



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2015

ITEM NUMBER: 6a

SUBJECT: DONATION OF TREE, BENCH, AND PLAQUE AT ESTANCIA PARK

DATE: OCTOBER 12, 2015

FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT

PRESENTATION BY: BRUCE A. HARTLEY, MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: MIKE KOZIEL, MANAGEMENT ANALYST
(714) 754-5024**

RECOMMENDATION

Accept the donation of a memorial tree, bench, and plaque at Estancia Park in honor of Frank P. Forbath.

BACKGROUND

The City is in receipt of a request from Rachel Ogulnick, a Forbath family friend, who would like to donate a tree, bench, and plaque to be installed at Estancia Park. The donation is being made in honor of Mr. Frank P. Forbath, a resident of the Mesa Verde community, who passed away September 2, 2015, at the age of 90. Mr. Forbath, an aerospace engineer by profession, is especially remembered for having spent years fighting for social causes and particularly the plight of migrant farmworkers who had worked in poverty-like conditions in the fields of Costa Mesa. Mr. Forbath and his wife Jean founded SOS, which decades later is a Costa Mesa nonprofit that boasts four facilities and services thousands of local homeless or low-income people by providing medical care, housing, food, and financial aid as further described in detail in Attachment 1. The plaque will state "In Honor of Frank P. Forbath."

ANALYSIS & DISCUSSION

The submitted request meets the requirements as set forth by City Council Policy 800-4 (Attachment 2). Staff has reviewed the suggested location at Estancia Park and has determined that this location is suitable for the donated tree. The donated tree will be an approved species for Estancia Park. Staff will work with the donor to select an appropriate location in the park for the tree, bench, and plaque.

ALTERNATIVES

The Commission can deny the request for the donation of a tree and memorial plaque at Estancia Park or may suggest an alternate location.

FISCAL REVIEW

Upon approval by the Commission, the installation of the tree, bench, and plaque will have minimal fiscal impact on the City. The donor will incur the cost of the tree, bench, and plaque. Installation of the tree will be conducted by City staff at an approximate cost of \$200, including materials and labor. The concrete coring cost for the plaque installation (approximately \$200+) is absorbed by the City, and the parks staff install the bench with no charge to the donor.

LEGAL REVIEW

There is no legal review required with this item.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission accept the donation of a tree, bench, and plaque to be installed at Estancia Park in honor of Frank P. Forbath.



MIKE KOZIEL
Management Analyst



ERNESTO MUNOZ
Public Services Director

- Attachments:
1. Donation Request w/attachments (Dated Received September 21, 2015)
 2. City Council Policy 800-4

RECEIVED

SEP 21 2015

PUBLIC SERVICES

Ernesto Munoz, Public Services Director
City of Costa Mesa
Public Services Department
77 Fair Drive
PO Box 1200
Costa Mesa, CA 92628-1220

Attn: Michael Koziel

Mr. Munoz and Koziel,

As we discussed, I would like to donate a memorial bench and tree in honor of Frank P. Forbath, a dear family friend who was an outstanding and compassionate member of the Costa Mesa Community.

Mr. Forbath was a beloved husband, father to 7 and grandfather to 15, who sadly passed away at the age of 90 on September 2, 2015. His contributions to the community were numerous, and as you can see by the press clippings I have attached, he was admired and valued by all who knew him.

He was exceptionally gracious and generous, always with a sparkle in his eye and smile to share. His loss is deeply felt by his family and friends. He was a kind and wonderful man who will be sorely missed. My hope is that we can find a peaceful and beautiful spot in one of the Costa Mesa parks for those who knew him to sit and share their memories from time to time, and also, allow for others to enjoy the beauty of one of the City's parks. And perhaps, help to spread a bit of Mr. Forbath's joyful spirit.

I know you mentioned that Fairview Park is under Environmental Review, so not an option at this time. I am sure we can find a great spot in another park that will both a benefit to the family and the community.

Thank you for your consideration.



Rachel Ogulnick

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Los Angeles CA 90048

Frank Forbath, co-founder of O.C. nonprofit Share Our Selves, dies at 90

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

SEPTEMBER 16, 2015, 5:50 PM

Franks P. Forbath, who co-founded an Orange County nonprofit to help farmworkers and others living in poverty with medical care, food and housing, died Sept. 2 at his home in Costa Mesa, his family said. He was 90.

With his wife, Jean, Forbath started Share Our Selves in 1970 after the nation's Catholic bishops urged church members to "wage war on misery."

When the bishops issued their call, in the mid-1960s, Forbath was the head of an adult education program at St. John the Baptist Catholic church in Costa Mesa. He mobilized church members and began doing research that left him appalled by the poverty he found.

When he launched Share Our Selves, or SOS, the initial focus was helping migrant farmworkers. In the early 1970s, the group's members conducted a survey that found dismal conditions at most of the two dozen migrant labor camps operating in the county. The controversial study helped spark an investigation by the Orange County grand jury that was critical of state authorities and led to the county taking over camp inspections.

Over the years, SOS also helped staff community centers in poor neighborhoods, provided lunches for needy Santa Ana schoolchildren and supported a volunteer clinic run by UC Irvine students. In 1984, the group opened a medical clinic that soon served more than 1,000 patients a month. The nonprofit now operates centers in Costa Mesa, Newport Beach, Santa Ana and Lake Forest.

Born in Los Angeles in 1925, Forbath was raised by a single mother in poverty. He enrolled at UCLA when he was 16 and, after graduating, served as a naval officer during World War II.

After the war, he earned a master's degree at Stanford University and went to work in the aerospace industry.

Besides his wife, he is survived by seven children and 15 grandchildren.

news.obits@latimes.com

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Daily Pilot

Voice of the migrant worker, Frank Forbath, dies

By Bradley Zint

7:28 PM PDT, September 8, 2015

Frank Paul Forbath, a longtime Costa Mesa activist who co-founded the Share Our Selves nonprofit, has died. advertisement

Forbath died Sept. 2 of cancer surrounded by family at his Mesa Verde home. He was 90.

His family noted his years of fighting for social causes, particularly the plight of farmworkers, whose poverty-like conditions in the fields near South Coast Plaza contrasted with the shopping center's ritzy vibe.

Daughter Kathy Esfahani, a local attorney and affordable-housing advocate in Costa Mesa, said her father instilled in all his children the belief that one individual can change the world.

"My dad is my hero," she said. "My dad inspired me to always speak out when you see something wrong, in the community, in the nation. You have a responsibility to do something about it."

Born in 1925 in Los Angeles, Forbath — a lifelong Republican who always voted Democratic, his family said — was raised by a single mother in poverty. At 16, he enrolled at UCLA. After graduating, he became a naval officer and served during World War II.

When he returned from the war, he used the GI Bill to earn a master's degree at Stanford University.

When not advocating for causes, Forbath worked as an engineer in the aerospace industry for companies including the RAND Corp. and Hughes Aircraft Co.

His family described him as boundlessly curious and creative, always collecting ideas in a notebook.

Forbath and his wife, Jean, moved to Costa Mesa in 1962.

By 1970, the pair had founded SOS out of St. John the Baptist Church, on Baker Street in Costa Mesa.

"They decided to take on the cause of poverty in Orange County," Esfahani said.

Decades later, the Costa Mesa nonprofit — now based on Superior Avenue in the industrial Westside — boasts four facilities that serve thousands of local homeless or low-income people by providing medical care, housing, food and financial aid.

SOS Executive Director Karen McGlenn said Forbath's personality fit his good deeds.

"He was truly the most noble, kind, compassionate person I have ever had the privilege of calling friend,"

she said. "His smile, presence in the room and tenacity to live his life in perfect harmony with his faith in God made being with him a delight."

At SOS, Forbath spearheaded the farmworker project, which gave migrants access to healthcare, legal assistance and religious services. For the isolated men living in barracks, it was a regular social connection, Forbath's family noted.

"He brought to light the terrible conditions these people were living in and challenged powerful people," Esfahani said. "The owners were big names."

In the 1970s, Forbath and SOS members studied migrant labor camps in Orange County, finding "unsupervised, subhuman conditions in most of them," according to a 1988 Los Angeles Times profile.

That information was turned over to the Orange County Human Relations Commission and grand jury. Last year, the commission honored Forbath and his wife with a legacy award for their civil rights contributions.

In the 1988 Times profile, Forbath was critical of a state assemblyman's characterization of the homeless as "a significant number of them" choosing to be that way.

"I just wish that people who express these views might have been with us when we were trying to get homeless people off the streets during the cold spell last Christmas," Forbath told The Times. "I could spend an hour talking about each case — people who are desperately looking for jobs and a place they can afford to live and who find themselves in these straits because of conditions over which they had little or no control."

Forbath is survived by his wife, Jean; seven children; and 15 grandchildren.

A public memorial mass is scheduled for 10 a.m. Sept. 25 at Saints Simon and Jude Catholic Church, 20444 Magnolia St., Huntington Beach.

In lieu of flowers, his family requests that donations be made in Forbath's name to the National Farm Worker Ministry, P.O. Box 10645, Raleigh, N.C. 27605.

A BUBBLING CAULDRON

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 05, 2015

Community Leader Frank Forbath Passes Away



AN ICON PASSES

It is with great sadness that I write tonight to let you know that the family of community activist **Frank Forbath** has advised me that he passed away this week at 90 years of age. He was surrounded by his family, including Jean, his loving wife of 58 years, his seven children and most of his 15 grand children, when he died at home in the early afternoon on Wednesday, September 2nd from prostate cancer. According to family sources, a proper obituary will appear in the Daily Pilot soon and no services have been scheduled at this time. In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made in his name to: National Farm Workers Ministry, P.O Box 10645, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27605

AN INDELIBLE IMPRINT

Through their outstanding compassionate activism - most notably through the creation of *Share Our Selves* 45 years ago - Frank and his wife, Jean, have left an indelible imprint on our community and all of Orange County. Despite his illness Frank continued to influence



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ABOUT ME

THE POT STIRRER

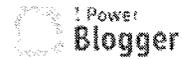
REGISTRATION REQUIRED TO COMMENT * To register, email to thepotstirrer@earthlink.net : * Pen name, (do not use "Anonymous") full name, valid email address and telephone number * 1 pen name per person. Don't use another persons proper name. * Comments without prior registration will be rejected - NO EXCEPTIONS * Details at <http://bit.ly/16kGDVh>

[VIEW MY COMPLETE PROFILE](#)

PREVIOUS POSTS

- [I Agree With The Mayor... But...](#)
- [A Short, Busy Week Ahead](#)
- [Costa Mesa Now In The Affordable Housing Business](#)
- [It Began Positive, But Ended Negative Hank Panian, Fees, Development And More](#)
- [An Interesting Night With The Parks & Rec. Commiss...](#)
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issues in the city - most recently speaking out against the current plans to demolish the Neighborhood Community Center and create a new library in its place.



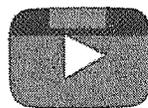
AN OUTSTANDING CAREER

Frank Forbath was an engineer by training and profession. He held a B.A degree in physics and math from UCLA and a Master's Degree in electrical engineering from Stanford University. Frank served as a shipboard Naval Officer in World War II. He held management positions in many of the iconic companies in Southern California, including Hughes Aircraft and Northrop and held engineering positions at the Instrument Division of American Optical and the RAND Corporation. He has been the President of FJFCo and Harbor Scientific and holds several US and International patents. And those were just his day jobs!

A FULL LIFE

Frank and Jean have lived in Costa Mesa for more than 53 years, raised seven successful, well-educated children, have been loving grandparents to fifteen grandchildren and still found time to perform a level of community service that would be hard to match. This short video clip will give you an idea of that dedication to the community.

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CONDOLENCES

We at **A Bubbling Cauldron** extend our deepest condolences to the Forbath family, to the staff and those served by Share Our Selves, and to the community as well, on the loss of this fine man. His was certainly a life well-lived and he will be missed.

Labels: Frank Forbath, Jean Forbath, Share Our Selves

POSTED BY THE POT STIRRER AT 9/05/2015 01:34:00 AM 

8 COMMENTS:

Where's My Coffee? said...

R.I.P. Frank Forbath. We need more human beings such as yourself. You will be missed.

9/05/2015 07:37:00 AM

Anonymous said...

Thank you so much for your post Geoff. My father was greatly loved. My mom has asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Save Our Youth (SOY) in his name.

9/05/2015 08:51:00 AM

 Kathy Esfahani said...

Geoff, what a beautiful tribute to our dad! Thank you. Dad believed a single person can change the world for the better. He showed us the truth of that belief. He has made Costa Mesa, and Orange County, a better place through a lifetime of working for justice. His legacy includes co-founding SOS, bravely challenging the abysmal treatment of migrant farmworkers at the farm labor camps right here in Orange County, protesting against the wars in Iraq, and leading the local political campaign ("No on 14") to end racial discrimination in housing way back in the 1960's. That's just a bit of what he's done. He is a hero to his children and grandchildren. Thank you for highlighting his contributions and sharing in our sadness in his passing.

Kathy Forbath Esfahani

9/05/2015 08:55:00 AM

Casual Viewer said...

What a wonderful family. Mr. Forbath and his wife set a great example for others to follow.

9/05/2015 10:00:00 AM

 Marian Bergeson said...

Geoff, thanks for sharing. The Forbaths represent what is good about human nature. Compassion and service are values they exemplify. Their contributions set an example for all to follow. My love and deepest sympathy to Jean and her family.

9/05/2015 10:52:00 AM

Susie Forbath said...

I'm sorry, my earlier comment posted as anonymous. My mom would like donations to be made to the National Farworkers Ministries, though SOY and SOS were also very important in his life.

9/05/2015 11:06:00 AM

Eleanor Egan said...

I didn't have to know much about Frank Forbath to sense that he was a truly good and caring man. We were lucky to have him among us. Truly, he will be missed.

9/05/2015 08:58:00 PM

 Frank Kavanaugh said...

What an amazing guy. So glad we had an opportunity to meet him. His contributions were amazing and his family more so. God bless.

9/08/2015 02:08:00 PM

POST A COMMENT

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National Farm Worker Ministry



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Frank Forbath – Farm Worker Activist ;Presente!

Posted on Wednesday, September 9, 2015



Arturo Rodriguez, UFW President, & Frank Forbath
at the OCIC February 2015 Dinner

We at the National Farm Worker Ministry are sad to announce that Frank Forbath, a wonderful man and committed farm worker activist from Orange County California, passed from this life on September 2, 2015 at the age of 90. We send our condolences to Frank's wife Jean and their seven children, five

children-in-law, and 15 grandchildren.

Frank and Jean Forbath began their farm worker activism on the picket lines for the first UFW grape and lettuce boycotts. They often brought their children along, beginning in them and their children a legacy of social justice activism. Frank also took extra care for many years to visit and help the men at the barracks in the labor camps in Costa Mesa. Frank and Jean were for decades active with the Orange County Interfaith Committee to Aid Farmworkers (OCIC) and Frank served as Treasurer. Frank also spearheaded the farm worker project of Share Our Selves, Orange County's largest private charity. In 2014, the Orange County Human Relations Commission recognized Frank and Jean as "civil rights heroes" by honoring them with a "Legacy Award," for their work on many social justice issues.



Suzanne Darweesh & Frank Forbath February 2015
OCIC Dinner

Suzanne Darweesh, Co-chair of OCIC says of Frank,

"We of the Orange County Interfaith Committee to Aid Farm Workers will miss Frank enormously. He was dedicated to improving the lives of farm workers and not only as a faithful member, but also served as our Treasurer for many years. He and Jean were always ready to help, whether to host farm workers or staff, tend bar at a dinner-fundraiser, or advocate for farm workers at a write-in or demonstration. He was generous with his time, talents, and resources; he gave his heart to farm workers for the long haul. Farewell and Godspeed, Presente!"

The family asks that donations be made in Frank's name to the National Farm Worker Ministry, P.O. Box 10645, Raleigh, North Carolina 27605. A memorial mass is set for September 25 at 10 A.M. at Sts. Simon and Jude Catholic Church, 20444 Magnolia St., Huntington Beach.

Category: [Event Announcements](#), [News](#) · Tags: [Farm Workers](#), [farmworkers](#), [National Farm Worker Ministry](#), [NFWM](#), [Orange County Interfaith Committee to Aid Farmworkers](#), [UFW](#), [United Farm Workers](#)

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CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA

COUNCIL POLICY

SUBJECT	POLICY NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE	PAGE
ACCEPTANCE AND RECOGNITION OF DONATION TO CITY PARKS AND PUBLIC FACILITIES AND CIRCLE OF SERVICE RECOGNITION	800-4	6/17/02 12/5/02 7/13/04 6/21/05 REV. 12/1/09	1 of 5

BACKGROUND

The City of Costa Mesa has, over a period of many years, received donations of time, money, materials, and park furniture/equipment, as well as requests for the placement of memorial plaques at City parks and public facilities. No formal process has existed for the acceptance of same, which has led to a disjointed, confusing practice. Due to the lack of a consistently applied policy, there are few records available to substantiate the basis upon which donations and/or the placement of memorial plaques were accepted.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a consistent procedure for the acceptance and recognition of donations to City parks and public facilities and requests for memorial plaques and Circle of Service recognition.

POLICY

It is the policy of the City of Costa Mesa to encourage donations by individuals, civic groups, and businesses for the purpose of improving City parks and public facilities. Such donations, including the placement of memorial plaques and volunteer efforts for clean-up projects, shall be accomplished in a consistent fashion in accordance with this policy. Any donation of equipment, park furniture, or plantings that include a request for a donor or memorial plaque shall be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration or approval before installation. The exception to this is sponsorships and donations to the K-9 Cleanup program for dog dispensers and bags. Donations and sponsorships to the K-9 Cleanup program can be made to the K-9 Cleanup account through the Costa Mesa Community Foundation. Circle of Service nominations will be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission and approved by the City Council. Financial donations or payments for donated items can be made to the City of Costa Mesa or the Costa Mesa Community Foundation. The Foundation Chair will acknowledge the donation in writing for those donations received by the Costa Mesa Community Foundation.

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

TREE DONATIONS AND THE PLACEMENT OF DONOR OR MEMORIAL PLAQUES

1. All donations of trees or other planting shall be in accordance with the Parks and Oper. Space Master Plan and/or comply with the approved park-planting palette. Donated trees shall be a minimum 15-gallon size.

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2. All requests for placement of plaques memorializing individuals shall be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Commission for approval before installation. Memorial plaques for pets are not allowed within City Parks. However, trees and/or park furniture may be donated in memory of a pet without a plaque.
3. Donor and memorial plaques shall be circular, bronze with a maximum size of six (6) inches in diameter. All plaques shall have standard wording to include "Donated By", "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of". Donors are responsible for the acquisition and cost of the plaque. The City will incur the cost of installation.
4. All donor and memorial plaques for tree donations shall be located in areas specifically designated for this purpose at each park. In the event an area has not been designated for this purpose, plaques may be installed on concrete pads at the base of donated trees. Plaques will be installed flush with the ground for ease of maintenance and liability purposes.

ADOPT-A-BENCH PROGRAM AND DONATION OF PARK FURNITURE

1. Donated park benches or picnic tables shall be of the type specified in the approved Streetscape and Median Development Standards.
2. The donated park benches or picnic tables will be used to replace old benches and picnic tables at existing locations or placed at new locations that are already Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible. The Maintenance Services Manager will give the donor the choice of existing locations with approval of the ultimate location by the Maintenance Services Manager.
3. Donor is responsible for the cost of the bench or picnic table. Upon receipt of payment, City staff will acquire the furniture and install it.
4. Donor or Memorial plaques shall be circular, bronze with a maximum size of six (6) inches in diameter. Plaques will be imbedded flush in the concrete pad near the park bench and/or picnic table and are not allowed to be attached to the bench. All plaques shall have standard wording to include, "Donated By", "In Memory Of", or "In Honor Of".

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ADOPT-A-PARK PROGRAM

1. The Adopt-A-Park Program is open to interested individuals, businesses, or groups for the clean up and beautification of the City's parks. Adopt-A-Park events are limited to half or one-half day events for litter pick-up, painting and planting projects.
2. The participating individual or group is responsible for providing gloves and tools, such as paintbrushes, trowels, shovels, etc.
3. The City will provide paint, planting materials, trash bags, the removal of filled trash bags, and a staff person for supervision at the event.
4. All participants will be required to complete and sign a Registration and Waiver and Release of Liability form as provided in the application package. Applications are subject to review by the Maintenance Services Manager and approval by the Public Services Director.

CIRCLE OF SERVICE

1. The Circle of Service has been established in Lions Park to commemorate citizens who have provided significant service to the City; made an extraordinary contribution to the City; or contributed to the history of Costa Mesa.
2. The nominee must have been deceased a minimum of one (1) year prior to being nominated and considered by the Parks and Recreation Commission.
3. The nominee must have been a resident of Costa Mesa for a minimum of ten (10) years.
4. The nominee must have been involved in community service for a minimum of seven (7) consecutive years or have given their life in the service of the nation or community.
5. The application shall be completed by a family member, a member of the community, a member of a non-profit organization, or someone from the business community. If service to an organization is identified, corresponding written support from the organization served by the applicant is required.
6. The applicant is responsible for the cost of the plaque and payment must be submitted with the application.

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7. Circle of Service plaques shall be circular, bronze and be twelve (12) inches in diameter. All plaques shall have standard wording to include "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of".
8. Plaques shall be installed at Lions Park for candidates approved by City Council once a year in July.

PROCEDURE TO NOMINATE CIRCLE OF SERVICE HONOREES

1. Application forms are available at the Recreation Division Counter. Submit the completed application to the Recreation Division, City Hall, 3rd Floor for review by the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission will make a recommendation to the City Council to deny or approve an application. Commission meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Agenda items require three weeks to prepare and mail for each meeting. Therefore, information must be received during the first week of the month in order to be placed on the agenda for that month.
2. If the City Council approves the request, the plaque will be purchased by the requesting party and installed by City staff. Staff will also arrange for a dedication ceremony for Circle of Service inductees and notification of all interested parties.
3. The City assumes no liability for the replacement or repair of plaques, but will assume responsibility for normal maintenance.

K-9 CLEANUP PROGRAM

Sponsorships

1. Sponsorship information for dog dispensers and bags and application forms are available in the City Manager's Office. Submit the completed forms to the City Manager's Office, along with the sponsorship donation, made payable to the Costa Mesa Community Foundation. Sponsorship tiered funding amounts shall be adjusted, as necessary, by the Community Foundation. The Public Services staff will purchase the dispenser and bags, create the sponsorship sign, and assign the location of the dispenser. The applicant will be advised of the location of the dispenser.
2. The City assumes no liability for the replacement or repair of the sponsorship sign, but will assume responsibility for normal maintenance.

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Donations

Donations to the K-9 Cleanup program shall be submitted to the Costa Mesa Community Foundation. The donations may also be submitted at the Finance Department counter. Each donation shall be placed in the K-9 Cleanup account for future use to offset costs for bags, dispensers, costs for stocking dispensers, and/or repairs.

PROCEDURE TO ACCEPT FINANCIAL DONATIONS

1. Any donation of a strictly financial nature shall be submitted to the City Council or the Costa Mesa Community Foundation. The donation shall be placed in a special account for future use.
2. Donors may specify that the money be used for a specific project or for purchase of a specific item.
3. If the donor does not identify the donation for a specific project, it shall be used as deemed appropriate by the City Council or the Foundation Board.
4. The Foundation Chair shall acknowledge all donations to the Foundation in writing.