

Council Meeting of
June 13, 2006

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

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: Recommendation of the Torrance Youth Council for approval
of a donation to six "*Beat The Odds*" Honorees**

Expenditure: \$6,000

RECOMMENDATION

The Torrance Youth Council is recommending that your Honorable Body approve a \$6,000 donation from the Youth Council Donation Fund to six "*Beat the Odds*" honorees and authorize the Finance Director to issue the warrants.

FUNDING

Funding is available in the Youth Council Donation account.

BACKGROUND

In 1996, the Torrance Youth Council decided to seek out Torrance youth to celebrate and support. During this quest, several members saw a Channel Four News Special on "Beat the Odds/Achievement Council" honorees and thought this would be a good way to fulfill the Youth Council's objective. The Youth Council asked staff to assist with researching the program and, with the help of a video and information from Wendy Takuda of Channel Four Action News, the entire Youth Council was introduced to the "Achievement Council/Beat the Odds" honorees. Through this introduction, the Youth Council found meaning to direct their support to deserving youth.

In 1997 with the approval of the City Council, the Youth Council developed the "*Beat the Odds*" scholarship program for Torrance Unified School District students and presented five scholarships that year.

ANALYSIS

The "Beat the Odds" Selection Committee of 2006 was comprised of the following members: Parks and Recreation Commissioner Jonna Smoot, Library Commissioner Kathryn Roberts and Youth Council members, Nicole Hartig, Vickie Hseih and CheinyShiau. On Thursday, April 20, 2006 this committee met and reviewed the "Beat the Odds" applications submitted by students who attend high schools in the Torrance Unified School District. After much discussion, the Selection Committee selected six worthy students who have "Beaten the Odds."

On May 11, 2006, the Torrance Youth Council hosted its ninth annual "Beat the Odds" Scholarship Awards Program at THE ATTiC, a Torrance Teen Center. The theme for the event was "**Looking towards the future....Bouncing back from the past.**" The six young individuals who were recognized have experienced very difficult times. But, along the way, they met the challenges and overcame the obstacles in pursuit of their educational dreams.

With the approval of the City Council, the Torrance Youth Council makes annual donations to many organizations and programs that serve Torrance youth. At its meeting of May 17, 2006, the Torrance Youth Council made and passed a motion to donate \$6,000 to the six Torrance Unified School District students selected by the "Beat the Odds" Selection Committee. Each of the scholarship recipients have demonstrated academic excellence, community service and personal achievements in their struggles to improve their own lives and the lives of others.

Respectfully submitted,
TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL

By Unavailable for Signature
Nina Sawhney, Chairperson

NOTED:



GENE BARNETT
Community Services Director



LeROY J JACKSON
City Manager

Attachment: A) Excerpt from Youth Council minutes of May 17, 2006.

ATTACHMENT A**EXCERPT OF MINUTES**

- Minutes Approved
 Minutes Subject to Approval

May 17, 2006

***MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL***

2. ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

PRESENT: Jennifer Chen, Julie Han, Nicole Hartig, Ashley Hunt, Vickie Hsieh, Viola Lau, Nathan Lee, Tommy Nguyen, Door Park, Cheiny Shiau, Anthony Tangoan Deva Trejo, Annie To and Maria Turcios

ABSENT: Alyssa Hall, Nina Sawhney and Susan Kwak

GUESTS: None

STAFF: Deborah Reed, Sr. Recreation Supervisor; Youth Council Liaison
Portia Rivera, Staff Assistant to Youth Council

11. "BEAT THE ODDS"

MOTION: Vickie Hsieh moved, Ashley Hunt seconded, to allocate \$6,000 to the "Beat the Odds" scholarship program for 2006. The motion carried unanimously.

The awards dinner was held on Thursday, May 11, 2006 at the ATTIC. Councilman Nowatka did a great job presenting the certificates to the recipients of the scholarships. Everyone agreed that the music and food were very good.