

Council Meeting of
November 20, 2007

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

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: City Manager – Adopt ORDINANCE placing limitations on
campaign contributions**

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council:

- 1) Adopt an ORDINANCE amending Subsection(b) of Section 4 of Article 1 Chapter 7 of Division 1 of the Torrance Municipal Code to limit campaign contributions to “Natural Persons”; and
- 2) Approve an ordinance summary for publication.

FUNDING

Funding is not required for this item.

BACKGROUND/ ANALYSIS

The Blue Ribbon Committee on Ethics and Integrity brought an item before Your Honorable Body on November 6, 2007 recommending the adoption of the attached ordinance.

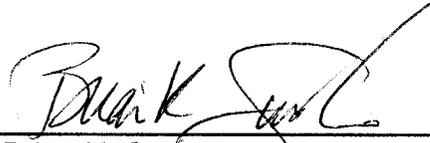
The proposed ordinance would modify Section 17.1.4(b) of the existing campaign contribution ordinance to allow only natural persons to make campaign contributions. The current ordinance allows for entities to make contributions. The change that is proposed will allow only individuals to make donations.

The Committee recommended this change so as to require a full disclosure of those who make contributions to campaigns and to prohibit entities such as corporations, development companies, unions and Political Action Committees (PACs) from making contributions to campaigns.

The City Council reviewed this proposed amendment and after considerable discussion voted 6-1 to have it brought back for adoption.

Respectfully submitted,

LeROY J. JACKSON
City Manager



By: Brian K. Sunshine
Assistant to the City Manager

CONCUR:



LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachments:

- A. ORDINANCE
- B. Ordinance Summary

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE AMENDING SUBSECTION b OF SECTION 4 OF ARTICLE
1 OF CHAPTER 7 OF DIVISION 1 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL
CODE REGULATING CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS.**

The City Council of the City of Torrance does ordain as follows:

SECTION 1

That Subsection b of Section 4 of Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Division 1, entitled 'Contribution Limits,' is repealed.

SECTION 2

That a new Subsection b is added to Section 4 of Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Division 1, entitled "Contribution Limits." This section reads in its entirety as follows:

b) "Contribution Limits." Only a natural person may make a campaign contribution to a candidate for City of Torrance elective office, or to the controlled committee of that candidate. Campaign contributions to a candidate for City of Torrance elective office, or to the controlled committee of that candidate, may not cause the total amount contributed by that person to the candidate to exceed \$1,000 during an election cycle. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a candidate may make campaign contributions in any amount to the candidate's own controlled committee."

SECTION 3

Any provisions of the Torrance Municipal Code or its appendices, or any other ordinances of the City inconsistent with this ordinance, to the extent of the inconsistencies and no further, are repealed.

SECTION 4

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, the decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the ordinance. The City Council declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases are declared invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 5

This ordinance will take effect thirty days after the date of its adoption. Within fifteen days following adoption, this ordinance or a summary of this ordinance, if authorized by the City Council, will be published at least once in the Daily Breeze, a newspaper of general circulation, published and circulated in the City of Torrance.

INTRODUCED AND APPROVED the ___ day of _____, 2007.

ADOPTED AND PASSED this ___ day of _____, 2007.

Frank Scotto, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sue Herbers, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JOHN L. FELLOWS III
City Attorney

By: _____
Ronald T. Pohl, Assistant City Attorney

ORDINANCE NO. _____

SUMMARY

On _____, 2007, the City Council of the City of Torrance adopted Ordinance No. _____, which modifies the City's existing campaign contribution limit to allow only natural persons to make campaign contributions.

*****City Clerk to add a paragraph stating that copies of the ordinance are available at the City Clerk's office and stating the names of the City Council members that voted in favor and those that voted against.*****