

Council Meeting of
April 1, 2008

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

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: Community Services – Subsidize Rental Fees for Wilson Park Softball Fields for a Tournament Fundraiser.
Expenditure: \$822.50**

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council subsidize the rental fees for use of the Wilson Park Softball Fields for a Softball Tournament Fundraiser for the Kalaea Jennings Memorial Softball Tournament and First Candle.

FUNDING

Funding of \$822.50 is available in the City Council's Municipal Legislative Program Operating Budget.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Community Services Department received a request from Maria and Nacio Jennings for use of the four softball fields at Wilson Park for the Jennings Memorial Softball Tournament. The tournament is a fundraiser for First Candle in honor of their son Kalaea, who passed away on September 8, 2007, at the tender age of 5 months. Kalaea was born on April 23, 2007, and the request was made for a weekend day in April to celebrate the anniversary of his birth.

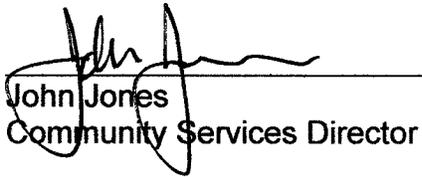
First Candle is a national nonprofit health organization that unites parents, caregivers and researchers nationwide with government, business and community service groups to advance infant health and survival. First Candle works to increase public participation and support in the fight against infant mortality. All proceeds from the Kalaea Jennings Memorial Softball Tournament will support First Candle, a national leader in the field of infant health. This tournament is an opportunity to bring First Candle and its mission to Torrance and the South Bay Community.

Included in their request for the tournament was a waiver of rental fees for the Wilson Park Softball Fields. The cost breakdown for the tournament is:

Field rental (12 hours x 4 fields x \$15.00/hour)	\$720.00
Field preparation (\$20/field x 4 fields)	\$80.00
Chalk and base fee (one time)	\$22.50
Total	\$822.50

Staff were asked to bring this item before Council under Oral Communications at the March 18, 2008, Council meeting. Staff have confirmed the event date of Sunday, April 20, 2008, with Maria and Nacio Jennings. Thus, the Community Services Director recommends that City Council subsidize the rental fees for use of the Wilson Park softball fields on April 20, 2008, in the amount totaling \$822.50.

Respectfully submitted,


John Jones
Community Services Director

CONCUR:


LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachment: A) Request from Maria Jennings



March 4, 2008

City of Torrance
 Mr. Bill Sutherland, Council Member
 3031 Torrance Blvd
 Torrance, CA 90503

Dear Mr. Sutherland:

We write with a request asking the City of Torrance to waive the fees for the use of the four softball fields at Wilson Park as a means to raise funds for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and First Candle. The softball tournament we are organizing will be in the memory of our son, Kalaea Christopher Jennings.

Our precious son, Kalaea Christopher Jennings passed away from SIDS on September 8, 2007. He was just 5 months old. It was a devastating loss, one with which our family continues to struggle. As one way to deal with our grief, we have committed to taking proactive step towards supporting parent education, research, and prevention campaigns about SIDS. Our goal is to help infants in our community and beyond survive and thrive.

Kalaea was our third child. We're blessed with two girls- Tiare age 5 and Fa'atele age 3. Nacio worked for the City of Torrance parks and recreation department for 8 years and attended Bishop Montgomery and El Camino. I grew up in Torrance, attending Calle Mayor, South High and El Camino. Having this memorial fundraiser in our hometown is particularly important to us, as we want to raise awareness within our community, which we're so dearly connected. Perhaps in some small way, we will do our part to save other families the heartache we're enduring.

We are requesting the softball fields at Wilson Park on or April 20, 2008 from the hours of 7:30am-7:30pm. The reason for those dates, Kalaea was born, April 23, 2007 at Little Company of Mary. We thought it would be an incredible meaningful way to celebrate his first birthday. We are respectfully asking that you join us in our effort to promote awareness of SIDS. We would be happy to highlight the City of Torrance as a premiere sponsor of the event and the city would receive recognition on all promotional materials. Your generosity would be a critical component of our success, an investment that the City of Torrance and its employees could be proud of.

As you may be aware, SIDS is the sudden, unexpected death of an infant that remains unexplained after all known and possible causes have been ruled out. It is the number one cause of death for infants one month to one year of age, claiming 2,100 babies in the United States each year. Historically SIDS has been a mystery, leaving behind devastated families and bewildered physicians. Today, however, some answers have come to light—such as factors that increase the risks for SIDS and actions that parents can take to reduce those risks. This is one of the reasons awareness is so essential.

All of the proceeds from the Kalaea Jennings Memorial Softball Tournament will support medical research, public and professional education, advocacy and family support services through First Candle, a national, not-for-profit health organization and the leader in this field of infant health.

First Candle's health organization is dedicated to promoting infant health and safety from pregnancy through the age of two. They accomplish their mission through advocacy, education, and research as well by providing support for families who have experienced the loss of an infant. More information can be found on www.firstcandle.org. First Candle will provide insurance the day of the event. It is a national, not-for-profit organization located in Baltimore, Maryland and has a status as a 501(c)(3).

First Candle's federal identification number is 52-1591162
 Group exemption number: 3325.

We are also authorized to represent First Candle through the use of their logo and printed materials in our efforts to secure individual and corporate sponsors for this event. All monetary donations or contributions will be made payable to First Candle and are tax-deductible, as is the fair market value of any products or services donated.

We thank you for your kind consideration and we hope to partner with you to bring much needed awareness and research funding to the SIDS community.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Nacio & Maria Jennings
SIDS Parents
1322 Park Western Dr. #212
San Pedro, CA. 90732
Home # (310) 732-1255
Cell # (310) 413-7188
Work # (310) 320-8477

1ST ANNUAL MEMORIAL FOR KALAEA CHRISTOPHER JENNINGS

4/23/07 - 9/8/07



CHARITY CO-ED SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

- *Sunday **APRIL 20TH @ WILSON PARK** in Torrance.
(9AM—6PM) // All four fields.
- *Register no later than **APRIL 6TH** // \$420.00 fee per team.
- *Entry is limited to the **FIRST 16 TEAMS TO PAY** // first come, first serve.
- *There will be a Kid's Corner, Food, Raffles & Sponsor Booths.

CONTACT GUS RUBIO // 310.892.5161 // Gusrubio@sbcglobal.net

PRE-PARTY & SILENT AUCTION:

- *Friday **APRIL 18TH @ 7PM**
KILLIAN'S PUB & GRILL
2533 PCH, Torrance.
Rolling Hills Plaza.

This is a fundraising event for **First Candle**
to help in the research and cure for
(SIDS)—Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Any questions // MARIA JENNINGS
310.413.7188 // Maria@sun-pros.com



www.myspace.com/kalaeaboy