

Agency Meeting of
October 6, 2009
Agency Item 4B

Honorable Chairman and Members
of the Redevelopment Agency
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Agency:

SUBJECT: Agency Director and Agency Attorney - Authorize filing of a motion for intervention in Postal Regulatory Commission Docket No. N2009-1

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Agency Director and Agency Attorney that the Agency:

- 1) Authorize the filing of a motion for intervention in Postal Regulatory Commission Docket No. N2009-1 (Postal Station and Branch Optimization and Consolidation Initiative, 2009).
- 2) Adopt a RESOLUTION regarding the motion to intervene in the proceeding regarding the possible closure of three postal facilities in the City of Torrance.

Funding

Not applicable.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The United States Postal Service has recently announced its intent to review for potential closure of almost 700 postal branches and stations around the nation. The City believed initially that two stations in Torrance, the Walteria and Marcellina stations, might be under consideration for closure. The City has since learned that three postal stations in Torrance are on the Postal Service's initial list -- the Del Amo Fashion Center station is also included.

On August 18, 2009, City Council adopted a resolution declaring the City's opposition to the closure of Torrance postal stations. Last week, the City learned that the Postal Service has initiated a nature of service case with the Postal Regulatory Commission, Docket Number N2009-1 (Station and Branch Optimization and Consolidation Initiative, 2009). The Postal Regulatory Commission is charged with regulatory oversight of the Postal Service. Staff recommends that the Agency

attempt to intervene in the pending nature of service case in order to best state the Agency's opposition to closure of the three identified Torrance facilities.

The time has expired for the City to intervene as a matter of right in Docket Number N2009-1, but the Postal Regulatory Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure permit the filing of a motion to intervene, which the Commission has the discretion to grant. Staff recommends that Your Honorable Body adopt the attached resolution authorizing the Agency Attorney to file with the Postal Regulatory Commission a motion to intervene, and if the Agency's motion is granted to submit evidence and/or testimony in support of the Agency's position regarding the possible closure of postal stations in Torrance.

Respectfully submitted,



LeROY J. JACKSON
AGENCY DIRECTOR



JOHN L. FELLOWS III
AGENCY ATTORNEY

Attachment: A. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE AGENCY ATTORNEY TO FILE A MOTION FOR INTERVENTION IN POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION DOCKET NUMBER N2009-1 (STATION AND BRANCH OPTIMIZATION AND CONSOLIDATION INITIATIVE, 2009) AND TO SUBMIT EVIDENCE AND TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE AGENCY'S OPPOSITION TO POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF POSTAL STATIONS IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE

WHEREAS, on August 18, 2009, by Resolution No. 2009-74, the City Council of the City of Torrance expressed the City's opposition to possible closure of postal facilities within the City of Torrance; and

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2009, the Agency learned that a nature of service case, Docket Number N2009-1, was pending before the Postal Regulatory Commission to review the United States Postal Service's proposal to explore the possible closure of a significant number of postal stations and branches throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, three postal facilities within the City of Torrance are included on the Postal Service's initial list of facilities to be considered for closure; and

WHEREAS, the Agency Board of the City of Torrance Redevelopment Agency determines that it is in the Agency's best interest to intervene in Docket Number N2009-1, in order to best ensure that the Agency's position on the closure of the identified Torrance postal facilities be communicated to the Postal Regulatory Commission and the United States Postal Service; and

WHEREAS, the population of Torrance is diverse, speaking over seventy languages, and has a large component of elderly and aging residents, thirty two per cent of the Downtown resident being forty-five years of age or older, who are especially appreciative of and interested in close and convenient Postal Service locations; and

WHEREAS, the USPS Marcelina branch office is located within the Historic Downtown Torrance Redevelopment Project Area, which is poised to increase its residential population, business tenancy, and daily traffic, as well as to receive enhancements in pedestrian accessibility making this area especially convenient and attractive for disabled, senior, and new-urbanism oriented residents and patrons, especially those with limited mobility; and

WHEREAS, the City of Torrance Redevelopment Agency and USPS share an interest in improving and maintaining disabled access to the Marcelina branch

WHEREAS, Historic Downtown Torrance is currently home to a senior housing development consisting of seventy eight affordable units and may soon be home to more, hosts the Bartlett Senior Center conducting year-round senior programming, activities, and educational services, and is also home to the Retired and Senior Volunteers Program (RSVP) of the South Bay;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HEREBY DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Agency Attorney is authorized to file a motion for intervention on behalf of the Agency in Postal Regulatory Commission Docket Number N2009-1.

2. If the Agency's motion for intervention is granted by the Postal Regulatory Commission, the Agency Attorney is further authorized to submit such evidence and/or testimony in support of the Agency's position as the Agency Attorney believes is necessary and appropriate.

Introduced, approved and adopted this _____ day of October, 2009.

Mayor Frank Scotto

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
JOHN FELLOWS III, City Attorney

ATTEST:

by _____
Ronald T. Pohl, Assistant City Attorney

Sue Herbers, City Clerk