Council Meeting of
February 24, 2009

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

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Community Services – Accept and File the Youth Council's 2007-2008 Annual Report.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Youth Council and the Community Services Director that City Council accept and file the 2007-2008 Youth Council Annual Report.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS

The Torrance Youth Council is comprised of Torrance area high school students appointed by City Council and provides a venue for teens to identify and take action on problems and issues affecting the youth of Torrance.

Every year the Youth Council provides an Annual Report to the City Council for approval and filing. Attachment A is the Youth Council Annual Report for October 2007 through June 2008, as prepared and approved by the Youth Council at their meeting on February 4, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN JONES
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

By _____
Richard Brunette
Recreation Services Manager

CONCUR:

_____
John Jones
Community Services Director

NOTED:

_____
LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachment: A) 2007-2008 Annual Youth Council Report

RB:DR:gmb:Youthcouncil\2009\2007-2008 Annual Report 02-24-09 ci

8C

ATTACHMENT A

TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL
2007-2008 ANNUAL REPORT

PURPOSE OF THE TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL

The Torrance Youth Council is composed of Torrance area high school students whose purpose is to identify and take action on problems affecting the youth of Torrance, as well as to advise and confer with City professional staff, various City Commissioners and City Council on such matters. Members are chosen each June by a selection committee and later appointed by the City Council. The Youth Council meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Room, City Hall. All meetings are open to the public and youth are encouraged to address the Youth Council on matters of concern to the Youth in the community.

MEMBERS OF THE TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL

During 2007-2008, eighteen Youth Council members have continued the excellent tradition of their predecessors, by representing the voice of the Youth of Torrance. New faces, different cultures, new ideas and an astonishing amount of energy of these talented members played a key role in turning ideas into successful realities for the Torrance Community.

Throughout the year, this diverse assembly of young people became a close knit group which began at their Annual Team Building Workshop in early November. Each got the opportunity to know each other through leadership games and activities. Elections were held in late November with Dustin Tygret as Chairperson; Christina Kang as Vice Chairperson; Brad Moylan as Secretary; Zachary Gray as Sergeant At Arms; Dana Schroeder, Fatana Temory and Aileen Yoon as Historians.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2007– 2008 PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

The 2007-2008 Youth Council began a very productive year with their Annual Workshop, held at the ATTiC, and events such as the Christmas and Spring Boutiques, ASB Bowl and Annual Youth Forum. The 2007- 2008 Torrance Youth Council Publicity Committee will focus on this topic.

At the annual "Beat the Odds Scholarship Program and Dinner, five scholarships were awarded to five very deserving high school seniors: Kohei Baba, Chelsea Schutt, Dylan Stephenson, Jocelyn Alvarez and Samantha Moawad. Families, members of the City Council, Community Services Staff and TUSD staff were in attendance to honor these young people. The Annual Youth Forum had representatives from each of the Torrance high schools; Bishop Montgomery, and CAMS in attendance to discuss debated topics pertinent to them. The Annual ASB Bowl, represented by each of the Torrance High Schools, Bishop Montgomery and CAMS focuses on inter-school unity and they met for a get to know you evening. They played competitive games including physical, mental and team building contests, shared information, food and fun. Points are earned through the games and West High School was the winning school in 2008 and received the trophy which travels from school to school. All in attendance look forward to next year's competition.

The Youth Council continued to support the Community Services Department's Harry Sutter Memorial Turkey Trot Fun Run in activities such as pouring water, cutting and bagging oranges to be distributed among the participants after the race. Decorating the Torrance Rose Float was a highlight for some members this year. The Torrance Youth Council also assisted with set up and serving lunch at the Armed Forces Day Luncheon.

The Youth Council was also involved in Government protocol and procedures by attending City Council and Commission meetings. Each member gained greater knowledge and learned how the City of Torrance operates as a government body. Additionally, they attended the Junior State of America Convention in the Spring and had the opportunity to participate in discussions and debates on current issues, and observed a model State Congress in action which was very helpful to them as they were able to implement their knowledge when planning their Annual Youth Forum.

Youth Council continues to support The ATTiC, its events and programs such as their annual Job Faire, College Night, Ski/Snowboarding Trip, Fashion Show, Pancake Breakfast and Band Nights.

CONCLUSION

It has been a very productive year, the remaining Youth Council members look forward to an exciting new year by integrating innovative ideas and goals that the new Youth Council members will bring.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Kang, Vice Chairperson
2007-2008 Youth Council