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Torrance Police Chief Matsuda Announces Retirement After 30 Years of Service

Torrance, Calif., June 14, 2017 – Torrance Police Chief Mark Matsuda announced his retirement today after 30 years of service to the City of Torrance. Matsuda will officially leave his post in August.

Chief Matsuda said, “For 30 years, it has been my honor to protect and serve the citizens of Torrance as a proud member of the Torrance Police Department. During my career, I have always aimed to serve the diverse community of people who live, work, and play in the City of Torrance with integrity and dedication to the highest standards of performance, and to the best of my abilities.”

Police Chief Matsuda began his career in law enforcement with the Torrance Police Department in May 1987. He was appointed Chief of Police for the City of Torrance in April 2014, serving as the department’s 10th police chief.

Torrance City Manager LeRoy J. Jackson notes, “Chief Matsuda advanced the police department in many ways with his integrity, leadership, and expertise in law enforcement. The experience he gained from the many roles he served in the department has allowed him to achieve significant success throughout his career. Chief Matsuda has demonstrated a strong commitment to public service, law enforcement, and command of the department by serving not only the Torrance community, but the greater South Bay region.”

Under Chief Matsuda’s command, the department formed a mental health team, assisted social services groups to assist with the homeless population, enhanced community outreach through Coffee with a Cop, Teens and Police; added social media coordinator and mobile application, developed a model Coyote Management Plan, provided safety training for the City and Torrance Unified School District staff, adjusted deployment to address residential burglaries in the region, implemented the Automated License Plate Recognition System, and added Unmanned Aerial Systems to investigate and identify

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criminal activity. These are just a few of the many advances the department implemented during his tenure.

Chief Matsuda shared, "These accomplishments make me proud to announce my retirement. I wish the members of the Torrance Police Department, the City of Torrance and the citizens of our great community continued success and prosperity."

Prior to becoming Chief, Matsuda worked assignments in Patrol (Field Assignment, Gang Detail and Field Training Officer) and Vice & Narcotics (Crime Impact Team). He was promoted to Sergeant in 1998, where he also worked in Patrol (Field Supervisor, Community Lead Officer Detail) and Personnel (Personnel Section Sergeant). He was promoted to Lieutenant in 2003 and worked in Patrol (SWAT), Traffic & Special Events, and Personnel. He was promoted to Captain in 2008 and was assigned to the Services, Patrol, and Administrative Bureaus. In 2013, he was promoted to Deputy Chief of Police.

Mark Matsuda was raised in the Torrance area and graduated from Narbonne High School. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Chapman University, both in Organizational Leadership. Under his command, the Torrance Police Department continued to be recognized as a leader in law enforcement.

City Manager Jackson stated, "Chief Matsuda's dedication to the highest standards of performance and the team he assembled have done great police work over the last three years and have built upon the work of his predecessors."

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