

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

Members of the City Council:

SUBJECT: Torrance Youth Council and Community Services – Approve and Appropriate Funds to the 2012 Sister City Exchange Student Program.

Expenditure: \$2,000.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Torrance Youth Council and the Community Services Director that City Council approve and appropriate \$2,000 from the Youth Council Donation Account for a grant to the Torrance Sister City Association's Student Cultural Exchange Program.

FUNDING

The current balance in the Youth Council Donation Account is \$111,221.82. If approved, the new balance will be \$109,221.82.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Torrance Youth Council raises funds to promote youth activities within the City of Torrance. These funds are placed in a donation account from which the Torrance Youth Council makes recommendations on how to spend the money, including the allocation of funds to the Youth Council Grant Program. This Program was created to evaluate and make recommendations on providing grants to Torrance-based youth organizations that assist with providing programs, events, or services to youth in the community.

Groups interested in a grant must complete and submit a Grant Application in writing and meet criteria therein. Grants are reviewed by the Torrance Youth Council, and if approved, are recommended for funding. Grants are considered several times a year and have been given in various amounts. After the Grant Program recipient's project is complete, the organization must provide a report pertaining to the program and how the grant funds were expended.

The Torrance Sister City Student Cultural Exchange Program began in 1974. As a part of our Sister City program, a delegation of eight exchange students from the City of Torrance travel to Kashiwa, Japan, for three weeks and Kashiwa, Japan, sends a delegation to Torrance. The students stay with host families and learn firsthand about the people, culture, and way of life. The grant would help to offset the cost of their twenty to twenty-five excursions, which run approximately \$5,000.

The Torrance Sister City Student Cultural Exchange submitted a grant application for \$5,000 to the Youth Council at their June 6, 2012, meeting. After a lengthy discussion, the Youth Council was not comfortable granting the requested amount to cover the full costs of these excursions. They were more comfortable recommending \$2,000 to assist in covering these expenses. Therefore, the Youth Council decided that they would recommend a reduction of the requested \$5,000 grant to a \$2,000 grant.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank Masi, Chairperson
Torrance Youth Council

CONCUR:

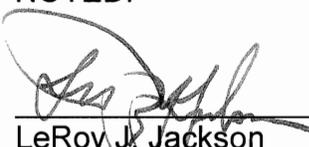


John Jones
Community Services Director



Richard Brunette
Recreation Services Manager

NOTED:



LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachment: A) Excerpt of Item 11 from Youth Council Minutes dated June 6, 2012.

EXCERPT OF ITEM 11 FROM YOUTH COUNCIL MINUTES DATED JUNE 6, 2012.**EXCERPT OF MINUTES**

Minutes Approved
 Minutes Subject to Approval

June 6, 2012

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL****2. ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE**

PRESENT: Ryan Hirano, Nicole Ludena, Gloria Kang, Minji Kim, Samuel Lee, Sean Lee, Frank Masi, Chewy (Joo Hee) Pak, Christine Plascencia, Anna Spallino, Shiloh Schatzkamer, Serena Tsay, Grant Torre, Tiffany Tran, Candace Wu, Matthew Yu

ABSENT: Diana Im, Anthony Xian

STAFF: Debbie Reed, Sr. Recreation Supervisor; Youth Council Liaison
Toni Sexton, Staff Assistant to Youth Council

11. GRANT REQUEST – Torrance Sister City Student Cultural Exchange Program

After a lengthy discussion it was MOTIONED: Minji Kim to allocate funds in the amount of \$2,000 to the Torrance Sister City Student Cultural Exchange Program. Ryan Hirano SECONDED. The motion carried in favor of; 15 yes; 2 absences; 1 abstention.

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