

The Social Services Commission is an advisory body to the City Council that generally meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room. The Commission may make recommendations to the City Council on Veterans affairs, homeless issues, adults with development disabilities, and children with special needs. All meetings are open to the public except for those portions that under law may be considered in closed session. Those who wish to speak on any matter on the agenda are asked to complete a "Speaker Information" card (available at the meeting) and relay it to the staff before leaving the meeting.

Staff reports are available for review at the Civic Center Main Library and the City Clerk's Office. Direct any other questions or concerns to the Social Services Commission liaison at 310.618.5880. Agendas are posted on the City of Torrance Home Page www.TorranceCA.Gov.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Manager's office at (310) 618-5880. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. [28CFR35.102-35.104 ADA Title II]

**TORRANCE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION AGENDA
SEPTEMBER 23, 2021
REGULAR MEETING
6:00 P.M. WEST ANNEX COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION MAY TAKE ACTION ON ANY ITEM
LISTED ON THE AGENDA**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

ROLL CALL: Commission Members Funes, Leys, Reynolds, Sansalone, Scotto, Witt, Chair Bickford

2. FLAG SALUTE: Commissioner Leys

3. REPORT OF STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA The agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Bl. and on the City's Website on Thursday, September 16, 2021.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to a 30 minute period)

This portion of the meeting is reserved for public comment on items not on the agenda or on topics of interest to the general public. Under the Ralph M. Brown Act, Commissioners cannot act on items raised during public comment but may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed; request clarification; or refer the item to staff. Speakers under this Public Comment period will have no longer than 3 minutes per speaker. Your phone call to the Commission meeting will be recorded as part of the meeting. By staying on the line and making public comment during the meeting, you are agreeing to have your phone call recorded.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion and one vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed by a Commissioner from the Consent Calendar and considered separately.

6A. Approval of Minutes: August 26, 2021

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

*VHH
Z.G.*

7A. ACCEPT AND FILE STAFF REPORT 2021 VETERANS RECOGNITION EVENT

7B. APPROVE PROCLAMATION DECLARING NOVEMBER 7 – 13 AS MILITARY VETERANS APPRECIATION WEEK IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE

7C. REVIEW 2016 SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION WORK PLAN, APPROVE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION TO UPDATE THE PLAN IN 2022, ASSIGN COMMISSION MEMBERS TO TASKS IN PREPARATION FOR WORK PLAN UPDATE

7D. APPROVE THE CITY OF TORRANCE TO BE A DEPLOYMENT SITE AND COORDINATE THE 2022 HOMELESS COUNT

8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

9. ADJOURNMENT

9A. Adjournment of the Social Services Commission Meeting to Thursday, October 26, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Room.

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Social Services Commission convened in a regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 26, 2021 at the West Annex Commission meeting room, Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Funes, Leys, Scotto, Witt and Chairperson Bickford

Absent: Commissioners Reynolds and Sansalone

Also Present: Deputy City Manager Hoang and Management Associate Gent

MOTION: Commissioner Scotto moved to approve the excused absences of Commissioners Reynolds and Sansalone; motion was seconded by Commissioner Leys. The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Absent Commissioners Reynolds and Sansalone)

2. FLAG SALUTE

The pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Scotto.

3. REPORT OF THE STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Management Associate Gent stated that the agenda for the Social Services Commission was properly posted on August 19, 2021 on the Public Notice Board by the City Clerk's office and the City's website.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

Management Associate Gent stated that there were no withdrawn or deferred items, but noted that there was supplemental material available for Item 7D: Accept and File Report from Staff on the City's Progress in Addressing Homelessness in Torrance.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 22, 2021

MOTION: Commissioner Witt moved to approve Item 6A; motion was seconded by Commissioner Scotto. The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Absent Commissioners Reynolds and Sansalone)

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION FROM HARBOR INTERFAITH ON THE LA-HOP PORTAL

Ari Hamilton, Regional Outreach Coordinator for Service Planning Area 8-South Bay (SPA 8) from Harbor Interfaith Services presented the report for the item. He explained that LA-HOP was a county wide, web-based portal designed by the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority (LAHSA) in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative. He noted that the website was a streamlined referral process for street outreach services, intended to educate community members on the services and functions of the outreach team and to unify the process for referring homeless individuals to street outreach services. He explained that the criteria of homelessness for LA-HOP was the HUD term defined as "literal homelessness", that is, sleeping at nighttime in a place not meant for human habitation. He noted that LA-HOP operated under the "there was no wrong door approach", meaning that if they encountered a person that was not appropriate for LA-HOP services, that person would be referred to a service better suited to their situation.

Mr. Hamilton outlined the process, the time frame and variety of services that were offered by the outreach services teams: placements, referrals, providing mental help services, proactive and reactive outreach. He stated that in SPA 8 there were 25 teams comprised of 115-120 staff members and noted that the teams could be generalists, multi-disciplinary, specialists for certain populations or housing navigation specialists.

Mr. Hamilton reported that since 2018, the City had received 550 LA-HOP requests and that 547 of those requests had been closed. He described the process of making a request, assigning teams and sending feedback to the requestor and noted that the more information that the reporter provided, the more successful the outcome of the request would be.

MOTION: Commissioner Leys moved to accept and file presentation from Harbor Interfaith on the LA-HOP Portal; motion was seconded by Commissioner Funes. The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Absent Commissioners Reynolds and Sansalone)

7B. ACCEPT AND FILE UPDATE REPORT FROM STAFF ON 2021 VETERANS EVENT

Deputy City Manager Hoang presented the report and discussed the elements and assignments for the program for the 2021 Veterans Event.

- Staff would write the Proclamation for Military Appreciation Week in the City and Commission would review for approval at the September 23 meeting. Staff would then agendaize the item for October 26 Council meeting
- Staff would coordinate the messages from the Mayor and Commission Chair
- Candace Ford was confirmed to sing National Anthem
- Email tributes for website will be accepted October 11- November 3. Staff will print business cards to use to solicit appreciation messages
- Jill Reed will coordinate CitiCABLE program
- Staff will reach out to Bob Chiota to ask him to speak
- Staff recommended that speakers from each of the branches be eliminated, due to time constraints

Commissioners confirmed that:

- Leys would make the Council announcement on October 12 for the Veterans Event and request that tributes be submitted
- Bickford and Witt would attend the October 26 Council meeting to accept Proclamation and make an announcement for Veterans Event
- Witt would create a list in October of businesses that provided free or discounted services for Veterans to post on the website
- Commission concurred with Historical Society's recommendation for Bob Chiota as a local Military Veteran, to deliver a message of appreciation (5-minute message).
- Commission concurred with Bickford's recommendation for Colonel Marcus Ferrara as speaker. Bickford would provide Ferrara's contact information to Staff
- Bickford had identified some missing Veterans resources on website – would work with Jill Reed to edit website
- Scotto reported that speaker (Leon Silverman) had recorded his song. Scotto was coordinating with Jill Reed on CitiCABLE program

There was a discussion of having an invocation or a moment of reflection for the Program. Staff would look into how to include it in the program and ask the Mayor if he would like to include it in his remarks.

It was decided to include written statements from the six branches by running the statements on the screen during the National Anthem.

MOTION: Commissioner Witt moved to accept and file update report from Staff on 2021 Veterans Event; motion was seconded by Commissioner Leys. The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Absent Commissioners Reynolds and Sansalone)

7C. ACCEPT AND FILE UPDATE ON THE 2021 TUSD BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Management Associate Gent presented the report for the item and noted that the drive was a success. She confirmed that she would send photos to the Commission of the event and items collected.

MOTION: Commissioner Scotto moved to accept and update on the 2021 TUSD Back to School Supply Drive; motion was seconded by Commissioner Witt. The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Absent Commissioners Reynolds and Sansalone)

7D. ACCEPT AND FILE UPDATE REPORT ON THE CITY'S PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS IN TORRANCE

Management Associate Gent reviewed staff's monthly update report on *the City's Progress in Addressing Homelessness in Torrance*, which was presented on August 24, 2021 at the City Council meeting. She reported on the site selection for temporary housing.

Deputy City Manager Hoang discussed the budget and funding items for temporary housing which include: site preparation, power, sewer and water connections, fencing, living units, startup costs and operating expenses, including case management. He noted that some of the funding would come from the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) Innovation Grant and SBCCOG Call for Projects for LA County Homeless Initiative 22/23. He reported that the Torrance ARP Home Funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) would not have guidelines on how to use or access the funds until the end of 2021. He stated that staff had been notified by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors that there would soon be a motion to approve a formal agreement between the County and the City staff, which would identify the relationship between the two entities, including funding and the responsibilities of each party.

Deputy City Manager Hoang discussed staff efforts to develop resources with South Bay Workforce Investment Board to help the residents of the temporary housing with life skills, pre-employment skills as well as access to grants for on-the-job training. He reviewed the staff's visit to Salvation Village, a tiny home community in the City of Wilmington.

Deputy City Manager Hoang explained that the immediate community near the temporary housing site had requested to be kept informed on the project and staff was investigating best methods for outreach.

Management Associate Gent reviewed and explained the February – December 2021 metrics of the Outreach Outcomes report. She reported on two successful housing outcomes by Outreach Worker Valerie and collaborations with the Police Department Community Lead Officers and Harbor Interfaith Services Outreach Team as well as the Homeless Response Team.

Members of the public spoke.

MOTION: Commissioner Leys moved to accept and file update report on the City's progress in addressing homelessness in Torrance; motion was seconded by Commissioner Witt. The motion passed by a roll call vote (Absent Commissioners Reynolds and Sansalone)

8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Scotto requested staff to ask the programs which had received toiletry items from the collection if they still had supplies or how long the supplies had lasted.

Commissioner Witt reminded the Commission to vote in the recall election.

Chairperson Bickford requested staff to investigate offering a community program on homelessness.

Deputy City Manager Hoang stated that Homelessness 101 was already a part of the Homeless Plan - Goal 1, and presentations would be scheduled for City staff, Council, Commissions and the general public. Management Associate Gent added that there was also information on the City's website.

9. ADJOURNMENT

9A. At 7:47 p.m., Commissioner Witt moved to adjourn the meeting to the regular meeting on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the West Annex Commission meeting room, Torrance City Hall. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scotto and a roll call vote reflected approval. (Absent Commissioners Reynolds and Sansalone)

###

Subject to Approval

Honorable Members of the Social Services Commission
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Commission:

SUBJECT: Accept and File Staff Report on 2021 Veterans Recognition Event

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of staff that the Social Services Commission accept and file a staff report on a 2021 Veterans Recognition Event.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

At the May 27, 2021 Social Services Commission meeting, the Commission concurred that the Commission wishes to hold a virtual recognition event for Military Veterans in 2021, to be held the week of Veterans Day, which is November 7 - 13, 2021.

During this evening's Commission meeting, staff will review the action items that have been completed, and remaining action items that need to be completed, in anticipation of Military Veterans Appreciation Week in the City of Torrance.

Respectfully submitted,



Zulma Gent
Staff to the Commission



Viet Hoang
Staff to the Commission

Commission Meeting of
September 23, 2021

Honorable Members of the Social Services Commission
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Commission:

**SUBJECT: APPROVE PROCLAMATION DECLARING NOVEMBER 7– 13, 2021 AS
MILITARY VETERANS APPRECIATION WEEK IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE**

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of staff that the Social Services Commission approve a proclamation declaring November 7 – 13, 2021 as Military Veterans Appreciation Week in the City of Torrance, and to request adoption of the proclamation at the October 26, 2021 City Council meeting.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Attached is a draft of a proclamation declaring November 7 – 13, 2021 as Military Veterans Appreciation Week in the City of Torrance. Staff is seeking the Commission's review of the draft proclamation, recommendations for modifications, and adoption of the Proclamation. If your Honorable Body approves a proclamation, staff will request that the proclamation be presented at the October 26, 2021 City Council meeting at 6:30 pm. City Council is dark on October 5 and 19.

Staff encourages all Social Services Commissioners to attend and to accept the proclamation, and to invite key organizations who serve our community's Veterans to attend, too.

Respectfully submitted,



ZULMA GENT
STAFF TO THE COMMISSION



VIET HOANG
STAFF TO THE COMMISSION

Attachment: Draft Proclamation: Military Veterans Appreciation Week in the City of Torrance

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** Veterans Day is for all those who have served in the armed forces and protected our nation's freedoms. Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week it falls on; and
- WHEREAS,** the restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of the holiday: a celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good; and
- WHEREAS,** the Torrance community celebrates and honors those who serve and have served in our community through a variety of programs, including the Armed Forces Day Celebration and Parade, the Hometown Heroes Military Banner Recognition Program, the Veterans Memorial Wall, and the Torrance Historical Society Names on the Wall of Remembrance; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Torrance Social Services Commission's powers and duties include making recommendations to the City Council on veterans affairs, and encouraging the Torrance community to recognize the valor and sacrifice of our veterans through participating in commemorative and celebratory activities in the community; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Torrance through the Social Services Commission wishes to recognize our American patriots who have stepped forward to serve our country and defend our way of life; and
- WHEREAS,** due to uncertainties related to COVID-19, the 2021 Veterans Day Recognition Event taking place during Military Veterans Appreciation Week will be celebrated virtually in order to maintain the safety of our community; and
- WHEREAS,** Torrance appreciates and admires the thousands of men and women in the Torrance residential and business community who have served in the armed forces to protect and preserve their country and the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PATRICK J. FUREY as Mayor of the City of Torrance, California, do hereby proclaim November 7 - 13, 2021 as

MILITARY VETERANS APPRECIATION WEEK IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE

Signed this 26th day of October 2021.



Mayor Patrick J. Furey

ATTEST:



Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk

Honorable Members of the Social Services Commission
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Commission:

SUBJECT: Review 2016 Social Services Commission Work Plan, Approve Staff's Recommendation to Update the Plan in 2022, Assign Commission Members to Tasks in Preparation for Work Plan Update

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of staff that the Social Services Commission members review the 2016 Social Services Commission Work Plan, approve staff's recommendation to update the work plan in 2022, and assign Commission members to tasks that prepares the Commission to update the work plan in 2022.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Torrance City Council created the Social Services Commission on September 22, 2015, with the Commission's responsibility to make recommendations to City Council on issues related to Veterans Affairs, Homeless Populations, Intellectually Challenges Adults and Special Needs Children. At a subsequent meeting in 2017, the Commission recommended to City Council, and City Council approved, that the Commission's responsibility be amended to read that the Commission may make recommendations related to "1) Veterans affairs; 2) Homeless issues; 3) Adults with developmental disabilities; and 4) Children with special needs."

The Social Services Commission began meeting in February 2016. In the first nine months of the Commission's existence, the Commission heard presentations from Community groups within their subject matter jurisdiction. For each of the presentations, the Commission members learned the mission of the Community group, who the Community group services, how services can be accessed, and how the City could best support or partner with the Community group. The following Community groups presented to the Commission in 2016:

- Best Buddies California – South Bay Jobs Program
- County of Los Angeles Homeless Initiative – Service Planning Area 8
- Harbor Regional Center
- Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
- Torrance Community Development Department – Housing
- Pediatric Therapy Network
- People Assisting the Homeless (PATH)

- Sensory Integration Education & Research Foundation
- South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness
- South Bay Family Promise
- South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB)
- Torrance Police Department – Community Lead Officers
- Torrance Police Department – Torrance Mental Evaluation Team (TMET)
- Torrance Public Library
- Torrance Unified School District – Educational Services
- Torrance Unified School District – Licensed Clinical Social Workers
- Vietnam Veterans of America, South Bay Chapter 53

Following the presentations, the Social Services Commission engaged in developing a Work Plan during the Commission's monthly meetings. The Work Plan consists of six Proposed Strategies, and action recommendations within each of the Strategies. The Commission presented the Work Plan to City Council on November 22, 2016. During the meeting, City Council provided feedback to the Commission on the priorities of the strategies and recommendations, and concluded by receiving and filling the Work Plan (attached).

Since November 22, 2016, the Commission has been using the Work Plan to guide their actions. The Commission's work has been heavily weighted towards actions related to homelessness. This intentional choice is a result of the increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness in Torrance; an increase in the opportunities to collaborate with Community organizations and government agencies in finding solutions to addressing homelessness; and City Council's direction to staff to develop a standalone homelessness plan.

With the City's Plan to Prevent and Combat Homelessness adopted in June 2021, and with City staff currently implementing action steps found in the Plan, staff respectfully recommends that the Commission consider reviewing the 2016 Work Plan and updating the plan to reflect the Community's current needs. In particular, staff recommends that the Commission consider reviewing the needs of Veterans, Adults with Developmental Disabilities, and Youth with Special Needs, in updating the Work Plan.

Staff proposes that the Commission follow a similar structure to developing the 2016 Work Plan. Specifically, staff recommends that the Commission dedicate the first three Commission meetings of 2022 to listening to Community organizations to understand their mission, who they serve, how services can be accessed, and ways in which the City can be stronger partners to these organizations.


Following the presentations, staff recommends that the Commission conduct workshops during their Commission meetings to develop strategies and actions related to their subject matter jurisdiction, prioritize the strategies, and return to City Council to present an updated Work Plan.

Should staff concur with this approach, staff respectfully requests that the Commission identify Community organizations to invite to Commission meetings in January, February and March 2022, and to assign Commission members to contact these organizations to invite them to a future meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Zulma Gent
Staff to the Commission



Viet Hoang
Staff to the Commission

Attachment: Torrance Social Services Commission, Proposed Strategies and Recommended Action Plan (Received and Filed by City Council, November 22, 2016)

**Torrance Social Services Commission
Proposed Strategies and Recommended Action Plan
Received and Filed by City Council
November 22, 2016**

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED STRATEGIES (IN PRIORITY ORDER)

1. Information, Resources, Outreach & Referrals
2. Understanding and Keeping Connected with Our Populations
3. Marshalling Community Support & Raising Public Awareness
4. City's Support of Social Services
5. Increasing Housing Opportunities
6. Developing Social Opportunities and Inclusion

1. Proposed Strategy: Information, Resources, Outreach & Referrals

The purpose of this strategy is to develop information sources in a variety of formats that identify organizations serving the Commission's four populations, and how to access these services.

Recommended Action	Description
1a. Create tag line that helps community understand the City's position on social issues.	By marketing the City's position regarding these populations, we can energize the community to be part of the solution.
1b. Create a webpage promoting services and contact information, and phone line.	Organizations serving the Commission's four populations currently lack one homepage where visitors can learn how to access the services. The Commission can serve as the "gatekeeper" for organizations to post their service, and staff can update the webpage as needed.
1c. Fund resource guide – print, pocket, and other media.	For all four populations, the Commission can identify all services available to Torrance residents, take inventory and coordinate with existing guides (e.g. FocalPoint, other City department resources), and publish and maintain a resource guide to help the community know how to access these resources. Guide can be in print and online.

2. Proposed Strategy: Understanding and Keeping Connected with Our Populations

The purpose of this strategy is for the Commission to continuously assess its four populations and sub populations, their dynamic needs, and opportunities for the City to support these populations. This strategy also seeks to measure the impact of the City's actions for the Commission's four populations.

Recommended Action	Description
2a. Counting all four Commission populations and collaborating with service organizations and agencies for the count.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify numbers that are important to the Commission's work to count 2. Identify what numbers already exist 3. Count populations 4. Count sub populations 5. Identify needs 6. Identify individuals with high needs 7. Identify goals for reducing numbers
2b. Explore methods by which the City can stay in touch with Veterans to provide information.	Run a campaign to identify all veterans in Torrance. This registry can be used to outreach information to veterans.
2c. Identify Veterans who have mental illness and health needs that are not being addressed by current services.	Priority services should be given to those veterans with health needs (mental health and other health) who are unserved or under-served by other agencies.
2d. Prioritize homeless populations who are unsheltered (staying in cars) and who are families.	Create outreach programs specifically for families who are unsheltered homeless or about to become homeless for service referral. Collaborating specifically with TUSD.

3. Strategy: Marshalling Community Support & Raising Public Awareness

The purpose of this strategy is for the Commission to engage the Torrance community with its four populations through awareness and action.

Recommended Action	Description
3a. Family support and resource guide for children with developmental disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate regular family meetings with representation from schools, regional center, mental health • Have group create and update "wiki style" resource guide • self-help, mutual support, and family education • personal advocacy education and tools • support larger advocacy agenda
3b. "Compassion Works: Contributions from our Courageous Neighbors" citywide public education campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variety of media efforts to tell inspiring and educational stories of people who have overcome an array of serious challenges to contribute to our community. • technical assistance to people and agencies to help them tell their stories and to link them to media outlets and community speaking opportunities • city recognition and promotion of these people
3c. Hold presentations from community organizations that serve the four populations at each Commission Meeting.	Commission meetings can be an opportunity for community organizations to present their services. This would allow the public to learn about the organization and for organizations to collaborate with the City and one another. And it allows for the Commission to compile the organization's information for inclusion in a data bank of resources.
3d. Hold a "Social Services" awareness campaign (e.g. fair, monthly spotlight on a community group, etc.), sponsored by the Commission, where organizations can share their services with the public.	The Commission needs to make public awareness goal #1. Many residents and businesses can enhance their awareness of the magnitude of issues of these four populations. An awareness campaign will help the public know the needs of these organizations, as well as services they provide.

4. Proposed Strategy: City's Support of Social Services

The purpose of this strategy is to explore recommendations for the Commission's four populations in order to impact City ordinances, policies, procedures, positions, and services.

Recommended Action	Description
4a. Expand Torrance Mental Evaluation Team and include further training on encounters with homeless populations, veterans, and special needs children and adults.	The mission of the Torrance Mental Evaluation Team is to provide an effective, collaborative, and compassionate mental health and law enforcement co-response to those in need of mental health services, whom are experiencing suspected symptoms of mental illness. The Team is comprised of a sworn Police Officer and a licensed clinician from the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health that specializes in dealing with the mentally ill in the field.
4b. Adopt LA County Strategy E4: First Responders Training	Ideas from LA County include utilizing training curriculum developed by Sheriff and several cities to train officers and first responders at no cost to City.
4c. Torrance community resource center and coalition (technical assistance) for service providers	This office focuses on supporting community providers, rather than the populations themselves, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sponsor monthly Torrance specific meeting of people and agencies supporting the populations • Special emphasis on linking professional government funded programs and private/charitable programs • support phone line and technical assistance for private and newly forming programs • facilitate real-time on-line resource guide and virtual map of services • create wallet size resource guides for local businesses, community, outreach, other agencies to use
4d. Adopt LA County Strategy E5: Decriminalization Policy	Ideas from LA County include adopting the decriminalization policy which is focused on directing individuals to service provides as an alternative to arrest and incarceration.
4e. Request City Council to grant Social Services Commission funding, akin to Parks and Recreation's grant funding, to serve Social Services specific four populations.	Grant program based on information shared about Parks and Recreation program from June 23, 2016.

5. Proposed Strategy: Increasing Housing Opportunities

The purpose of this strategy is to better understand the opportunities for the City to address housing issues related to the Commission's four populations, and recommend action.

Recommended Action	Description
<p>5a. Adopt LA County Strategy B8: Housing Choice Vouchers for Permanent Supportive Housing</p>	<p>Ideas from LA County include dedicating substantial percentage of newly available City vouchers for permanent supportive housing of chronically homeless individuals. (Note: CDD staff recommend changing this goal to focus on modifying preferences – homeless, Veterans, families, etc.)</p> <p>Identify partners who can provide support services (e.g. mental health organization assist with life skills training, etc.) and collaborate on servicing of the vouchers (e.g. homeless organization partner to verify homelessness, etc.)</p>
<p>5b. Advise City Council to adopt "City Resolution to Partner with County to Combat Homeless"</p>	<p>One of LA County's requests is for cities to adopt a resolution to partner with County to combat homelessness. Sample resolution provides areas that the City will explore, including: contributing funds towards rapid rehousing, dedicating federal housing subsidies, ensuring law enforcement and first responders engage homeless families and individuals, and using land use policy to maximize availability of homeless and affordable housing.</p>
<p>5c. Work with Community Development Department staff to identify housing opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review LA County's homeless strategies to determine what City already does, and viability of other strategies • Identify private and governmental (e.g. Federal, state) partners to collaborate on housing opportunities • Cost out recommendations • Explore matching LA County Funds • Explore viability of developing additional low cost housing in designated areas.

6. Proposed Strategy: Developing Social Opportunities and Inclusion

The purpose of this strategy is to increase the Commission's four populations' sense of belonging in the Torrance Community.

Recommended Action	Description
6a. Create specialized before and after school programs through parks and rec for children with developmental disabilities	At each of the park and rec sites have a small before and after school program with blended funds from parents, charitable partners (e.g. Torrance Education Foundation), grants, and modest city direct contribution - including volunteers and parents supporting staff
6b. Partner with organizations to provide workforce development services	Explore opportunities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborate with existing service organizations (e.g. SouthBay Workforce Investment Board, Harbor Regional Center) to conduct outreach, networking, and promotion of local businesses offering employment opportunities to our populations.• Review City recruitment processes to increase inclusivity• Get public support, possible benefits for these employers.• Direct linkage to employment preparation and readiness programs.

Honorable Members of the Social Services Commission
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Commission:

SUBJECT: Approve the City of Torrance to be a Deployment Site and Provide Event Coordination for the 2022 Homeless Count

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission generally approve of the City of Torrance to be a deployment site and to provide event coordination for the 2022 Homeless Count.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

"Homeless Count" refers to the process of counting homeless persons residing in shelters or living on the street, in parks, cars or other places not meant for human habitation, as well as conducting the Housing Inventory Chart (HIC), an enumeration of the number of shelters, beds and units dedicated to housing homeless persons. From 2005 - 2015, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) coordinated biennial Greater Los Angeles Homeless Counts. Beginning in 2016, LAHSA coordinates Point-In-Time Count ("Count") that occur annually. The Count consists of four components: 1) the street count; 2) the shelter count; 3) the youth count; and, 4) the demographic survey.

The goal of the Count is to answer key questions about homelessness in LA County:

- How many people?
- What are the demographics?
- What is the distribution across the County?
- Where are people experiencing homelessness staying?

The Social Services Commission and the City Council approved a partnership between the City of Torrance and LAHSA for the 2018 count, and both organizations had a positive experience. Beginning with the 2019 Count, the Commission recommended and City Council approved of the City entering into a three-year agreement with LAHSA to be a deployment site for the Homeless Count events, and to provide a facility, event coordination, volunteer recruitment and refreshments to volunteers for the Count. Similar to 2018, the City had a positive experience being the deployment site for the Count in 2019 and 2020.

As previously noted, the City intended to continue its three-year commitment to be a deployment site for the 2021 Count. On December 9, 2020 the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) exempted the Los Angeles Continuum of Care from conducting a 2021 Unsheltered Point In Time (PIT) Count. While The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) typically conducts PIT counts annually, HUD requires continuums of care to conduct these counts every other year. As a result, HUD would have expected 2021 PIT count data from LAHSA.

After listening to community partners, receiving guidance from the Los Angeles Department of Public Health, and taking into account curfews and stay-at-home orders across the region, LAHSA determined that there was no safe way to gather the 8,000 volunteers necessary to conduct the 2021 PIT Count and collect data as accurately as it has done in previous years.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented many obstacles to conducting a safe and accurate PIT Count, including:

- The safety and well-being of staff, community partners, and volunteers was a major concern.
- The State of California and Los Angeles County released a new public health Stay-at-Home order, including an overnight curfew.

LAHSA ultimately cancelled the 2021 Homeless Count.

Staff have been notified by LAHSA that the agency intends to hold the Homeless Count for 2022. Event dates are Tuesday, January 25th, Wednesday, January 26th, and Thursday, January 27th, of 2022. Based on LAHSA's past agreement with the City, staff believes the Torrance Count will occur on Wednesday, January 26, 2022.

A "Deployment Site Leads" input session is scheduled to take place on Thursday, September 23rd, during which time LAHSA will ask former site leads for thoughts regarding new practices LAHSA is proposing to implement to address concerns related to COVID. In addition, training will be held by LAHSA on October 7, 2021, which includes strategies for volunteer recruitment, and practices to ensure safety of volunteers and the community.

At this time, LAHSA has not provided any specific information about the 2022 Count, including the date of Torrance's Count, expectations for coordinators, and the structure of an agreement between LAHSA and deployment sites. Given that the Social Services Commission only has one more meeting (October 28, 2021) before the 2022 Homeless Count, and given that staff is unsure when LAHSA will provide agreements between deployment sites and LAHSA, staff respectfully recommends that your Honorable Body generally approve the City to be a deployment site for the 2022 Homeless Count, and if necessary, to forward this recommendation to City Council for final approval.

Respectfully submitted,



ZULMA GENT
STAFF TO THE COMMISSION



VIET HOANG
STAFF TO THE COMMISSION