

FINAL COPY
Torrance County Board of Commissioners
Special Commission Meeting
December 30, 2024
9:00 AM

Commissioners Present:

RYAN SCHWEBACH-COUNTY CHAIRMAN -Via ZOOM
KEVIN MCCALL –COUNTY VICE-CHAIR-Via ZOOM
SAMUEL SCHROPP – COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Others Present:

J. JORDAN BARELA – COUNTY MANAGER
MISTY WITT – DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER
MICHAEL GARCIA – COUNTY ATTORNEY
LINDA JARAMILLO – COUNTY CLERK
GENELL MORRIS – ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT I
DON GOEN – COUNTY P & Z DIRECTOR

1. **Call Meeting to order.**

Samuel Schropp-County Commissioner: Calls the December 30, 2024, Special Commission Meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

2. **Pledge led by:** J. Jordan Barela- County Manager

Invocation lead by: Michael Garcia – County Attorney

Changes to the Agenda: None

PUBLIC COMMENT and COMMUNICATIONS:

***Comments by Zoom**

PJ Podesta - Legal Services Provider with Innovation Law Lab: Colleagues and I have spoken at previous County Commission meetings. I appreciate everyone who's paid attention to the comments from individuals attained at the facility by ICE at Torrance County Detention Facility, and colleagues who have met for years. Over 1000 folks detained by ICE there since 2019 and since April of this year, we've trained Torrance County Commission to our understanding of these conversations and the first 10 testimonies of the men detained. It's been made abundantly clear, that the TCDF is a site of physical and psychological torture, where sewage flooding is increasingly common, where medical needs commonly go unmet, where conditions have even resulted in death by suicide, and when folks speak up about the mistreatment, they're often placed in solitary confinement. Everyone can read more about the history of the facility at TCDF, [BIT.LY/timeline TCDF](https://bit.ly/timeline-tcdf), and want to urge the commission to vote no on the intergovernmental services agreement with ICE and stop the County's involvement in the continuation of the operation of this facility. Thank you

Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: I want to read it in the record before we move on to item three. My wife is Cherokee in a shameful episode in United States history where people were forced from their homes and farms by the US government and marched at the points of bayonet, to a land that was not their home. As many as 4000 people, many women and children died along the way. Anne's great, great grandmother survived as an orphan infant because a white family took her in along the trail of tears at the beginning of World War II, the US government again engaged in forcing us citizens of Japanese descent, from our homes, farms, and businesses, and sent them to camps, in another shameful act which has been condemned by history. Under President Eisenhower, the US government rounded up hundreds of 1000s of citizens of Mexican descent along with others and transported them to a land that was not theirs, forcing them to leave homes, farms, and businesses behind. That program was named Operation Wetback. During the first Trump administration, the US government separated children of migrants from their parents. Many of those children are still not back with their families, and we all watch that happen in real-time. Donald Trump has promised to use the full force of the US government to once again, embark on a shameful program to uproot families from their homes and property over the next four years, according to the information in a Freedom of Information Act request by the American Civil Liberties Union. Private prison companies like Core Civic, GEO Group, and Corrections Corporation of America are already planning on

expanding their operations, to take advantage of the suffering of people rounded up by the US government and the federal funding that will flow from ICE to private prison companies. I have repeatedly made statements to this body in support of the Torrance County Detention Facility operated by Torrance County. I know that our neighbors, family, and friends, are working to maintain a safe, humane facility, and I still believe that to be true. However, TCDF is one of the tools that the US government will use in what will become another shameful episode in our history. Future generations will look back on us and wonder how we could have been so cruel to our fellow human beings. Trump's plan is a bridge too far for me. Trump's plan goes against my principles and core beliefs. I can no longer support Core Civic and the TCDF in good conscience.

3. MANAGER: Request approval of the modification to the Intergovernmental Agreement between Torrance County and the United States Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, extending the agreement for Three months, beginning on December 31, 2024, and ending on March 31, 2025.

J. Jordan Barela- County Manager: The current Intergovernmental Agreement between Torrance County and ICE expired. The item being proposed for commission consideration today is an extension of that agreement for an additional three months, which would expire on March 31, 2025.

Action Taken:

Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to approve.

Kevin McCall-County Vice Chair: Seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - No: Ryan Schwebach – County Chairman: – Yes: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED

4. Announcement of the next Board of County Commissioners Meeting:
January 08, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

5. Adjourn.

Action Taken:


Ryan Schwebach-County Chairman: Motion to adjourn.

Samuel Schropp - County Commissioner: Seconds the motion.


Roll Call Vote: Samuel Schropp – County Commissioner: - Yes: Ryan Schwebach
– County Chairman: – Absent: Kevin McCall – County Vice Chairman: - Yes:

MOTION CARRIED


The meeting adjourned at 9:07 AM.




Ryan Schwebach – Chairman



Genell Morris – Admin Assistant



Sylvia Chavez – County Clerk



Date

The video and audio of this meeting are available upon request.

DRAFT