Torrance City Council & Social Services Commission
Joint Meeting of
October 15, 2019

SUPPLEMENTAL #3

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

Members of the Council and Commission:

SUBJECT: Supplemental Material #3 to Joint Meeting Agenda Item

This supplemental includes additional correspondence related to this item.

Respectfully submitted,

LeROY J. JACKSON
CITY MANAGER

By Katie Wand
Management Associate

CONCUR:

LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachment
A) Correspondence
October 4, 2019

Torrance City Hall
3031 Torrance Blvd
Torrance, CA 90503

Dear Mayor Furey, Councilmembers, Mr. Leroy Jackson (City Manager), Mr. Patrick Sullivan (City Attorney), and Rebecca Poirier (City Clerk),

I would like to request Community Lead Officer Stephen Kim (CLO) attend the Joint Meeting of the Social Services Commission and City Council on October 15, 2019; the topic Homelessness Report. CLO Stephen Kim leads the homelessness in the Torrance Police Department.

CLO KIM STATED THAT THE HOMELESS POPULATION WAS INCREASING IN TORRANCE AS A RESULT OF:

• Harbor UCLA Medical Center recently starting a mental health program called, Exodus, which accepted people from all over the County, who had received a 5150 citation, which required a 12 to 72-hour hold, and after the hold, were released in the nearby Torrance community.

• Little Company of Mary working with homeless patients from all over the County and then releasing them into the community

• Homeless coming from outside of the area

CLO Kim reported that there were also people living in their cars or RVs in private parking lots, who were difficult to remove, as tow drivers refused to remove vehicles with people inside. He added that the parking lots were often left in very unsanitary condition.

Enclosed is the Social Services Commission June 27, 2019 minutes.

CLO KIM STATED THE HOMELESS ISSUE HAS CAUSED AN ENCUMBRANCE ON THE TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Community Lead Officer (CLO) Stephen Kim explained that his team had been reduced to a team of two from four and he often had to work on patrol as well. He stated that the issue of homelessness has risen to priority one for the Police, due to the volume of calls, complaints and concern from the community. He reported that in 2014 the number of 911 calls for service from the Community in regard to the homeless population were 300 per quarter and had steadily increased to 700-800 calls per quarter in 2019. He noted that during his patrol shift, one in three calls concerned the homeless.

Enclosed is the Social Services Commission June 27, 2019 minutes.
I highly recommend the City Council invite CLO Stephen Kim to attend the Joint Meeting of the Social Services Commission and City Council on October 15, 2019. CLO Stephen Kim may share his expertise and experience about Torrance’s Homeless Crisis.

Sincerely

Yoko Patsy Okada
Torrance, CA 90503

Enclosures (1)
8. ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION FROM THE TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Assistant to the City Manager Hoang thanked the Police Department and Officers Kim, Craft, Wessels and Ahmad who worked behind the scenes to assist Social Services staff.

Community Lead Officer (CLO) Stephen Kim explained that his team had been reduced to a team of two from four and he often had to work on patrol as well. He stated that the issue of homelessness has risen to priority one for the Police, due to the volume of calls, complaints and concern from the community. He reported that in 2014 the number of 911 calls for service from the Community in regard to the homeless population were 300 per quarter and had steadily increased to 700-800 calls per quarter in 2019. He noted that during his patrol shift, one in three calls concerned the homeless. He confirmed that there had been a significant increase over the last four years in the official Los Angeles County homeless count, which in 2015 was 79, in 2018 was 188 and in 2019 the estimate was over 200.

CLO Kim noted that the Police Department attended neighborhood watch programs to educate the public that homelessness was not a crime in and of itself. He noted that the Department also let the public know that the Police often did not have the legal standing to remove a homeless person, even for what might be considered a violation. He explained that the Police Department tried to maintain a balance between the rights of business owners and those of the homeless. He reported that the Department was working with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), the Coordinated Entry Program (CES), Harbor Interfaith, as well as directing citizens to use the Los Angeles County Homeless Outreach Portal (LAHOP) and distributing the City cards which detailed service information for the homeless.

CLO Kim stated that many of the homeless that the Police encountered in transient camps were drug users and not interested in using the services that were offered, as they did not want to abide by the rules of the shelters. He noted that there was an increasing number of camps in the City in various locations, which meant the Department often needed to coordinate with outside government agencies which had jurisdiction for the property where the camp was located; such as CalTrans, Edison, the railroad or the Department of Public Works. He added that new laws had made it more difficult to arrest and remove people and their belongings from an encampment and noted that even if a person was taken to jail, they were released quickly.

CLO Kim stated that the homeless population was increasing in Torrance as a result of:
- Harbor UCLA Medical Center recently starting a mental health program called, Exodus, which accepted people from all over the County, who had received a 5150 citation, which required a 12 to 72-hour hold, and after the hold, were released in the nearby Torrance community.
- Little Company of Mary working with homeless patients from all over the County and then releasing them into the community
- Homeless coming from outside of the area

CLO Kim reported that there were also people living in their cars or RVs in private parking lots, who were difficult to remove, as tow drivers refused to remove vehicles with people inside. He added that the parking lots were often left in very unsanitary condition.