

Council Meeting of
June 5, 2007

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

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: Community Services – Approval of the Torrance Youth Council
donation to five “*Beat The Odds*” Honorees**

Expenditure: \$5,000

RECOMMENDATION

The Torrance Youth Council is recommending that your Honorable Body approve a \$5,000 donation from the Youth Council Donation Fund to five “*Beat the Odds*” honorees and authorize the Finance Director to issue the warrants.

FUNDING

Funding is available in the Youth Council Donation account.

BACKGROUND

In 1996, the Torrance Youth Council decided to seek out Torrance youth to celebrate and support. During this quest, several members saw a Channel Four News Special on “Beat the Odds/Achievement Council” honorees and thought this would be a good way to fulfill the Youth Council’s objective. The Youth Council asked staff to assist with researching the program and with the help of a video and information from Wendy Takuda of Channel Four Action News, the entire Youth Council was introduced to the “Achievement Council/Beat the Odds” honorees. Through this introduction, the Youth Council felt compelled to direct their support to deserving youth within the Torrance Community.

In 1997 with the approval of the City Council, the Youth Council developed the “*Beat the Odds*” scholarship program for Torrance Unified School District students and presented five scholarships that year.

ANALYSIS

The "Beat the Odds" Selection Committee of 2007 met on Thursday, April 12, 2007 and reviewed the "Beat the Odds" applications submitted by students who attend high schools in the Torrance Unified School District. After much discussion, the Selection Committee selected five TUSD students who have "Beaten the Odds."

On Thursday, May 17, 2007, the Torrance Youth Council hosted their tenth annual "Beat the Odds" Scholarship Awards program and dinner at **THE ATTIC**, a Torrance Teen Center. The theme for the event was "No Day, but Today." The five young people who were recognized have experienced very difficult times. But, along the way, they met the challenges and overcame the obstacles in pursuit of their educational dreams.

With the approval of the City Council, the Torrance Youth Council has made donations to many organizations and programs that serve Torrance youth.

At its meeting of May 2, 2007, the Torrance Youth Council made and passed a motion to donate \$5,000 to the five Torrance Unified School District students selected by the "Beat the Odds" Selection Committee. Each of the scholarship recipients has demonstrated academic excellence, community service and personal achievements in their struggles to improve their own lives and the lives of others.

Respectfully submitted,
TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL

By 
Deborah Reed
Youth Council Liaison

NOTED:


JOHN JONES
Acting, Community Services Director


LeROY J. JACKSON
City Manager


CHEINY SHIAU
Chairperson

Attachments: A) Excerpt from Youth Council minutes of May 17, 2006

ATTACHMENT A**EXCERPT OF MINUTES**

- Minutes Approved
 Minutes Subject to Approval

May 17, 2007

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

PRESENT: Tracy Abe, Kyle Aguilar, Chelsea Brewer, Blake Edwards, Naghmeh Ghafourian, Shreyasi Ghosh, Nathan Lee, Brad Moylan, Dustin Tygret, Cheiny Shiau, Tanya Sepehrnia, and Quincy Venter.

ABSENT: Chie Akiba, Christina Kang, Tommy Nguyen and Bryan Wang.

STAFF: Deborah Reed, Sr. Recreation Supervisor; Youth Council Liaison.
Portia Rivera, Staff Assistant to Youth Council

11. "BEAT THE ODDS"

MOTION: Dustin Tygret moved, Tanya Sepehrnia seconded, to allocate \$5,000 to the "Beat the Odds" scholarship program for 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

The awards dinner was held on Thursday, May 3, 2007 at **THE ATTIC** everyone agreed the music and food were great and once again Councilman Nowatka did a wonderful job presenting the scholarships and reading the essays.