Council Meeting of
October 3, 2006

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

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: City Manager – Appropriate funds to subsidize rental fees.
Expenditure: $882.25

RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends that City Council appropriate $882.25 to subsidize rental fees for the Toyota Meeting Hall at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center for the South Bay Foster Children Holiday Party.

Funding

General Fund Reserve for Program Contingencies.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) – Service Planning Area (SPA) 8 is located in Torrance and serves as the Child Protection Agency to South Bay communities, providing a multitude of services to approximately 2,000 South Bay children and families. The DCFS also provides ongoing community-based activities including the Annual Holiday Event Program for the neediest of the South Bay Foster Children, who would otherwise be unable to enjoy the holiday season.

Up until this year, the DCFS has been able to host the event at their facility located at 2325 Crenshaw Boulevard. However, due to the success in providing this event to South Bay Foster Children, there is an increase in the number of children participating (100+), that the current space is no longer feasible for this year's planned event. As such, the DCFS requests the use of the Toyota Meeting Hall at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center for the 2006 holiday event (Attachment A). The Center is ideal, as it is centrally located in the community and provides the necessary amenities in ensuring the event continues to be successful for the youth and their families.

The DCFS has the assistance of a local foundation in providing the basics for the event including food, entertainment, and gifts. The City Manager's Office would book the Toyota Meeting Hall on behalf of the DCFS at the interdepartmental rate of **$47/hr**. The

City Manager requests that Council subsidize all rental fees which consist of the room rate, event manager, set up/tear down fee, and kitchen fee, totaling the amount of $882.25 for the use of the Toyota Meeting Hall on Saturday, December 9, 2006. The following is a breakdown of the rental fees:

	Cost
Room Rate	$376.00
Event Manager	$224.00
Set Up/Tear Down	$225.75
Kitchen	$56.50
Total	**$882.25**

The City has granted subsidies from time to time for events that enhance the promotion of the Cultural Arts Center and the City of Torrance. This event is significant in that it will help the DCFS continue its tradition of providing South Bay foster youth with the same level of holiday spirit and celebration as in previous years.

Respectfully submitted,

LeROY J. JACKSON
CITY MANAGER

By Ribhalin Kharpuri Mukhim
Ribhalin Kharpuri Mukhim
Management Aide

CONCUR:

Mary Giordano
for LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachment A: Correspondence from DCFS Regional Administrator

Attachment A

County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020
(213) 351-5602

JOAN SMITH
Acting Director

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
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Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District
YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District
DON KNABE
Fourth District
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

09/06/2006

To: Mr. Leroy Jackson, Torrance City Manager
From: Lemor Wasserstrom, Supervising Children's Social Worker

Mr. Jackson-

Per my conversation with Patrick Furey, previously assigned County Counsel to our Torrance office, I was advised to direct this request to your attention for review and consideration.

Thank you for your time.

CC: Frank Scotto, Mayor
Tom Brewer, City Councilman

County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020
(213) 351-5602

DAVID SANDERS, PH.D.
Director

Board of Supervisors
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YVONNE B. BURKE, Chair
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ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District
DON KNABE, Chair Pro Tem
Fourth District
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

Department of Children and Family Service
SPA 8 - Torrance Office
2325 Crenshaw Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90501

June 15, 2006

Mayor Dan Walker
Torrance City Council
City of Torrance
3031Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90503

Honorable Mayor Walker and City Council Members:

As an introduction, I am the Regional Administrator over the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) – Service Planning Area (SPA) 8 - Torrance Office. We are located in the City of Torrance and serves as the Child Protection Agency to South Bay communities in 26 Zip Codes from Inglewood to the Palos Verdes Peninsula, including the City of Torrance. Through a dedicated social work staff of nearly 150, we provide a multitude of critical Child Welfare Protective Services to approximately 2,000 South Bay children and families where abuse and neglect have occurred.

Many of our children have to be placed in foster care. We do try to provide ongoing community-based activities for these youths while they remain in foster care. One of these activities we provide is an Annual Holiday Event Program for the most needy of our South Bay Foster Children, who would otherwise be unable to enjoy the holiday season.

At our annual Holiday Party, lunch is provided to the foster youths and their resource families; gifts are provided to the children; entertainment is provided by local artists; and the Torrance Fire Department provides photo opportunities and fire hats and badges to the children. Additionally, The Los Angeles County Library provides free books and library cards. This event is also attended by a representative from Los Angeles County

4th District Board Supervisor Don Knabe's office and other DCFS officials. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, December 9, 2006.

Up until this year, we have been able to host the event at our own facility located at 2325 Crenshaw Boulevard. However, our successful efforts in providing this wonderful event for our South Bay Foster Children have resulted in such an increase in the number of children participating (100+), that our current office space is no longer feasible for this year's planned event. As such, we have inquired about using the Toyota Reception Room at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center, for our 2006 holiday event. The Center is ideal, as it is centrally located in the community we serve and provides the necessary amenities in ensuring this event continues to be successful for our youth and their foster families.

We do have the assistance of a local foundation in providing the basics for the event, including food, entertainment and gifts. However, until now, the event was held in our own facility so we never had to consider rental facility costs. As such, we are requesting your consideration of a fee waiver/reduction from the $1702.40, for the use of the Toyota Reception Room for this year's event. This waiver/fee reduction will help us to continue our tradition of providing our South Bay foster youth with the same level of holiday spirit and celebration as in previous years. Considering the amenities the Toyota Reception Room would provide, we fully expect that this year's event would be our best ever, if we were able to use these facilities.

In closing, we greatly appreciate and thank you for your consideration of this request and await for a favorable response. If you need for us to do a formal presentation as part of your consideration, we would be more than happy to do so. Should you or your staff have any questions or need additional information, please contact me directly at (310) 972-3114.

Sincerely Yours,

Harvey Kawasaki, MSW, MPPA
Regional Administrator

HK:lw:fh