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filled as if there were a vacancy in such office, as herein after provided.

Section 23. Informalities in Election:

No informalities in conducting municipal elections shall invalidate the same, if they have been conducted fairly and in substantial conformity to the requirements of this Charter.

Section 24. Regulation of Elections:

(1) The City Council shall make all needful rules and regulations, not inconsistent with this Charter, for the conduct of elections, for the prevention of fraud in elections, and for the recount of the ballots in case of doubt or fraud, provided that the City Council shall meet as a canvassing board and duly canvass the election returns within four days after any municipal election.

(2) Voting Machines:

In case voting machines shall be used at municipal elections, the City Council shall have power, by ordinance, to modify the provisions of this article so far as may be necessary to adapt them to the use of voting machines.

Section 25. Contested Elections and Disputes—City Council:

The City Council shall decide all contested elections of elective officers of the City of Torrance, and all other disputes arising in connection therewith, and its decision shall be final.

ARTICLE VI. INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM AND RECALL Section 1. General Laws Applicable:

Except as herein provided, the general laws of the State of California, providing for the initiative, referendum and recall in municipalities, as they now exist or hereafter may be amended, altered or repealed, are hereby made a part of this charter, and action under the initiative, referendum and recall in the City of Torrance shall be taken in accordance with said laws.

Section 2. Initiative Ordinances:

(a) Petitions, Requisites, etc., of

The electors of the City of Torrance may submit any proposed ordinance to the City Council by a petition, which may consist of one or more papers, containing the signatures of not less than ten nor more than twenty per centum of the qualified electors of the City at the last general municipal election. Each elector must add to his signature, his place of residence, giving the street and number, if any, his occupation, and the date of signing. Each elector must acknowledge his signature before a notary public, justice of the peace, or the City Clerk. The proposed ordinance must be attached to such petition, and each sheet thereof containing any signatures. There must be attached to said petition the name and address of some elector to whom said petition may be returned, if found insufficient, as hereinafter provided.

(b) Verification and Sufficiency of Petition:

Within ten days after filing said petition, the City Clerk must compare the signatures with the record of registration of said electors at the last general municipal election, and examine said petition, and report to the City Council on the sufficiency thereof. If, however, said petition is found not to be sufficient by the City Clerk, the latter shall return the same to the person named therein to receive the same in event of insufficiency thereof, by registered mail, with a statement setting forth the deficiencies in the petition. Within thirty days thereafter said original petition and one supplemental petition may be filed with said City Clerk, who shall thereupon examine the same in a like manner as before. If said original petition and/or said supplemental petition and said supplemental petition is found sufficient by the City Clerk, he shall so certify to the City Council, and the latter shall thereupon and within ten days thereafter, pass said ordinance, without alteration or amendment, or submit the same to the electors at the next regular municipal election. If, however, the petition is signed by fifteen per centum of the electors of said city and contains a request that it be submitted forthwith, the City Council must call a special municipal election on the matter at as early a date as practicable.

(c) Ordinances re Expenditures of Public Money, Increasing Salaries:

No initiative ordinance providing for the expenditure of public money or for an increase in salaries of any officer or employee of the city shall take effect until the beginning of the fiscal year next following the date of its adoption.

Section 3. Referendum:

(a) Ordinances Subject to

All ordinances shall be subject to the referendum, and shall not go into effect until the expiration of thirty days from and after their first publication, as in this charter provided, except: (1) Ordinances calling or otherwise relating to elections; (2) Ordinances especially required by the general laws of the State of California to become effective prior thereto; (3) Ordinances adopted for the preservation of the public welfare, peace, health or safety, and/or other ordinances which contain a declaration of sufficient facts constituting it an emergency ordinance, and passed by a four-fifths vote, and (4) Annual tax levy, budget and/or bond issue ordinances, or other ordinances submitted to the electors.

(b) Petition:

In order to invoke the referendum against any such ordinance or ordinances, a petition, which may consist of one or more parts, signed by not less than ten nor more than twenty per centum of the qualified electors of the City at the last general municipal election protesting against the ordinance and setting forth in detail the objections thereto, must be presented to the City Council within said thirty days period, whereupon the ordinance shall be reconsidered by the City Council, and if the latter does not repeal said ordinance, or otherwise rescind its action in regard thereto, it must be submitted to the electors at a regular or special municipal election at the discretion of the City Council. The provisions of Subdivisions (a) and (b) Section 2, Article VI relative to the requisites of said petition, the filing of a supplemental petition, the verification, examination, sufficiency and certification of the same, shall be applicable to the referendum, except as to the per centum of electors who shall sign the same.

Section 4. Recall:

(a) Who May Be Recalled:

The holder of any elective office in the City of Torrance may be recalled by the qualified electors of the City of Torrance at any time after he has held office for six months.

(b) Petition, How Originated:

Not less than 20 nor more than 30 qualified electors of the City of Torrance may originate a petition of recall. Said qualified electors shall file with the City Clerk a petition containing a general statement of the ground or grounds of recall.

(c) Petition, Requisites, Execution:

This petition shall be signed in the presence of the City Clerk by each of the petitioners originating the recall, each signer adding to his signature his place of residence, giving street and number, and date of signing.

(d) Petition Filing, Publication:

The City Clerk shall file the petition and cause the same with said signatures to be published once a week for two successive weeks in the official newspaper of the city, at the expense of the petitioners, who shall deposit such expense with the City Clerk in advance of publication, with a notice in such publication that said petition is in the City Clerk's office and open for signatures.

(e) Petition Signatures:

The City Clerk shall, during office hours for thirty days from the last day of publication aforesaid, keep the petition open for signatures by the qualified electors of the city, each signer to add to his signature his place of residence, giving street and number, and date of signature. No petition other than the originating petition shall be signed or presented for signature at any place other than the City Clerk's office, and must be verified by the City Clerk or one of his deputies. At the expiration of said thirty days, the City Clerk shall declare the petition closed for the purpose of examination, and within five days thereafter shall ascertain whether said petition is signed by qualified electors of the City of Torrance equal to not less than 30 per centum of the qualified electors at the last general municipal election; and the City Clerk shall attach to the petition his certificate showing the result of such examination, stating the number of qualified voters found upon said petition, and the number of persons not qualified to vote, and in checking said petition the City Clerk shall designate the names of persons found thereon not qualified to vote, with the letters "D. V." in red ink opposite such name or names. If the petition is shown, by the City Clerk's certificate, to be insufficient, the City Clerk shall at once notify the signers who originated the petition of recall of the deficiency, and five additional days, exclusive of the day of mailing, shall be allowed for the final completion of the recall petition. Notice herein required shall consist of depositing in the postoffice at Torrance a letter, postage prepaid and registered, containing such notice, addressed to each signer originating the petition of recall at his address named in the originating petition. The City Clerk shall within three days after the expiration of the additional five days allowed in which to complete the recall petition, make a like examination and check the names as hereinbefore provided; and if the City Clerk's certificate shall show the recall petition to be still insufficient, no further action shall be taken. The failure to secure sufficient names shall not prejudice the filing of an entirely new petition to the same effect by the same or other originating petitioners. If the petition shall be found to be sufficient, the City Clerk shall submit the petition of recall, together with his certificate, to the City Council without delay, whereupon the City Council shall forthwith cause a special municipal election to be held not less than thirty nor more than sixty days after the date of the order calling such election, to determine whether the voters shall recall such officer. If the same ground or grounds are alleged, one petition shall be sufficient to propose the recall of one or more officials. Upon the same ballot there shall be printed, in not more than two hundred words, the ground or grounds set forth in the recall petition for demanding the recall of the officer or officers; and upon the same ballot in not more than two hundred words, the officer or officers may justify himself or themselves. There shall be printed on the recall ballot, as to every officer whose recall is to be voted on, the following question: "Shall (name of person against whom the recall petition is filed) be recalled from the office (title of office)?" following which question shall be the words "Yes" and "No" on separate lines, with a blank space at the right of each, in which the voter shall, by stamping a cross (X) indicate his vote for or against such recall. If a majority of those voting on said question of the recall of any officer shall vote "No," said officer shall continue in office. If a majority of those voting on said question of the recall of any officer shall vote "Yes," said officer shall thereupon be deemed removed from such office, and the City Council shall declare said office vacant, and shall immediately fill such vacancy by appointment, such appointee to hold office until the next general municipal election. An officer thus removed shall not be eligible to succeed himself.

(f) Officer to Continue Duties Until Removed at Election:

After a petition for recall of a person from office has been filed, he may continue to perform the duties of his office until the Council has canvassed the returns of the election and declared that a majority of the votes upon the question of his recall was cast in favor thereof.

ARTICLE VII. GENERAL RIGHTS AND POWERS OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City of Torrance shall have the right and power:

Section 1. Sue and Be Sued:

To sue and be sued by said name in all courts and proceedings.

Section 2. Seal:

To have and use a common seal, alterable at pleasure.

Section 3. Municipal Affairs:

To make and enforce all laws and regulations in respect to municipal affairs, subject only to the restrictions and limitations provided in this Charter; provided, however, that nothing herein shall be construed to prevent or restrict the City from exercising or consenting to, and the City is hereby authorized to exercise, any or all rights, powers, and privileges heretofore or hereafter granted or prescribed by general laws of the State.

Section 4. Rights, etc., Hereafter Authorized:

To exercise any or all rights, powers, privileges and procedures now or hereafter established or authorized for municipalities, or for the City of Torrance by any law of the State of California, by this Charter, or by other lawful authority.

Section 5. Police Powers:

To make and enforce within its limits, all such local, police, sanitary, safety, welfare, and other regulations as are not in conflict with the California Constitution, and to exercise such jurisdiction outside of its limits, in such manner as may be authorized by law or ordinance.

Section 6. Local Self-Government:

To exercise the fullest measure of local self-government not in conflict with the Constitution of the State of California and to do all things necessary or convenient for carrying out the rights and powers of said City.

Section 7. Other Municipal Powers:

To exercise each and every power which a municipal corporation might, or could exercise under the Constitution of California.

Section 8. Incidental Powers:

To do and to perform any and all other acts and things necessary, proper or convenient to carry out the provisions of this Charter, the rights and powers of the City of Torrance, or any of the laws, rules, regulations, ordinances or resolutions adopted in pursuance thereof, or any of the general laws of the State of California applicable to the City of Torrance, and to provide by ordinance for all matters not otherwise provided for by this Charter, for the proper protection of the peace, health and safety of the City and the inhabitants thereof; or to regulate and control

any condition arising from floods, strikes, the elements, riots, fire, and other public calamities.

Section 9. Procedure Under General Law—Change by Ordinance or Charter:

Where the general laws of the State provide a procedure for the carrying out and enforcement of any rights or powers belonging to the City, said procedure shall control and be followed, unless a different procedure shall have been provided in this Charter or by ordinance.

Section 10. General Powers:

The City Council shall have power to enact any further legislation not in conflict with the provisions of this Charter, necessary or convenient to accomplish the transfer and succession of all powers, duties, functions and liabilities of all officers, employees and divisions of the Government of the City of Torrance as it exists under the laws of the State of California to the proper officers, employees, and divisions of government under this Charter.

ARTICLE VIII. SPECIFIC RIGHTS AND POWERS AND LIMITATIONS THEREON

(Note: See Article XVIII Finance and Accounting Department, for special provisions relating to Taxes, Bonds, Licenses, and other Fiscal Affairs.)

Without in any way or to any extent limiting or curtailing the powers and rights hereinabove conferred or mentioned, except as hereinafter specifically provided, and for the purpose of removing all doubt concerning the exercise of the powers hereinafter expressly mentioned, the City of Torrance shall have the following powers and rights, to-wit:

Section 1. Taxes—Levy and Collection:

To levy and collect taxes, and to levy and collect license taxes for both regulation and revenue.

Section 2. Money—Right to Borrow, Indebtedness, Bonds:

To borrow money, incur municipal indebtedness, and issue bonds or other evidence of such indebtedness.

Section 3. Property—Acquisition and Mortgage:

To purchase or otherwise acquire real or personal property subject to mortgage, trust deed or other encumbrance, but shall have no power to mortgage or otherwise encumber its property for any purpose whatsoever.

Section 4. Property—Sale, Lease and Conveyance:

To lease, sell, convey and dispose of any and all property, real or personal, provided however that no property exceeding five hundred dollars in value shall be sold without first publishing notice of intention to sell, in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Torrance, once a week for two weeks preceding the date of such sale. The notice of intention shall describe the property, the minimum price to be received, and the time when the sale will be consummated. Said notice shall be published by order of the City Council.

Section 5. Illegal Collections, Refund of:

To order the repayment to the persons entitled thereto by the Treasurer of any taxes, percentages, expenses, sums or costs erroneously or illegally collected.

Section 6. Rates Collectible Under Franchises, etc.:

To regulate and establish rates and charges to be imposed and collected by any person or corporation for commodities or services rendered under or in connection with any franchise, permit or license heretofore or hereafter granted by the City Council, or other authority, provided that the same is not inconsistent with the Constitution of the State of California.

Section 7. Fees—Official Services:

To fix the fees, compensation and/or charges for any and all official services not otherwise provided for in this charter.

Section 8. Gifts:

To receive devises, bequests, gifts and donations of all kinds of property, in fee simple, or in trust, for charitable or other purposes and to do all acts necessary to carry out the purposes of such devises, bequests, gifts and donations with power to manage, sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of the same in accordance with the terms of the devise, bequest, gift or donation or absolutely in case such devise, bequest or trust be unconditional.

Section 9. Eminent Domain—Gifts, etc.:

To exercise the right of eminent domain, through its City Council, for the purpose of acquiring real, and/or personal property of every kind whatsoever within and/or without the corporate limits of said City, necessary or convenient for the use of said City, or of the public or inhabitants thereof, and to acquire by purchase, lease, bequest, devise, gift, condemnation or otherwise, within and without the limits of said City, property of every kind and nature for all purposes.

Section 10. New Departments, Creation of:

To create by ordinance offices, boards, bureaus, commissions or division of government other than those established by this charter or by the general law, whenever the public convenience or necessity, in the opinion of the majority of the members of the council, may require the same, and to provide all necessary or convenient facilities for the proper functioning of all such departments of government so created, and to prescribe the duties pertaining to the respective offices thus created, and to provide for the election or appointment, and the compensation of the officers and their respective assistants and employees to fill the same.

Section 11. Election Regulations:

To make rules and regulations governing elections within the said City, not inconsistent with this charter.

Section 12. City and County Functions Consolidated:

To permit, by ordinance, the improvement of any of its streets, highways, or other public ways, by the state or county, or by any board, commission or agency thereof, out of any funds of the state or county available for such purpose, and to provide in such ordinance for the compliance by the city with all requirements of the law authorizing such improvements; and to transfer or consolidate functions of the city government to or with appropriate functions of the state or county government; or to make use of such functions of the state or county government and in the case of any such transfer or consolidation, the provisions of this charter providing for the function of the city government so transferred or consolidated shall be deemed suspended during the continuation of such transfer or consolidation, to the extent that such suspension is made necessary or convenient by said transfer or consolidation and is set forth in the ordinance establishing such transfer or consolidation, and any such transfer or consolidation may be repealed by ordinance, which repeal will terminate the suspension of the provisions of the charter hereinabove provided for.

Section 13. Co-operation With Other Governing Bodies:

To co-operate or join by contract or otherwise, with other cities, with states or the nation, or other governmental bodies, singly, jointly or in districts or associations, for promoting or carrying out any of the powers of the City or for the acquisition, construction or operation of any works, plants or structures convenient or necessary for carrying out any of the purposes or objects authorized by this charter.

Section 14. Improvement Sanitation, Irrigation, and Water Districts, Consolidation With:

To join with one or more cities, counties, sanitation

districts, irrigation or other improvement districts incorporated or organized under the constitution and/or laws of the State of California, in order to acquire, construct, complete, develop, maintain, operate and use sewers, sewer outfalls and sewage disposal plants, and a source or sources of water supply for municipal, irrigation and domestic purposes, and to construct any and all works, facilities, and improvements necessary for their joint and several purposes, uses and needs, and to unite with such other cities, counties and/or districts in bond issues therefor.

Section 15. Garbage and Rubbish Disposal—Consolidation:

To provide for collection within the City, and disposal of all classes of garbage, dead animals, combustible or non-combustible rubbish and waste matter of all kinds, and to provide for joining with any other municipality or county in acquiring land and facilities of any character or nature necessary or convenient to be acquired for the incineration or disposal of garbage and other refuse matter.

Section 16. Lighting System—Installation, Maintenance and Repair:

Whenever the public interest or convenience may require, the City Council may, under and in accordance with the laws of the State of California governing such matter, or a system to be prescribed by ordinance, provide for the installation on, in, under, over and/or across any alley or public way within the City, appurtenances or property of any character necessary or convenient for the lighting of such streets or public ways, and may cause such system to be kept in proper repair and use, and may defray the costs of such installation, as well as the necessary expense of maintaining such lights either from assessments levied upon property within the City, or the City may meet the necessary expense of such installation and/or maintenance of such lights either from the General Fund of the City or from funds derived from the formation of a municipal lighting maintenance district, which district may include any other portion of the City being served with lights.

Section 17. Drainage Districts:

To establish under general laws or otherwise a drainage district or districts within the City of Torrance, and/or to unite with another city, or with other cities, and/or with the County of Los Angeles, State of California, in establishing such district or districts, and in connection therewith to provide all necessary and suitable facilities and structures, and for the issuance and sale of bonds sufficient to effect such purposes and to assess all costs and expenses thereof upon the territory affected thereby.

Section 18. Fire Districts, Establishment:

To fix, establish and change from time to time fire districts and fire limits within the said city.

Section 19. Gravel Beds Acquisition, Operation and Transportation:

To lease, purchase, or otherwise acquire, own and/or operate gravel beds and quarries, and to transport gravel and rock therefrom for the purpose of making, improving, and/or repairing any street or public way either within or without the boundaries of the City of Torrance, or for other purposes.

Section 20. Dairies, Regulation of:

To provide for the inspection and regulation of all dairies within the boundaries of said city, and to provide for the inspection and regulation of all dairies outside of the boundaries of said city that offer for sale or sell, either directly or indirectly, any of their products within the said city.

Section 21. Airport:

To purchase, or otherwise acquire, hold or lease property within or outside of the boundaries of the city suitable and convenient for an airport, terminal or landing place for aircraft, provide for the management, equipment and maintenance of the same and may co-operate with other governmental agencies in the acquisition, management or control thereof, and may by ordinance regulate the operation of all manner and types of aircraft, whether heavier than air or otherwise, in or over any part of said city, and to prescribe the respective minimum heights at which any and all types of aircraft may be operated over said city, and which, as prescribed from time to time, shall be observed, except when such aircraft is being operated in the immediate act of either taking off or landing.

Section 22. Nuisances, Power to Define and Abate:

The City Council shall have power and it shall be its duty to define nuisances, and to prevent, remove and abate the same, and to provide that such nuisances may be removed or abated summarily, or otherwise, at the expense of the person or persons, firm or firms, corporation or corporations creating, causing, allowing, committing or maintaining such nuisance or nuisances, and for the collection of such expenses by suit against any such party or parties, and/or by ordinance to make the expense of such abatement a lien against the real property where such nuisance is so maintained, as well as to make such expense a personal obligation against the owner, lessee or other persons at interest of said property.

Section 23. Public Exhibitions, Regulations:

To license, regulate, and, when deemed necessary by the City Council, in order to preserve the public peace, health, welfare, or safety of the public, or inhabitants of said city, to prohibit any and all public exhibitions, shows, games, amusements or meetings of any nature, excepting only meetings of the City Council of said city.

Section 24. Begging, Regulation of:

To restrain and prevent diseased, blind, maimed, crippled, injured, or other similarly unfortunate persons, from displaying their infirmities upon or in the public streets and places of said city for the purpose of receiving alms, gifts or donations.

Section 25. Speaking on Public Streets, Regulation:

To regulate speaking in the public streets and/or places and gatherings therein, and to regulate and/or prohibit the exhibition or carrying in parades, or otherwise, of any placard, banner or advertisement, and the distribution of dodgers or handbills in the public streets, grounds or places within said city; to regulate or prohibit traffic in goods, wares or merchandise, or sales in the public streets, grounds or places; and to prevent encroachments upon or obstructions in, to or of the public streets, avenues, alleys and ways, and to require the abatement and removal of all such encroachments and obstructions.

Section 26. Theaters and Public Halls, Regulation:

To regulate the entrances to and the exits from all theaters, lecture rooms, public halls, schools, churches and public buildings of every kind, and to regulate and prevent the placing of seats, benches, or other obstructions, in the halls, aisles or other passageways therein.

Section 27. Hotels and Apartments:

To regulate hotels, courts, lodging houses, tenements, apartment and boarding houses, and to prevent the overcrowding of the same, and to require the same to be kept in safe and sanitary condition.

Section 28. Disorderly and Indecent Practices, Regulation:

To prevent any and all drunkenness, offensive, immoral, indecent and disorderly conduct and practices in said city, and to restrain and prohibit all kinds and descriptions