

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. 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.

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
MARCH 28, 2024
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 Bickford, Funes, Reynolds, Sansalone, Scotto, Chair Leys

2. FLAG SALUTE: Commissioner Sansalone

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 March 20, 2024.

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 ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to a 15-minute period)

*This portion of the meeting is reserved for comment on items on the Consent Calendar or items not on the agenda. Under the Ralph M. Brown Act, the Commission 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. **No longer than 1 minute per speaker.** If presenting handout material to the Commission, please provide 10 copies to staff before speaking.*

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: FEBRUARY 22, 2024

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION FROM REUBEN WILSON OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH ON ALTERNATIVE CRISIS RESPONSE

7B. DISCUSS AND APPROVE HOLDING CITY-SPONSORED COFFEE AND LAUNDRY SUPPLY DRIVE FOR 3290 TEMPORARY HOUSING VILLAGE

8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

9. ADJOURNMENT

9A. Adjournment of the Social Services Commission Meeting to Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 6:00 pm for a regular meeting in the West Annex Commission Meeting 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 6:01 p.m. on Thursday, February 22, 2024 at the West Annex Commission Meeting Room, Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Bickford, Reynolds, Scotto and Chair Leys

Absent: Commissioner Funes and Sansalone

Also Present: Deputy City Manager Hoang and Julia Smith, Staff Liaison-in-Training.

MOTION: Commissioner Bickford moved to approve the excused absences of Commissioners Funes and Sansalone; motion was seconded by Commissioner Scotto. The motion passed by a 4-0 roll call vote. (Absent Commissioner Funes 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

Julia Smith, Staff Liaison-in Training stated that the agenda for the Social Services Commission was properly posted on Thursday, February 15, 2024 on the Public Notice Board by the City Clerk's office and on the City's website.

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 ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

Julia Smith, Staff Liaison-in-Training stated that there were no items.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There was no oral communication.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 25, 2024

MOTION: Commissioner Scotto moved to approve Item 6A, as submitted; motion was seconded by Commissioner Bickford. The motion passed by a 4-0 roll call vote. (Absent Commissioner Funes and Sansalone)

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. SELECT COMMISSION VICE CHAIRPERSON FOR REMAINDER OF FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

Deputy City Manager Hoang explained that since Commissioner Witt had resigned from the Commission, it was necessary for the Commission to select a Vice Chairperson for the remainder of the 2023-2024 fiscal year. He reminded the Commission that the selection of Chair and Vice Chair for fiscal year 2024-2025 would be decided separately in June.

Commissioner Scotto nominated Commissioner Bickford for Vice Chairperson for the remainder of the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Chair Leys seconded the nomination.

There were no more nominations.

Julia Smith, Staff Liaison-in-Training polled the Commission and the Commission unanimously approved the nomination of Commissioner Bickford to be Vice Chairperson for the remainder of the 2023-2024 fiscal year. (Absent Commissioner Funes and Sansalone)

MOTION: Commissioner Reynolds moved to approve Commissioner Bickford for Vice Chairperson for the remainder of the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Commissioner Scotto seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 4-0 roll call vote. (Absent Commissioner Funes and Sansalone)

7B. ACCEPT AND FILE UPDATE ON THE TORRANCE CIVIC CENTER MASTER PLAN AND ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY STUDY AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK

Julia Smith, Staff Liaison-in-Training introduced Carlos Huizar of the City Manager's Office. Mr. Huizar presented slides which explained the history and growth of the Torrance Civic Center, beginning in 1956, and included a map of the current Civic Center buildings. He discussed areas to be considered: age and condition of buildings, operational and functional issues, aesthetics, meeting ADA codes, maintenance costs, existing and projected programming needs, parking availability, ease of use by the public, pedestrian access, costs and the current real estate value. He noted that the City owns approximately 30 acres of the almost 40 acre plot, with the remaining 9 acres of land owned by the State. He explained that the City had issued a request for proposal (RFP) for a Civic Center Master Plan and Economic Feasibility Study in January 2023 and in July 2023 awarded a contract to Gruen Associates to assist the City in the Civic Center Master Plan.

Mr. Huizar noted that Gruen Associates had recently completed a space planning analysis of current conditions with City Council and Department Heads and added that the next step had begun to obtain feedback from residents, commissions, employees and patrons to better understand the needs for the Civic Center Campus. He confirmed that a community survey had been released in January and was available online, in paper form at City locations, such as the libraries and the permit center, as well as through the City's social media. He added that presentations had been made at homeowner's associations, neighborhood watch programs, the school district and noted that surveys had been distributed to neighborhoods adjacent to the Civic Center. He explained that additional community open house events were planned and the deadline to complete the survey had been extended to at least the end of March. He discussed grant possibilities and funding strategies but noted that currently there were no plans to ask for additional taxes for funding.

Mr. Huizar explained that in addition to the Civic Center plan, the City was conducting surveys to assess ADA deficiencies and compile a building facility index to determine needed improvements from a mechanical and structural standpoint.

Mr. Huizar stated in April or May, the consultant would be drafting design alternatives and the City would conduct a second phase of community outreach with open houses, pop up events and presentations at commissions and City meetings. He noted that the plan could possibly come before the Council for review and adoption in the fall.

The Commission discussed the following concerns and feedback:

- Commissioner Reynolds noted that there was a need to consider affordable housing needs for diverse levels of income, such as workforce housing.
- Commissioner Scotto discussed the following: the phases for the project, maintaining as many City facilities as possible on Torrance Boulevard, and how the funding would be obtained.
- Commissioner Bickford noted that she would like to see the Civic Center be a combination of cultural arts, library and business. She noted that the sports activities could be relocated to other City parks. She added that there should be a café, restaurant or coffee house, a courtyard and walking paths for pedestrians. She suggested providing webinars to reach out to more people.
- Chair Leys stated that he would like to see a side-by-side teen and senior center.

MOTION: Commissioner Scott moved to accept and file update on the Torrance Civic Center Master Plan and Economic Feasibility Study. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 4-0 roll call vote. (Absent Commissioner Funes and Sansalone)

7C. REVIEW 2023 VETERANS RECOGNITION EVENTS AND DISCUSS 2024 VETERANS RECOGNITION EVENTS

LeAnne Chen, Veteran's Appreciation Event Coordinator presented the report for the event. Ms. Chen noted that the 2023 event was very successful, with almost all of the veterans who had reserved in advance attending the event. She explained that the raffle had been exclusively for the veterans and thank you bags had been distributed to all of the 25 vendors. She discussed the success of "message a veteran event" that had taken place at Torrance Beach cleanup and an "Interview a Veteran" event at the Torrance Historical Museum. She reviewed the events at the Recognition event and noted that DJ Ozzie had announced thank you messages for donations throughout the event. She stated that next year she would also like to include the thank you announcement in the video presentation. She thanked Leon Silverman for his contribution of songs for the event. She reported that there had been speakers for open mic and recommended that open mic be included in the 2024 program. She confirmed that the hot meal from Gaetano's had been well received.

Ms. Chen reviewed the plans for the 2024 Veterans Recognition Event:

- Date would be Friday, November 8, 2024
- Elements would be resource booths, entertainment (perhaps Torrance Choir), video presentation, open mic, raffle for veterans only and a meal
- She would reach out to Brusters Ice Cream
- She noted that she hoped to increase attendance by sending more mailers and flyers and advertising to the Junior ROTC
- She would confirm DJ Ozzie for November 8, 2024
- Requested that the Commission send any restaurant/meal suggestions to her for follow up
- Adam Barnes from the Disabled American Veterans would attend the May 2024 Commission meeting
- Torrance Beach Clean Up event would be held on Saturday, September 21, 2024
- She noted that City management teams would be encouraged to allow City employees who were veterans and working on November 8, to attend the event.

Commissioner Scotto suggested that messages at the Beach Clean Up event be gathered at the beginning of the event and that the vendors be invited to eat in smaller groups to avoid long lines.

Commissioner Bickford suggested: sending flyers to the Air Force base and Chris Ehling at the Battleship IOWA Veterans Resource Center, sending a save the date to the Gold Star families and recognizing them at the event and distributing flyers at the Air Forces Day parade.

Chairperson Leys recommended that: the meal choice remain the same, as it was very popular and that the emblems on stage be in the correct order and affixed to stay in position.

Commissioner Reynolds received confirmation from Ms. Chen that CitiCable would be at the Beach Clean Up event.

Deputy City Manager Hoang reported that there had been three individuals who had attended last year's event on their lunch break, solely to visit the resource booths to speak in person to the representatives.

8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Deputy City Manager Hoang announced that the Toiletry Drive would be included in the February meeting and noted that staff had included Nancy Wilcox's input in the item.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:31 p.m., Commissioner Bickford moved to adjourn the meeting to the regular meeting on Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scotto and the motion passed by a 4-0 roll call vote. (Absent Commissioner Funes and Sansalone)

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Commission Meeting of
March 28, 2024

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

Members of the Commission:

SUBJECT: Accept and File Presentation from Reuben Wilson of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health on Alternative Crisis Response

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of Staff that the Social Services Commission accept and file a presentation from Reuben Wilson of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health on Alternative Crisis Response.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

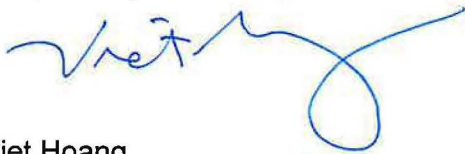
The item before your Honorable Body tonight is to accept and file a presentation from Reuben Wilson of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) on Alternative Crisis Response (ACR).

The goal of ACR is to treat individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis with the least restrictive level of care in the mental health system. A "behavioral health crisis" refers to situations where an individual's behavior might put themselves or others at risk or make it hard for them to take care of themselves. The behavioral health crisis may be due to mental health or substance use issues.

In November 2022, DMH assumed responsibility for ACR in Los Angeles County. Traditionally, behavioral health crisis response has been primarily performed by law enforcement through the 911 response system. ACR seeks to divert behavioral health crisis response calls from "911" to "988." The 988 Call Center fields calls and connects individuals to a crisis continuum that includes Field Intervention Teams, Mental Health Urgent Care Centers, and Crisis Residential Treatment Programs.

This evening, staff has asked Mr. Wilson to provide an overview of ACR including different levels of response, client demographics, collaboration with cities, and challenges to implementation. Mr. Wilson will also provide ways in which the City can support ACR and address questions from your Honorable Body.

Respectfully submitted,



Viet Hoang
Staff Liaison to the Commission



Julia Smith
Staff Liaison to the Commission

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

Members of the Commission:

Subject: Discuss And Approve Holding City-Sponsored Coffee and Laundry Supply Drive for 3290 Temporary Housing Village

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of staff that the Social Services Commission discuss and approve of April 15th, 2024 - April 30, 2024 for a City-sponsored Coffee and Laundry Supply Drive for 3290 Temporary Housing Village

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Since 2017, the Social Services Commission has held an annual toiletry drive to benefit the non-profit providers that assist people experiencing homelessness in our community.

Staff conferred with Nancy Wilcox, who is the volunteer donation coordinator for 3290 Temporary Housing Village (3290), regarding the annual toiletry drive. Thanks to the generosity of community organizations, faith-based organizations, and individuals and families in the community, Ms. Wilcox believes that 3290 is receiving enough donations of toiletries on an ongoing basis, and that the Commission should consider changing the donation items for this year's drive. Ms. Wilcox and Staff have identified two ongoing needs for clients at 3290: coffee and laundry supplies. The residents of 3290 receive three meals a day, however coffee is not included in the meals. Additionally, there is an ongoing need for laundry detergent and dryer sheets for the residents to use in the site's laundry facility. Staff recommends that the Commission hold a drive to collect items to meet the two supply needs.

The following items are recommended for this year's supply drive:

- Coffee Grounds (Folgers or similar brand)
- Sugar or other Sweetener Packets
- Powdered Creamer
- Laundry Detergent or Laundry Pods
- Dryer Sheets (unscented)

Staff recommends that the Commission hold the drive April 15 – April 30, 2024. Bins will be located at the Torrance public libraries, Torrance City Hall, and the Permit Center. Should the Commission wish to hold a drive-up and drop-off event as they have done in previous years, staff recommends the event be held on Saturday April 27, 9 am – Noon, in the parking lot of the West Annex Building.

Additionally, staff respectfully requests that the Commission appoint members of the Commission for the following roles:

- Announce the toiletry drive at the April 9, 2024 City Council meeting;
- Volunteer to collect supplies at the drive- up event on April 27th, 9 am – Noon; and
- Provide an interview with CitiCABLE discussing the drive.

Staff also requests that the Commission consider a name for the drive as the recommended items are no longer toiletries.

Respectfully submitted,



Viet Hoang
Staff Liaison to the Commission



Julia Smith
Staff Liaison to the Commission