

Council Meeting of
January 12, 2010

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

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: City Manager – Consider RESOLUTION supporting The Local Taxpayer, Public Safety, and Transportation Protection Act of 2010.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council consider a RESOLUTION supporting the League of California Cities' efforts to protect local revenues and endorse The Local Taxpayer, Public Safety, and Transportation Protection Act of 2010, a proposed constitutional amendment.

Funding

None

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

During the December 22, 2009 Council meeting, Councilman Numark requested concurrence of Council for staff to prepare a RESOLUTION supporting the efforts of the League of California Cities to protect local revenues from being seized by the State.

In the past few years, the State Legislature has seized billions of dollars in local government and transportation funds. These funds are critical for providing residents with vital local government services and transportation improvement projects. California voters have overwhelmingly and repeatedly passed separate ballot measures opposing any borrowing or taking of local government revenues by the state. The League of California Cities has developed a variety of strategies to protect local revenues from being seized by the state and The City of Torrance has been an active participant in these efforts.

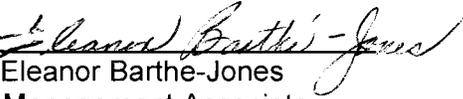
A coalition of local government and transportation advocates filed an amendment for placement on the November 2010 statewide ballot titled, Local Taxpayer, Public Safety, and Transportation Protection Act of 2010. This proposed measure prohibits the State from taking, borrowing, or restricting the use of tax revenues dedicated by law to fund local government services, community redevelopment projects, or transportation projects and services; even when the Governor deems it necessary due to a severe state fiscal hardship.

A Resolution has been developed by the League of California Cities for the City to cooperate with the League, other cities and counties in endorsing the Local Taxpayer, Public Safety, and

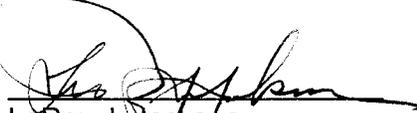
Transportation Protection Act of 2010. Supporting the ballot measure will acknowledge the critical importance of maintaining local control.

Respectfully submitted,

LeROY J. JACKSON
CITY MANAGER

By 
Eleanor Barthe-Jones
Management Associate

CONCUR:


LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachment: Resolution

City Manager's NOTE:

The City Manager has concerns over both the use of the initiative process to make law and the series of similar continuing initiative action which define what the State cannot do but take no responsibility or offer solutions on how the State financial crisis might be handled.

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-_____**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, SUPPORTING THE LOCAL TAXPAYER, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND TRANSPORTATION PROTECTION ACT OF 2010**

WHEREAS, California voters have repeatedly and overwhelmingly passed separate ballot measures to stop State raids of local government funds, and to dedicate the taxes on gasoline to fund transportation improvement projects; and

WHEREAS, these local government funds are critical to provide for police and fire, emergency response, parks, libraries, and other vital local services that residents rely upon every day, and gas tax funds are vital to maintain and improve local streets and roads, to make road safety improvements, relieve traffic congestion, and provide mass transit; and

WHEREAS, despite the fact that voters have repeatedly passed measures to prevent the State from taking these revenues dedicated to funding local government services and transportation improvement projects, the State Legislature has seized and borrowed billions of dollars in local government and transportation funds in the past few years; and

WHEREAS, this year's borrowing and raids of local government, redevelopment and transit funds, as well as previous ongoing raids of local government and transportation funds have led to severe consequences, such as layoffs of police, fire and paramedic first responders, fire station closures, stalled economic development, healthcare cutbacks, delays in road safety improvements, public transit fare increases, and cutbacks in public transit services; and

WHEREAS, State politicians in Sacramento have continued to ignore the will of the voters and current law provides no penalties when state politicians take or borrow these dedicated funds; and

WHEREAS, a coalition of local government, transportation and transit advocates recently filed a constitutional amendment with the California Attorney General, called the Local Taxpayer, Public Safety, and Transportation Protection Act of 2010, for potential placement on California's November 2010 statewide ballot; and

WHEREAS, approval of this ballot initiative would close loopholes and change the Constitution to further prevent State politicians in Sacramento from seizing, diverting, shifting, borrowing, transferring, suspending or otherwise taking or interfering with tax revenues dedicated to funding local government services, including redevelopment, or dedicated to transportation improvement projects and mass transit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HEREBY endorses the Taxpayer, Public Safety, and Transportation Protection Act of 2010, a proposed constitutional amendment; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that we hereby authorize the listing of the City of Torrance in support of the Local Taxpayer, Public Safety, and Transportation Protection Act of 2010 and instruct staff to fax a copy of this resolution to campaign offices at 916.442.3510.

Introduced, approved and adopted this _____ day of January 2010.

Mayor Frank Scotto

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
JOHN L. FELLOWS III, City Attorney

ATTEST:

By _____
Patrick Q. Sullivan, Assistant City Attorney

Sue Herbers, City Clerk