.

Clerk Bartlett advised that the first order of business is to canvass the absentee ballots, of which thirty-eight (38) had been voted and returned, whereupon he proceeded to open the sealed envelopes containing one ballot to each envelope. Results of the canvass of absentee ballots were as follows:

<u>PROPOSITIONS</u>	<u>VOTES CAST</u>	
	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Charter	1,385	771
Prop. 1 - Trunk Sewers	746	1,257
Prop. 2 - Storm Drains	680	1,296
Prop. 3 - Fire Station	869	1,148
Prop. 4 - Police & Court	698	1,289
Prop. 5 - Street Improvements	698	1,292
Prop. 6 - Recreation	837	1,196
Prop. 7 - Water Mains	856	1,154
Total Votes cast, including absentee ballots:	2,193.	

Clerk Bartlett announced that the Charter had carried as follows: YES 1,385 NO 771 and all other propositions were defeated.

Upon completion of the canvass of absentee ballots, Clerk Bartlett declared that the next order of business is the canvass of returns of the August 20, 1946 Special Consolidated election, whereupon he proceeded to open sealed envelopes containing tally lists, beginning with the sealed envelope for Precinct No. 1, and proceeding until seventeen sealed envelopes (one for each precinct) had been opened, and presented tally lists to the City Council who canvassed same.

There being no errors apparent, Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to, and also read the number of votes cast for and against each proposition,

RESOLUTION NO. 1795½

RESOLUTION DECLARING RESULTS OF SPECIAL CONSOLIDATED ELECTION HELD IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUGUST 20, 1946.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Resolution No. 1795½ be adopted. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Tolson moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held August 13, 1946, an Adjourned Regular Meeting held August 19, 1946, an Adjourned Regular Meeting held August 21, 1946, and an Adjourned Regular Meeting held August 26, 1946, be approved as written. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Clerk Bartlett presented and read statement of 2% gross receipts from the Union Oil Company for the year ending June 30, 1946, arising from operation of Los Angeles County Franchise No. 1010, in amount of \$51.21. Matter of record.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read statement of 2% gross receipts from Union Oil Company for the year ending June 30, 1946, arising from operation of Los Angeles County Franchise No. 1501 granted to Pan American Petroleum Company, and assigned to said Union Oil Company, in amount of \$7.15. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Local #360, United Public Workers of America, requesting loan of a small bus to participate in the Labor Day Parade to be held in Los Angeles September 2, 1946.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the request of Local No. 360 for the loan of a small bus be granted. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett read a communication from the Senate Committee declaring the establishment of a Senate Interim Committee on State and Local Taxation to investigate the tax structures of State and Local Government, and other matters pertinent to the subject. The communication also advised that shortly a series of public hearings will be begun at which time the Committee would like to consider the pressing financial problems of each governmental unit, and requested that a representative bring these problems before the Committee.

Clerk Bartlett advised that September 3 and 4, 1946 at 9:30 A.M. in the State Building, Los Angeles, had been set for the hearings and suggested that a representative of the City of Torrance be at these meetings.

A communication was read from Mr. John Salm of Salm Manufacturing Company, protesting the admission of two quonset huts recently moved in north of his home and requested that the Council pass an ordinance against this type of structure.

Councilman Powell moved that the communication be referred to the Planning Commission for consideration and recommendation to the Council. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from James K. Howell, 5616 Maywood Avenue, Maywood, requesting permission to sell ice cream, at retail, from a delivery wagon.

Mayor Sherfey requested Clerk Bartlett to notify Mr. Howell the amount of the business license and to inform him of a possible change in the license ordinance. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Frank Munoz, 2357 Pontius Avenue, Los Angeles, requesting permission to hold a Fiesta and dancing on his farm, located at 182nd Street, North Torrance, on Saturdays and Sundays.

Councilman Powell moved that the request be referred to the Council as a whole for further study and report at the next regular meeting. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Pueblo Center, 2314 - 203rd Street, Torrance, signed by representatives of various organizations in the district, requesting the improvement of 203rd Street before the rainy season.

After some discussion between members of the Council and the City Engineer on the cost of improving this street, which the City Engineer estimated would be about \$1500.00, Councilman Gilbert moved that the request be referred to the City Engineer for recommendation. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mrs. Davis again calling attention to the condition of the trees on Crenshaw at the corner of Sonoma, and requesting that they be topped.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the request be referred to Mr. Blake, Superintendent of Parks, for action. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Waleria Civic Organization asking the Council to consider Christmas lights and ornaments for Hawthorne Boulevard from Newton Street north, to Pacific Coast Highway, in Waleria, when making plans for Christmas decorations in Torrance.

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A communication was read from the WALTERIA Civic Organization asking the Council to consider Christmas lights and ornaments for Hawthorne Boulevard from Newton Street north, to Pacific Coast Highway, in WALTERIA, when making plans for Christmas decorations in TORRANCE.

Councilman Powell moved that the communication be filed for future reference. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Harold A. Barnett, Civil Engineer, submitting detailed estimate of the cost of preparing the Debt Limitation Report and furnishing additional documents and information in the matter of the proposed Vista Highlands Improvements, the amount being \$1239.00.

In reply to Councilman Gilbert's question as to the next step to be taken in the proposed improvements, City Engineer Jain informed him that the Council should authorize Harold A. Barnett, or some other engineer to prepare the Debt Limitation Report, which should include valuations, also secure comparative estimates on construction and comparing it against the allowable assessment set by State law.

After further discussion on the matter, Councilman Gilbert moved that Harold A. Barnett be authorized to proceed with the Debt Limitation Report, estimated cost not to exceed \$1239.00. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A copy of a communication addressed to J. M. Lowery, County Auditor from the law offices of O'Melveny & Myers was read requesting of the County Auditor a certificate showing the assessed valuation of the taxable land in TORRANCE Municipal Water District No. 2, such information being required before proceeding with the issuance of bonds.

A report was read from Chief of Police Stroh on the activities of the Friday night dances sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars in the Civic Auditorium.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Chief of Police Stroh be authorized to work the necessary officers overtime during the Friday night dances until he determines that it is no longer necessary.

Councilman Tolson declared that he is not in favor of the City expending, indefinitely, additional funds for overtime for police officers to maintain order at the Friday night dances, and that if the rowdiness continued, the only solution would be the discontinuance of the dances. However, Councilman Tolson suggested that, before taking such extreme measures, a meeting be arranged with the V.F.W., sponsors of said dances, to discuss this difficult problem. Councilman Powell concurred in Councilman Tolson's views.

It was Councilman Gilbert's opinion that the V.F.W. had no control over the activities of the young people after they have left the Auditorium.

Mr. Vernon Coil, Chairman of the Dance Committee of the V.F.W., explained that they had hired two officers to keep order in the Auditorium but that after the young people have left the Auditorium, the maintenance of order was entirely up to the Police Department.

Mayor Sherfey concurred in Councilman Tolson's suggestion that a meeting be held with the V.F.W.

Councilman Gilbert amended his motion as follows: That Chief of Police Stroh be authorized to work the necessary officers overtime during the Friday night dances until he determines that it is no longer necessary, or until such time as the Council makes other arrangements. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Jackson and Powell. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

The application of the General Detective and Guard Service for a business license to operate a private patrol within the City of Torrance, referred to Chief of Police Stroh for recommendation, was considered at this time.

Councilman Tolson moved that the General Detective and Guard Service be granted a business license to operate in the City of Torrance, upon recommendation of Chief of Police Stroh. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the County Surveyor and County Engineer of the County of Los Angeles, addressed to City Engineer Jain, with reference to house numbering for the City of Torrance.

Engineer Jain explained the procedure to follow as outlined in the County's letter and that the estimated cost for this work would approximate \$1500.00.

Mayor Sherfey moved that the communication on house numbering be referred to the City Engineer and the Council as a whole for further study. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Engineer Jain read a communication from the County Sanitation District of Los Angeles with reference to the \$4400.00 assigned by the City of Torrance from the Assembly Bill 60 Funds to County Sanitation District No. 5, and explaining the reason why the district is asking the cities and county territory within the District boundaries to assign certain of these funds to the District for District purposes. Matter of record.

Clerk Bartlett presented for renewal lease with the Pacific Electric Railway Company, covering two foot strip of the company's right of way along Torrance Boulevard between Border and Western Avenues, for beautification purposes; said lease to extend for the term beginning October 1, 1946 and ending September 30, 1947.

Councilman Tolson moved that the lease with the Pacific Electric Railway Company be renewed for the period specified. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read a Resolution from the Torrance Lions Club, which favors immediate action to secure favorable decisions from the Federal Housing Authority on applications of local subdividers for mutual mortgage insurance.

By way of explanation, Councilman Tolson stated that the Federal Housing Authority had turned down applications for insurance, which action will delay the construction of approximately 150 houses, and he believed the Council would be requested to take some action in this regard.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read a Resolution from the Torrance Lions Club requesting that the Charter Committee continue their services, on a voluntary basis, until all details in connection with the ratification of the City Charter by the California Legislature, fixing of the School District boundaries, election of a Board of Education, etc. has been accomplished. The Resolution extended to the Charter Committee the appreciation of the Lions Club and people of Torrance for their time and effort expended on behalf of the City Charter.

Councilman Tolson moved that the Resolution be accepted. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read:

RESOLUTION NO. 1796

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING IMMEDIATE
RECOGNITION OF THE HOUSING NEEDS IN
THIS COMMUNITY FOR RETURNED VETERANS.

Councilman Powell moved that the Resolution be amended to include a request for investigation of this district by the proper

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authorities with reference to securing housing priorities for returned veterans.

Mayor Sherfey explained that this Resolution was suggested after a conference with both Veteran Organizations, the Chamber of Commerce and representatives of various industries, who recommended that the resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States in an effort to remedy the existing conditions in this community; said Resolution also to be sent to the City's representatives in Washington.

Councilman Powell's motion was lost for want of a second.

Councilman Tolson moved that Resolution No. 1796 be adopted. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1797

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND NECESSITY REQUIRE THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY BY THE CITY OF TORRANCE, WHICH PROPERTY IS OWNED BY THE LOS ANGELES CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY, AND IS BOUNDED BY GREENWOOD AVENUE, FERN AVENUE, SONOMA STREET, AND ELDORADO STREET, AND LOCATED IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, FOR PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION PURPOSES OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE; AND DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO BRING AND PROSECUTE AN ACTION IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE CONDEMNATION THEREOF.

Councilman Tolson moved that Resolution No. 1797 be adopted.

Councilman Powell inquired if the City had made an effort to purchase this property. City Attorney McCall replied in the affirmative.

Councilman Tolson stated that at the suggestion of the School Board this action was taken.

City Attorney McCall explained that the School Board had informed him that a condemnation action was the usual procedure in such cases.

Councilman Gilbert seconded Councilman Tolson's motion to adopt Resolution No. 1797, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented for final reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 372

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING LAND USE ORDINANCE NO. 316, RECLASSIFYING PROPERTY CONSISTING OF THE 237 ACRE PORTION OF THE 638.94 ACRE ALLOTMENT OF THE SAN PEDRO RANCHO, ALLOTTED TO MARIA DE LOS REYES DOMINGUEZ BY SUPERIOR COURT CASE NO. 3284, RECORDS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY.

Councilman Tolson moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 372 be dispensed with. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Tolson moved that Ordinance No. 372 be adopted for final reading. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented for final reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 373

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
AMENDING LAND USE ORDINANCE NO. 316,
RECLASSIFYING PORTIONS OF LOT NO. 16
AND LOT NO. 17, TRACT NO. 3458, HERE-
INAFTER DESCRIBED.

Councilman Tolson moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 373 be dispensed with. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Tolson moved that Ordinance No. 373 be adopted for final reading. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented for final reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 374

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
AMENDING LAND USE ORDINANCE NO. 316,
RECLASSIFYING PORTIONS OF LOT 1,
TRACT 10185, HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED.

Councilman Powell moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 374 be dispensed with. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell moved that Ordinance No. 374 be adopted for final reading. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of \$315.00 be made for cabinet and shelving for the City Court Room. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell read a communication from Thatcher & Ott submitting price of \$1456.85 for one 1946 Plymouth 4-Door Sedan for the Police Department and offering \$632.00 as a trade-in allowance on a 1941 DeSoto Sedan. He stated that Chief of Police Stroh recommended this purchase be made.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of \$824.85 be made for the purchase of a 1946 Plymouth 4-Door Sedan for the Police Department. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Jackson moved that an appropriation not to exceed \$750.00 be made for resurfacing materials for the alley between Post Avenue and El Prado. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Jackson moved that an appropriation not to exceed \$350.00 be made for resurfacing materials for the alley in Block No. 24, Torrance Tract. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

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Councilman Jackson moved that an appropriation not to exceed \$850.00 be made for resurfacing materials for the alley in Block No. 16, Torrance Tract. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Jackson moved that an appropriation not to exceed \$375.00 be made for resurfacing materials for the east half of Elm Avenue between Torrance Boulevard and Eldorado Street to temporarily match the permanent paving recently installed by the Board of Education. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Tolson moved that the salary of Raymond E. Parr, Bus Operator, be increased from \$220.00 to \$235.00 per month, effective September 1, 1946, he having completed his six months' probationary period. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Gilbert stated that the Council, after due deliberation on the matter of purchasing the Quandt Water System, had decided to make Mr. Quandt another offer, whereupon Councilman Gilbert moved that Mr. Quandt be offered the sum of \$35,000.00 for his water system, said offer to be either accepted or rejected on or before September 3, 1946, and that the City Clerk be requested to notify Mr. Quandt to this effect. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Gilbert moved that a public hearing on the proposed new business license ordinance be held September 4, 1946 at 7:00 P.M. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Spence, representing the oil industries in this district, requested the Council to postpone the public hearing for thirty days in order to give the oil industries more time in which to prepare a defense to the proposed new ordinance.

Councilman Tolson explained that the purpose of the hearing to be held September 4, 1946 is to inform the public what the proposed new tax will be for various types of businesses, and, at which time, an opportunity will be given all those present to express their views.

Mayor Sherfey moved that an appropriation of \$184.25, including tax, be made for the purchase of No. 19 Thor Pneumatic Trench Digger 1" Hex, and 2 No. 67491 Clay Spades 1" x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 6" each, for the Water Department. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Sherfey moved that an appropriation of \$60.00 be made for the purchase of two cabinets for the City Attorney's office. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Walker, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, presented and read petitions, signed by approximately 95% of the retail merchants of Torrance protesting the installation of parking meters in the

business district, setting forth the reasons therefor, and urging that a special meeting be held for the purpose of public discussion of this matter and, at such time, to consider the recommendations of the special committee of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce regarding parking.

Mr. Walker inquired if it is possible to install the meters without first passing an ordinance thereon. City Attorney McCall replied that an ordinance is not necessary as a resolution would serve the same purpose.

Councilman Gilbert could see no reason for delaying the survey on the installation of meters, and in the meantime a hearing could be held to give the public an opportunity to express their views.

Councilman Powell agreed that a public hearing should be held, and explained that the City of Torrance will derive considerable revenue from the installation of these meters, and that upon investigation it had been found that other cities are raising revenue from this source.

Mr. Walker explained that his Committee had previously recommended to the Council that these parking meters not be installed and setting forth the reasons, but that no acknowledgment had been made nor any consideration given these recommendations.

Councilman Powell declared that he was only concerned with the matter of obtaining additional revenue for the City, which is the responsibility of the Council.

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Mr. Connley requested additional information on the assessed valuation of the North Torrance Water District. Mayor Sherfey explained that the law firm of O'Melveny & Myers had written to the County Auditor for this information but it had not yet been forthcoming.

Mr. Thatcher asked what progress had been made on the survey for sewers in South Torrance.

City Engineer Jain replied that the engineer who had made the survey had informed him that it had been mailed, but had not yet been received, and that, no doubt, it would be here for the next meeting.

Mr. Elder asked the Council what steps had been taken to eliminate the noise of trains during the morning hours.

Clerk Bartlett informed Mr. Elder that a communication had been addressed to Mr. McCarty, General Manager of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company, in this regard.

Councilman Gilbert moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 10:05 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Gilbert, seconded by Councilman Jackson, the meeting adjourned.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:



MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE