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City of Torrance Appoints William Racowschi as New Fire Chief

Torrance, Calif., August 14, 2008 – The City of Torrance is pleased to announce the appointment of William Racowschi as its new fire chief. Since starting his career at the Torrance Fire Department in 1980, William Racowschi has risen through the ranks. He was promoted to fire engineer in 1986, and fire captain in 1992, wherein he also served as training coordinator. In 1999, Racowschi rose to battalion chief, a position he has held until his appointment as Torrance’s new fire chief effective Sunday, August 17, 2008.

Racowschi was chosen among internal applicants. According to City Manager LeRoy J. Jackson, “We were fortunate to have an outstanding selection of internal candidates; Chief Racowschi was the most outstanding. I look forward to his leadership for continuing to protect the lives and property of present and future members of the Torrance community.”

While serving as battalion chief, Racowschi directed the department’s Fire Suppression and Technical Rescue programs. In this role, he also oversaw training programs, budget, inventory and implementation of new systems that have brought efficiencies to departmental operations, which benefit the safety of the entire Torrance community.

Racowschi brings a wealth of command and administrative experience gained from the different roles he served throughout the years and a strong commitment to serving the present and future needs of the Torrance community. He will oversee 180 personnel in the Torrance Fire Department.

William Racowschi received an associate arts degree in Fire Science from Los Angeles Harbor Community College and a bachelor’s degree in Professional Studies from California State University in Long Beach.

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