

Council Meeting of
January 10, 2012

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: Community Services – Accept and appropriate donation of \$14,590
from the Friends of the Torrance Library**

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council accept and appropriate a \$14,590 donation from the Friends of the Torrance Library to fund youth programs and activities at the Torrance Public Library.

FUNDING

Funding is available from the \$14,590 donation from the Friends of the Torrance Library.

BACKGROUND

The Friends of the Torrance Library have traditionally sponsored a wide variety of programs and activities that serve youth in Torrance. These include performers for all six Torrance Libraries, craft materials for programs, decorations for each facility, and supplies for events. The Youth Services Supervisor places an annual request before the Board of the Friends of the Torrance Library each December, for funding for programs and activities for the school year months of the following calendar year. Summer activities come as a separate request.

In the past two years, the Youth Services Supervisor has continued to work with Library Administration to present a variety of programs, while absorbing current staffing challenges. The Friends of the Torrance Library continue to be very supportive of these efforts, and attendance at programs continues to increase.

ANALYSIS

In December, the Friends of the Torrance Library called a special Board Meeting to receive requests from the City Librarian for 2012. The funding approved includes the following:

- \$1,100 for First Grade Outreach – providing a free book and library card holder to each first grader who has or gets their own Torrance Library Card. This program is conducted each October

- \$1,250 for teen programs including two Teen Advisory Boards, a teen book group, and a variety of "TeenZone" programs. These are conducted on an ongoing basis during the school year
- \$2,000 for craft programs, designed by the Youth Services Librarians, and incorporating hands-on art with literature throughout the school year
- \$200 for props and materials for the popular storytime programs, held year-round
- \$1,050 for promotional materials, decorations, and incentive items for outreach to area schools
- \$2,490 for Musical Mornings, a Saturday concert program aimed at very young children, held monthly during the school year
- \$6,500 for performers (musicians, magicians, storytellers, puppeteers, etc.) for youth programs during the school year

The Youth Services Supervisor and the City Librarian feel these are the most effective programs for the public, reaching a wide variety of audiences, and focusing on continuing the mission of the Torrance Public Library. Without the support of the Friends of the Torrance Library, a vast majority of these programs would not be possible.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN JONES
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

By 
Hillary Theyer
City Librarian

CONCUR:



John Jones
Community Services Director



LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager