

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

**SUBJECT: Appropriation to fund cherry tree monument**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The City Manager recommends that Council appropriate \$3,000 to place a monument at Columbia Park in recognition of Soka Gakkai International (SGI) for the planting of cherry trees. Expenditure: \$3,000

**FUNDING**

Funding is available in the current City Council operating budget.

**BACKGROUND/ ANALYSIS**

Soka Gakkai International (SGI) is a Buddhist association with more than 12 million members in 190 countries and territories worldwide. SGI has approximately 2,000 members in the South Bay with 600 living in Torrance. The manager of the SGI Cherry Tree project, Mr. John Hoshi, is a Torrance resident, which is the reason Columbia Park was chosen as the location for the planting of the 200 cherry trees. The plan is to plant ten trees each year for twenty years. The first planting occurred in 2001 and the final ten trees will be planted in 2020.

To acknowledge the efforts of SGI members in Torrance and the South Bay of enhancing the beauty of our community through the generosity of their wonderful gift, the City of Torrance will place a monument at Columbia Park. The monument will be purchased from the same company that constructed the City's Veterans Memorial and will be similar to the pedestal at the memorial. The cost estimate of the monument, the dedication plaque, and installation is \$3,000. Funding is available within the City Council operating budget.

Respectfully submitted,

LeROY J. JACKSON  
CITY MANAGER

By   
Jay Scharfman  
Senior Management Associate

CONCUR:

  
LeRoy J. Jackson  
City Manager

  
JS:LJJ/dle

