

October 9, 2007

**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 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 9, 2007 in the City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Councilmembers Barnett, Brewer, Drevno, Nowatka, Sutherland, Witkowsky, and Mayor Scotto.

Absent: None.

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

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Agenda Item 18 was considered out of order at this time.

**18. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The City Council immediately recessed to closed session to confer with the City Manager and City Attorney on agenda matters listed under 18A) Conference with Labor Negotiator, pursuant to California Government Code §54957.6.

The City Council reconvened at 7:12 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 Acting Community Services Director Jones.

Councilmember Witkowsky gave the non-sectarian invocation.

**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, October 4, 2007.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Brewer 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 Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS**

None.

**5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Witkowsky announced that the City Council would meet in a joint session with the Commission on Aging on October 16, 2007, at 5:30 p.m. in the Garden Rooms at the Cultural Arts Center.

City Clerk Herbers announced that Commission Certification classes would be held on October 18 and November 14 with pre-registration required. She directed interested individuals to call 310.6185880 or go online for a registration form at [www.tornet.com/commissionercert/htm](http://www.tornet.com/commissionercert/htm).

City Clerk Herbers announced that the Torrance Unified School District was having an election on November 6, 2007. She noted that the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk was in charge of the election, that poll workers are still needed; that the polls would be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; and that voter registration closes on October 23. She reported that a candidate forum sponsored by the Torrance League of Women Voters and the Torrance Council of PTAs would be held on Wednesday, October 10, 2007 at the Nakano Theatre at 7:00 p.m. to be televised on Torrance Community Television, along with the open microphone opportunity given to all candidates. She noted that information on the entire election process could be found on [www.SmartVoter.org](http://www.SmartVoter.org).

**6. COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**6A. RESOLUTION NO. 2007-91 RE JOYCE JIMENEZ**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2007-91**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING JOYCE JIMENEZ UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY AFTER TWENTY-NINE YEARS OF SERVICE

**MOTION:** Councilmember Sutherland moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2007-91. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Scotto presented the resolution to Joyce Jimenez, who accepted with appreciation.

City Treasurer Barnett commended Ms. Jimenez for being a loyal, honest, conscientious and compassionate employee and wished her well in her retirement.

**6B. RESOLUTION NO. 2007-92 RE POLICE SERGEANT LEON DARLEY**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2007-92**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING POLICE SERGEANT LEON L. DARLEY UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY AFTER TWENTY-NINE YEARS OF SERVICE

**MOTION:** Councilmember Sutherland moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2007-92. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

*To be presented at a later date.*

**6C. RESOLUTION NO. 2007-93 RE MARK JOHNSON**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2007-93**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING MARK R. JOHNSON UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY AFTER TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

**MOTION:** Councilmember Sutherland moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2007-93. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

*To be presented at a later date.*

**6D. PROCLAMATION RE “FIRE PREVENTION WEEK”**

Mayor Scotto presented a proclamation declaring the week of October 7 through October 13, 2007 as “*Fire Prevention Week*” in the City of Torrance to Public Education Officer James Duarte.

Officer Duarte encouraged residents to have an emergency escape plan and to practice it at least twice a year.

**6E. PROCLAMATION RE “FAMILY HISTORY MONTH”**

Mayor Scotto presented a proclamation declaring the month of October 2007 as “*National Arts and Humanities Month*” in the City of Torrance to South Bay Cities Genealogical Society President Marlyce Chastain. Ms. Chastain invited the public to attend a free Family History Seminar and Open House on Sunday, October 20, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Torrance LDS Stake Center at 22605 Kent Avenue.

**6F. PROCLAMATION RE “NATIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES MONTH”**

Mayor Scotto presented a proclamation declaring the month of October 2007 as “*National Arts and Humanities Month*” in the City of Torrance to Ann Smisek, Cultural Arts Commission Chairperson.

Agenda Item 6H was considered out of order at this time.

**6H. PROCLAMATION RE “NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH”**

Mayor Scotto presented a proclamation declaring the month of October 2007 as “*National Breast Cancer Awareness Month*” in the City of Torrance to Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine.

**6G. BLUE STAR RECOGNITION**

As part of the City’s Blue Star program, which recognizes the families of active duty service men and women who are honorably serving in the military, Joanie Hall, mother of Corporal Jason Hall, and Stephen and Kathleen Sibert, parents of Staff Sergeant Logan Sibert and Air Force Senior Airman Derek Sibert, were presented with a certificate of recognition and a Blue Star banner.

**7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1**

**7A.** Don Barnard, president of Save Historic Old Torrance, distributed SHOT newsletters and invited the public to attend SHOT’s monthly meeting on the second Thursday of the month at the West Presbyterian Church.

**7B.** Travis Nation, resident, thanked Human Resources Director Winer and Risk Manager Sellers for their efforts on behalf of those in wheelchairs and motorized scooters and encouraged them to continue.

**7C.** Councilmember Drevno shared information on the recent Stanford v. USC football game, noting that her son, a coach of the Stanford team, was pleased with the results.

**8. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**8A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Recommendation**

The **City Clerk** recommends that City Council approve the City Council minutes of August 14, August 21, and August 28, 2007.

- 8B. CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT FOR FY 2006-2007**  
**Recommendation**  
The **Acting Community Services Director** recommends that City Council accept and file the Cultural Arts Commission 2006-2007 Annual Report.
- 8C. INVESTMENT REPORT FOR AUGUST 2007**  
**Recommendation**  
The **City Treasurer** recommends that City Council accept and file the monthly investment report for the month of August 2007.
- 8D. APPROVAL OF FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 67326**  
Considered separately, see page 5.
- 8E. AGREEMENT RE FIRE DEPT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAM**  
**Recommendation**  
The **Fire Chief** recommends that City Council approve a consulting services agreement with Laurie Lee-Brown, in an amount not to exceed \$48,000 for provision of Quality Improvement expertise to the Fire Department Emergency Medical Services Program for the period of October 15, 2007 to April 12, 2008.
- 8F. PURCHASE ANNUAL REQUIREMENT OF UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT**  
**Recommendation**  
The **Police Chief** recommends that City Council authorize a purchase agreement to Quartermaster, Inc., of Long Beach, CA in an amount not to exceed \$30,000, for the purchase of the department's annual requirement of police uniforms and equipment on an as needed basis. The agreement 12-month term is from October 10, 2007 through October 9, 2008.
- 8G. ACCEPTANCE/APPROPRIATION OF 2006 URBAN AREAS SECURITY INITIATIVE FEDERAL GRANT**  
**Recommendation**  
The **Police Chief** and **Fire Chief** recommend that Council:
- 1) Authorize the acceptance of the 2006 Urban Areas Security Initiative federal grant in the amount of \$24,500;
  - 2) Approve a subgrantee agreement with the City of Los Angeles; and
  - 3) Appropriate and allocate grant funds in the amount of \$15,000 for the Police Point of Dispensing (POD) project and \$9,500 for HazMat/WMD training for Fire personnel.
- 8H. TRANSFER OF FUNDS FOR HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD MEDIAN LANDSCAPE PROJECT**  
**Recommendation**  
The **Community Development Director** recommends that City Council:
- 1) Authorize the transfer of \$18,000 from City Wide Entry Signs, (A-2) to Hawthorne Boulevard Median Landscape Project Del Amo Boulevard to north boundary, (A-20); and
  - 2) Authorize the transfer of \$36,984.97 from Hawthorne Boulevard Median Landscape Project Sepulveda Boulevard to Pacific Coast Highway, (A-14) to Hawthorne Boulevard Median Landscape Project Del Amo Boulevard to north boundary, (A-20).

**8I. CONTRACT WITH ARTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS CONSULTANT**

**Recommendation**

The **Acting Community Services Director** recommends that City Council approve a contract with John Powers, Consultant, in an amount not to exceed \$72,750 for the following services: \$22,000 for multidisciplinary programs; \$13,000 for Wild Wednesdays; \$12,750 for Hot Fun Sunday concert series; and \$25,000 for special projects.

**8J. SUBSIDY OF RENTAL FEES FOR L.A. COUNTY FLU SHOT PROGRAM**

**Recommendation**

The **City Manager** recommends that City Council authorize the subsidy of \$560. for the rental fees for the Wilson Park Sports Center for a free flu shot program hosted by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health.

**8K. AGREEMENT RE TREE TRIMMING AND REMOVAL SERVICE**

**Recommendation**

The **Acting Community Services Director** recommends that City Council approve the renewal of the agreement with Travers Tree Service, Palos Verdes Peninsula, for an additional three years at \$50,000 annually to provide tree trimming and removal services for the Community Services Department.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Witkowsky moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 8A through 8C and 8E through 8K. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Consent Calendar Item 8D was considered separately at this time.

**8D. APPROVAL OF FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 67326**

**Recommendation**

The **Community Development Director** recommends that City Council:

- 1) Approve Final Tract Map No. 67326;
- 2) Accept a twenty foot (20') wide public water easement; and
- 3) Abandon a six foot (6') wide public sewer easement.

This Final Tract Map will convert an existing professional office complex into 54 medical and professional condominium units and is a one-lot subdivision. The lot was subdivided by LA-Peninsula Medical LLC and located at 25550 Hawthorne Boulevard, which conforms to and meets all conditions of approval of the Tentative Map.

Charles Deemer, resident, questioned whether the conversion of this office complex into professional condominium units affects parking requirements, and Community Development Director Gibson advised that the change in the form of ownership does not alter parking requirements.

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

**10. PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**10A. STATUS REPORT ON TRAFFIC CIRCULATION IN THE VICINITY OF SAM LEVY SCHOOL**

**Recommendation**

The **Community Development Director**, **Public Works Director** and the **Police Chief** recommend that City Council receive and file a status report on the traffic circulation in the vicinity of Sam Levy School since the start of the school year.

Transportation Planning Manager Semaan reported on the status of traffic circulation enhancements in the vicinity of Sam Levy School. He noted that the eastbound barricade on 229<sup>th</sup> Place was removed the first week of school by mutual agreement of the Torrance Unified School District, New Horizons and City staff and that the westbound barricade at Nadine Circle is still being utilized, but the time it remains in place has been reduced to 15-20 minutes due to residents' complaints. He advised that traffic is moving well, with afternoon traffic clearing within 7-10 minutes, which is typical of other schools. He noted supplemental material available at the meeting.

Councilmember Witkowsky expressed concerns that some residents on 229<sup>th</sup> Place have reported that their driveways are blocked at certain times of day due to school traffic.

Transportation Planning Manager Semaan advised that traffic in this area is generally lighter than around other schools and tends to clear out very quickly.

Steven Giles, 229<sup>th</sup> Place, expressed concerns that the westbound barricade was limiting access to his residence and suggested the possibility of installing speed bumps to slow traffic.

Mayor Scotto explained that speed bumps create a great deal of noise when vehicles drive over them, which is particularly noticeable during nighttime hours, therefore they are not a viable solution in a residential neighborhood.

Police Sergeant Carreras reported on enforcement efforts in this area, noting that 45 citations have been issued since school started in September.

A resident who lives on 229<sup>th</sup> Place (name inaudible/no speaker card) requested that TUSD post a guard at the barricade to allow residents to go through without being ticketed.

Lenore Johnson, Nadine Circle, reported that the barricade interferes with access to her garage and suggested the possibility of issuing badges to residents that would allow them to go around the barricades.

Elaine Wagner, 229<sup>th</sup> Place, stated that she saw no reason to block traffic from Nadine Circle and urged that the barricade be removed.

Anne Marie Smith, Nadine Circle, expressed concerns that the westbound barricade on Nadine Circle was blocking access to two driveways on 229<sup>th</sup> Place that service approximately 75 New Horizons residents.

Ada Ford, Madison Street, stated that moving Hull Middle School to Sam Levy School has created a traffic nightmare for residents; that buses are traveling on streets where bus traffic is prohibited in order to avoid congestion on Sepulveda; and that motorists are speeding down Madison and failing to stop at stop signs.

Hull Middle School Assistant Principal Bill Baker clarified that the barricade was originally scheduled to stay in place for one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon and that time has been reduced to 15-20 minutes.

A brief discussion ensued, and various options were considered, including moving the barricade to beyond the New Horizon driveways on 229<sup>th</sup> Place; issuing placards to residents that would allow them to go around the barricades; and having a police officer present to direct traffic each school day.

Councilmember Brewer asked about the possibility of eliminating the barricade for a period of time so the impact could be determined because it seems to be hindering New Horizons residents rather than helping them, which was the primary reason the barricades were installed.

Transportation Planning Manager Semaan advised that removing the barricade would improve the flow of traffic and the only negative impact he could foresee would be additional traffic on Nadine Circle.

Responding to questions from the Council regarding the utilization of buses, Dr. George Mannon, TUSD Superintendent, reported that Hull School has a total of 605 students, out of which 405 students have signed up to take the bus and over 350 students use it every day. He related his observation that the traffic situation around Levy School is better than almost any school in the district. He stated that the district had no objection to removing the barricade, noting that the school's only security officer is charged with the task of taking it down and other duties can sometimes interfere.

Mr. Baker explained that the preferred route for school buses is down Sepulveda Boulevard to Madison, however, they sometimes take an alternate route down Madrona through the residential neighborhood due to heavy traffic congestion. He noted that the route would remain unchanged should the barricade be removed.

Harriet Absel, New Horizons, suggested the creation of a turn-around area in the large rear parking lot at Levy School off Madison so that traffic could be directed through the parking lot thereby relieving congestion on 229<sup>th</sup> Place.

Mr. Baker advised that such a turn-around has been created off Madison and the school is making an effort to encourage parents to use it rather than the school's front entrance on 229<sup>th</sup> Place.

Mayor Scotto expressed concerns that eliminating the barricade will mean that 235<sup>th</sup> Street and Nadine Circle will become the primary route to the school creating heavy traffic congestion and safety issues where 235<sup>th</sup> Street curves into Maple Avenue.

Councilmember Brewer noted that there are other Torrance schools that have only one way in and out that manage to deal with the traffic congestion, whereas Levy School has at least three.

Discussion continued, and it was the consensus of the Council to direct staff to remove the barricades until the school's winter break to determine the impact.

Transportation Planning Manager Semaan agreed to report back to the Council after winter break, unless significant problems develop, in which case he will report back sooner.

Sumi Imada, New Horizons, stated that she supports the removal of the barricades because New Horizons' residents are upset that their access is being blocked and the barricades can always be put back when and if they are needed.

Erik Nilsson, 226<sup>th</sup> Street, voiced support for the removal of the barricades, noting that he has to take a very circuitous route to get home when they are in place.

**12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**12A. PROPOSED CLASS SPECIFICATION AND SALARY RANGE FOR POLICE RECORDS TECHNICIAN**

**Recommendation**

The **Human Resources Director** and the **Civil Service Commission** recommend that City Council:

- 1) Approve the proposed class specification for Police Records Technician and the reallocation of incumbent employees; and
- 2) Adopt a Resolution amending Resolution No. 2007-48 governing employees represented by Torrance City Employees Association (TCEA) to implement the salary range for Police Records Technician.

Human Resources Manager Lawrence reported that this class specification was developed at the request of the Police Chief and the Torrance City Employees Association (TCEA) and noted that incumbent typist clerks in the Police Records Division will be reallocated into the classification without examination.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 2007-97**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO 2007-48 SETTING FORTH CHANGES REGARDING HOURS, WAGES, AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY THE TORRANCE CITY EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (TCEA)

**MOTION:** Councilmember Sutherland moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2007-97. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**12B. EXTENSION OF BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND INTEGRITY**

**Recommendation**

The City Manager recommends that City Council consider a request from the Blue Ribbon Committee on Ethics and Integrity to adopt a Resolution amending Resolution 2006-75 extending the Committee from October 31, 2007 through January 31, 2008.

Dee Hardison, chair of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Ethics and Integrity, reported that the committee is close to completing its task and needs a little more time before submitting a final report.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 2007-98**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2006-75 CREATING A BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE TO STUDY ETHICS AND INTEGRITY IN CITY GOVERNMENT FOR A FIXED TERM AND PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF ITS MEMBERS AND ITS POWER AND DUTIES

**MOTION:** Councilmember Sutherland moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2007-98. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

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The Council met as the Redevelopment Agency from 9:21 p.m. to 9:25 p.m.

**17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2**

**17A.** Councilmember Brewer noted his intention to call a meeting of the Transportation Committee.

**17B.** Councilmember Drevno made comments on South High and West alumni who work as coaches at Stanford and USC.

**17C.** Councilmember Nowatka thanked staff for all the work put into the successful Disaster Preparedness Expo.

**17D.** Councilmember Nowatka announced the grand opening of the Western Museum of Flight at Zamperini Field on November 4 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and requested that staff bring forward an item allowing up to \$7500 towards fuel for the 40+ warbirds that will be attending.

**17E.** Councilmember Sutherland invited the public to attend a documentary film screening and discussion of *Music Man of Manzanar* at the Katy Geissert Public Library on Saturday, October 13, at 2:00 p.m.

**17F.** Councilmember Sutherland commented on his recent vacation in Europe.

**17G.** Councilmember Witkowsky commented on the many displays and vendors at the Disaster Preparedness Expo and thanked all who were involved in putting it on.

**17H.** Councilmember Witkowsky announced that the Torrance Rose Float Association would hold an orientation and decorator sign up on October 18 in the Council Chambers at 7:30 p.m.

**17I.** Councilmember Barnett invited the public to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Classic and Custom Car and Motorcycle Show on Saturday, October 13, at Torrance High School as one of the events celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Torrance High School.

**17J.** Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine expressed special thanks to Police Lieutenant Jon Megeff for his efforts on the Disaster Preparedness Expo in guiding the EPrep team and in securing the many vendors who were present.

**17K.** City Attorney Fellows arrived wearing Stanford colors and commented on the recent Stanford v. USC football game.

**18. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1.

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:38 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, October 16, 2007, at 5:30 p.m., for a joint meeting with the Torrance Commission on Aging in the Torrance Cultural Arts Center, Garden Rooms A and B, with the regular City Council meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Attest:

/s/ Frank Scotto

Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ Sue Herbers

Sue Herbers,  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on November 20, 2007