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Torrance City Council Adopts a Balanced Budget for FY 2009-2011

Torrance, Calif., June 29, 2009 – On Tuesday, June 23, 2009, the Torrance City Council adopted a balanced two-year operating budget for fiscal years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. Through internal adjustments across departments, reduction in current expenses and increase in cost recovery of user fees, Torrance's \$173.5 million operating budget avoids employee layoffs and protects vital services to the community.

In passing a balanced budget, the City of Torrance resolved a \$5.7 million deficit, a result of declining sales tax in this economic downturn. All departments offered up to four percent budget cuts to help secure Torrance's financial stability without sacrificing vital services offered to the community. The police and fire departments, which make up over 50% of the City's budget, made significant internal adjustments that include civilianizing of positions, elimination of some positions through attrition and identifying efficiencies in operations. These changes, however, do not reduce City's emergency response capabilities; rather, they protect front-line service and eventually enhance the quality of police work and emergency paramedic response provided to the community.

Mayor Scotto states, "In the near future, there will be enhanced services and by taking these tough steps now, we're taking the steps to ensure Torrance's ability to withstand further economic uncertainties in the future." Besides referring to the cuts, Mayor Scotto also referred to Torrance's conservative approach of continuing to use one-time monies for one-time expenses, and ensuring that ongoing programs and services remain funded, the City remains safe and secure, despite the impacts of an uncertain regional and national economy.

For more information on the City's budget, please visit www.TorranceCA.Gov.

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