

COUNCIL MEETING
January 15, 2008

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

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Appointment of Deputy City Attorney II

RECOMMENDATION: Recommendation of the City Attorney that the City Council appoint Della Thompson-Bell to the position of Deputy City Attorney II.

Funding

Funding exists within the current departmental budget.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The City Charter provides that the City Council, on the recommendation of the City Attorney, may appoint Assistant and Deputy City Attorneys in order to carry out the duties of the Office of the City Attorney.

A vacancy currently exists in the City Attorney's office due to the recent retirement of Chief Deputy City Attorney Robert Acciani.

With the departure of Robert, the City Attorney is recommending the appointment of Della Thompson-Bell. Della was hired in a limited tenure, non-classified position of Legal Counselor on January 26, 2004. Della is currently working in the Criminal Division handling misdemeanor prosecutions. Her performance of her duties has been exemplary. She regularly conducts loss prevention workshops for Torrance merchants.

Della received her BA from California State University Dominguez Hills and her J.D. from Southwestern University School of Law. Prior to her employment with the City, Della worked as an intern with our office, was a claims representative

with State Farm Insurance Companies and was employed with the law firm of Robie & Matthai in downtown Los Angeles.

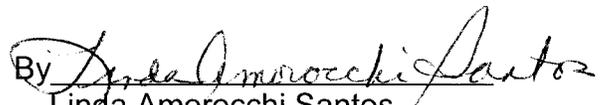
The appointment of Della to the Deputy City Attorney II position will create a vacant, non-civil-service Legal Counselor I position. Over the years, our office has had the opportunity of identifying interns with exceptional legal potential to staff our office in the event of a vacancy. With that in mind, the City Attorney intends to make an offer of employment to Gillian Studwell, a highly motivated self-starter, who had outstanding work ethics and an excellent internship with our office.

Gillian has a BS from University of California, Santa Barbara and a J.D. from Loyola Law School. Gillian is very eager to work for the City of Torrance as an entry-level prosecutor and is available for immediate employment on January 21, 2008. Funding for the two positions is available in the department's budget.

The City Attorney is recommending the appointment of Della Thompson-Bell to under-fill the vacant Deputy City Attorney III position.

Respectfully submitted,

John L. Fellows III, City Attorney

By 
Linda Amorocchi Santos
Law Office Administrator

CONCUR:


John L. Fellows III, City Attorney

NOTED:


LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager
for