Council Meeting of
December 9, 2008

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

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Police - Accept and file Disaster Council 2007-2008 Annual Report. Expenditure: None.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Chief of Police and the Disaster Council that City Council accept and file the Disaster Council 2007-2008 Annual Report.

BACKGROUND

The Annual Report for July 2007 through June 2008, as prepared by the Disaster Council, is attached for the City Council's information and review. The Disaster Council approved this report at its meeting on August 27, 2008.

Respectfully Submitted,

DISASTER COUNCIL

Melvin Glass
Chairman

JOHN J. NEU
Chief of Police

By
Lieutenant Jon Megeff
Emergency Services Division Commander

CONCUR:

John J. Neu
Chief of Police

NOTED:

LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachment A: Disaster Council 2007-2008 Annual Report

Attachment A

Annual Report
Torrance Disaster Council
City of Torrance
July 2007 – June 2008

Members of the Council

	Term	Term Expires	First Appointed
Melvin Glass - CHAIR	1-16-2007	1-15-2011	1-14-2003
Kathleen Galbasin - VICE CHAIR	1-16-2005	1-15-2009	1-11-2005
Marc Lawrence	1-16-2004	1-15-2008	1-16-1998
Kristin Matsuda	1-16-2006	1-15-2010	1-10-2006
Ghislaine Davis	1-16-2008	1-15-2012	1-16-2008

Staff support provided by Lieutenant Jon Megeff of the Torrance Police Department.

Purpose of the Commission

The Disaster Council is governed by the Torrance Municipal Code, Division 1, Chapter 6, Article 2, Section 16.2 and 16.2.2. It provides recommendations to the City Council on matters pertinent to the development of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery plans and programs for any potential local emergency. It performs surveys of disaster readiness in the City and disseminates alert information to the public. Disaster Council meetings also provide for communication and coordination between the public and private sectors of the City in analyzing local hazards and developing response plans.

The Council consists of four appointed Commissioners, City Department representatives, the business community, industry, citizen groups, and organizations concerned with the City's disaster preparedness.

The Disaster Council held nine monthly meetings this past year, all of which took place on the fourth Wednesday of each month, to communicate between the interested groups. An agenda of each meeting was prepared and distributed prior to the scheduled meetings. These Agendas are also posted on the Torrance Commissions' web site.

Attachment A

Summary of Council Activities

The Council was informed by Commissioner Matsuda that Dr. Lucy Jones and the USGS (United States Geological Survey) had picked Torrance as one of two cities to be used by the USGS in an upcoming Multi-Hazard study. The study aimed to simulate a large earthquake along the San Andreas fault to determine the long-term socioeconomic and economic impact to a city within Los Angeles County but not directly impacted by the disaster. The Council thanks the Torrance Police Department for its assistance in bringing Dr. Lucy Jones and the City Manager's office together for discussions regarding the USGS Multi-Hazard study, the results of which will also be used in preparation for the Golden Guardian exercise in November.

In September, a Disaster Preparedness Expo was held at the Cultural Arts Center. An estimated two to three thousand in attendance were treated to an earthquake preparedness presentation by the USGS, a Blood Drive by the American Red Cross, a "cribbing" exercise by Torrance CERT, various other disaster preparedness-related training, and the ability to purchase on-site emergency and disaster kits from over 30 different vendors. Also present was the Disaster Council, Torrance Council of PTAs, and all three City of Torrance Disaster Service Volunteer groups, all of whom provided education and information.

The Council received a presentation from the Community Development Department regarding a draft of the Safety Element to the General Plan. Comments and suggestions were provided by members of the Council as well as by several Disaster Service Volunteers.

This past year, Disaster Service Volunteers from CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), TARA, and ADT, at the request of the Police Department's Emergency Services Division, assisted in providing ADC (Area Disaster Center) training at the North Torrance Library to Human Resources and Branch Library Staff.

The Council received a presentation from the Police Department's Community Affairs Division. Community Affairs presented their goals and objectives, including the reinvigoration of Neighborhood Watch and the delivery of disaster preparedness training through a new program called MYN (Map Your Neighborhood).

The Council received a presentation from Exxon Mobil regarding their disaster preparedness efforts. These efforts include education, training, and exercises.

Throughout the year, the Council brainstormed and discussed ways in which to provide a City-sponsored CPR course for Torrance residents. The Council ultimately recommended to City Council that the City of Torrance co-sponsor with Torrance Memorial Medical Center a free three-hour CPR course for Torrance residents. The Disaster Council thanks the City Council for its approval of this recommendation.

Attachment A

This past year, Commissioner Mark Lawrence's term on the Council ended. We thank him for 10 years of service and ideas. He will be missed.

The Council welcomed new Commissioner Ghislaine (Ges) Davis. Commissioner Davis is a long-time Disaster Service Volunteer with CERT and TARA, and she will be an asset to the Council.

The Council received frequent reports from the Torrance Unified School District, American Red Cross, various ambulance services, the Torrance Police Department, the Torrance Fire Department, Community Services - Library, Torrance Memorial Medical Center, and Little Company of Mary Hospital. The Council also received reports and updates from various other businesses, organizations, and Home Owners' Associations regarding their efforts in disaster preparedness.

In a continuing effort to bring together the City's Disaster Service Volunteers from CERT, TARA, and ADT, as well as members from Neighborhood Watch, the 4th Annual Disaster Service Volunteer Picnic was again held in August at Wilson Park. With support from the City Council, Police Department, Fire Department, and the Disaster Council, all were able to get together in a social setting. We also thank the City's E-Prep (Emergency Preparedness) team for doing all the cooking.

Summary

Emergency preparedness is of great importance to the members of the community. The Council wishes to thank each City Department and members of the community and business who work together to ensure that the City is well prepared for any contingency. The Disaster Council thanks the members of the City Council for its support and leadership and appreciates being part of the effort to keep Torrance a safe place to live and work. We also want to thank Lieutenant Jon Megeff who not only provided the Council with excellent staff support, but also brought many ideas to the table. The Council also wishes to thank the Police Department for its assistance to the Council and the various Emergency Service Volunteer organizations.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner Melvin Glass
Chairperson, Disaster Council
City of Torrance