

Council Meeting of
March 23, 2010

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

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

Members of the City Council:

SUBJECT: Supplemental material to Item 12C

Attached for your consideration are correspondence received from the community regarding Agenda Item 12C, Adopt **RESOLUTION** approving increase of refuse rates.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric E. Tsao
Finance Director



Robert J. Beste
Public Works Director

Noted
Witness:



LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachment: A. Correspondence received regarding proposed Sanitation rate increase

Kay, Carol

From: Herbers, Sue
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 1:46 PM
To: Kay, Carol
Cc: Knapp, Matthew
Subject: FW: Sanitation Fee Increase
Attachments: Sanitation Fee Increase

For the record – Supplemental to 12C March 23, 2010.
Sue

Sue Herbers
City Clerk
City of Torrance | 3031 Torrance Blvd. | Torrance CA 90503 |
310.618.2864 voice | 310.618.2931 fax | SHerbers@TorranceCA.gov | www.TorranceCA.gov

From: SRhilinger@aol.com [mailto:SRhilinger@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 12:51 PM
To: Herbers, Sue
Subject: Fwd: Sanitation Fee Increase

Sue-

In case you haven't received a copy of this yet. . .

Susan

Kay, Carol

From: kk [kkfitch@att.net]
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 11:54 AM
To: Gene Barnett; Susan Marie Rhilinger; Tom Brewer; Pat Furey; Frank Scotto; Cliff Numark; Bill Sutherland
Subject: Sanitation Fee Increase
Attachments: 2010 01 12 - Agenda Item 13B - Sanitation Fee Increase.doc

Honorable Mayor and City Council members

Attached is that which I had originally planned to present at the two January Hearings. Being as you had it well under control, as usual, decided that the meeting would be better served with one less speaker.

A couple of weeks ago an active, alert, feisty, vibrant ninety-six year old woman made a statement. "In the other depression prices went down. Different this time". She is my mother.

Prices today seem to be remaining the same, though the contents are less:

Ice cream: used to hold 1/2 gallon, now 1.5 quarts;
 Soda: used to buy two 12-paks, now three cost the same as two.
 KFC used to get 12 pieces, now 10 pieces for same price.
 etc., etc....

May well remain a passive participant in tomorrow's hearing on the above subject matter. It does appear that most of my questions have been answered. One comment: as a long-time senior resident of Torrance, I would be willing to pay a share of the increase, as previously proportioned. May others feel the same.

Questions, that I hope will be asked/answered are:

- When GPI decreases, will our rate also decrease? Or work as with SSA: rate reduction, no increase?
- The one-time Service fee of \$4.00: will that be charged to ALL residents, or to the new subscribers of the Sanitation services?
- Will water/sewer rates be increasing, in the not to far-distant future?
- Would it decrease some of the cost to the City IF, the gray and black containers were only set out when reasonably full? Could a notice be included in with bi-monthly statement?

Hopefully someone will chastise those who refrain from using ALL of their trash containers, and brag about their lack of participation. Thanks to a wonderful neighbor; my black container rarely is used; green container is set out every other week; and gray container probably goes out about once every three months.

Thank you for 'listening', again.

In sincere appreciation and with all due respect, I remain your servant
 Karen K. Fitch.

3/22/2010

City Council Meeting
Sanitation Fee Increase
~~12 January 2010~~
26 January 2010
Item 13B

Honorable Mayor, City Council, and Staff...

It is an interesting time for communities through-out our County, and in California. That which affects our State affects our City and its residents. May the City of Torrance's support with the League of California Cities cease the rape of our duly earned revenue. Interesting that 'they' can withhold your fair share of the property and sales tax we pay. Yet, my home could end up in foreclosure should I, for whatever reason, be unable to pay my property tax, TIMELY.... Unilateral State actions?

The community members, with whom I have spoken, wish me to express our debt of gratitude to the City government for its fiscal and financial integrity/responsibility, especially during these difficult times. Doubly so, to our Controller, and Treasurer. Perhaps the State could use her and his counsel, in restructuring its budget for proper State fiscal management.

Since the green waste recycling project began, and a couple of others had significant % increases:

- Gasoline, in the last year has gone from \$2.66 a gal., to \$3.16 a gal. = 84% increase.
- Soda was 2-12 paks for \$5/21¢ a can. Now is 3-\$10/28¢ a can. = 75% increase.
- Beer was 24 cans for \$12/50¢ a can. Now is 30 cans for \$20/68¢ a can = 32% increase.
- Grocery and other Retail items have increased significantly. Too numerous to quantify.
- Interesting that Car Wash prices have remained fairly stable.

The proposed Sanitation fee increase will equal, according to my calculations, ALL increases since 2002, including CPI increases. 22% from 2002 – 2009. The proposed equals the 2002-2009 increases, at 22%, which makes a TOTAL increase of 44% since 2002.

Would appreciate responses to a few questions:

- How many Protest Letters, have been submitted, opposing the Sanitation Fee Increase to date?
- When the Green Pilot Project was approved by the City Council, somehow I was lulled into believing that Total Implementation of the Green Project costs would be offset by the landfill savings, etc., AND would pay for itself.. My CRS memory leads me to believe that someone did ask that question. Has the situation changed OR?
- Is the proposed fee increase based on weekly pickup of THREE containers from ALL receiving this City Service? Any reduction in calculation included for those who place only one or two containers curbside **monthly**?
- If adopted, a CPI increase will also be included. Should the CPI percentage decrease, as it did this year, will the Sanitation Fee also decrease? This year, I believe, it decreased by .6%
- Any other fee increases anticipated for the future?

Disabled, and Low-Income Seniors sincerely appreciate the retention of the programs that enable them to allot more funds to food, groceries, and medications. They also took a severe 'hit' from the State by elimination of Homeowner's Assistance, based on Property Tax payments; MediCare Part D payment increases; and, MediCal allowance cuts.

Life goes on, and so shall we should Council elect to increase our Rubbish Collection fees. As will life for USC as it overcomes its latest challenges. Personally I wait for the day that USC and UCLA meet again, especially in the Rose Bowl spectacular. Or, in my dreams, for the National Title....

Have a grand New Decade, and Thank You.

Karen K. Fitch
Parcel ID No.: 7371 005 087 09 000