



MAYOR PATRICK J. FUREY'S 2015 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Patrick J. Furey was first elected to the Torrance City Council on June 3, 2008. He garnered the mayoral seat in 2014. As Mayor, he serves as Chair of the State Legislative Advocacy Committee and Federal Legislative Advocacy Committee; and Voting Delegate for the Independent Cities Association, Sanitation District of Los Angeles County, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), and West Vector Control District of Los Angeles County.

Patrick J. Furey is a military veteran. He graduated with honors from the UCLA Attorney Assistant Training Program. He holds a juris doctor degree and is a member of the California State Bar Association, the Los Angeles County Bar Association, and the California County Counsel Association. He recently retired from the County of Los Angeles as a Principal Deputy County Counsel assigned to the Children's Services Division.

Patrick is married to wife Terry. They have two children and two grandsons.

TORRANCE IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS AND BUSINESS IS BOOMING

Good afternoon everyone! On behalf of the City of Torrance and my colleagues on the Torrance City Council, thank you for joining us today. It is very exciting for me to share with you what is happening in our city – and a lot is happening.

But, before I get down to business, I congratulate this year's Citizen of the Year – Ms. De De Hicks. It's an honor to share this day with you. Let's give her a round of applause!

My congratulations also to all of the past recipients of this very distinguished award who are here today. You are heroes to our community.

Now. There are a number of folks I have to thank.

But first, let me take a selfie!

By the way... Today is the first ever City of Torrance Periscope Live Stream! Let me take a second to say hello to our viewers! Hi Periscopers!

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#TorranceCA

#YOLO

Now, I have to thank my colleagues on the council. They have all been working hard on some of the initiatives I brought forward at the outset of our administration. Thanks guys!

Thank you also to Donna Duperon, Brandon Matson, the board of directors and the entire staff of the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce for your friendship and help all year long, and especially for doing all of the arrangements for today's event.

I also have to thank our City Manager LeRoy Jackson and our Assistant City Manager Mary Giordano for helping us keep Torrance moving in the right direction.

Thanks also to the Torrance Executive staff, and all of the city employees for their hard work which makes Torrance such a special city.

Also a thank you to Fran Fulton and Domenica Megerdichian for your strong support in Economic Development and Brian Sunshine, Aram Chaparyan, Eleanor Barthe-Jones and Viet Hoang for day to day support.

And, I have to offer a special thanks to Margie Werner, Dorothy Ellis, Linda Fisher, Toni Gurrola, Beth Laird, Kathy Polliard and all of the other clerical staff and interns who help the

council and mayor stay on task and be in the right place at the right time.

Thank you also to Michael Smith, Jin Chun, and Jamie Le who helped me organize my thoughts and words, and who produced the video for today.

Lastly and truly most importantly, a very special thank you to my wife of almost 40 years – Terry and our children Sunday and Patrick and our grandchildren Shae and Dylan. I am so proud of all of you and very grateful for your support and encouragement.

Last year, we committed to work on strengthening public safety, improving children’s safety while at school, retaining and attracting quality businesses, modernizing infrastructure, resolving traffic concerns, improving information technology, protecting neighborhoods from overdevelopment, promoting affordable programs for seniors and youth, government transparency, and of course, maintaining a balanced budget.

And that is what we have been doing. We’ve been busy!

Today I’m here to set the record straight. Business IS Booming in Torrance!

I know we’ve made headlines for some impactful changes to our community causing buzz and chatter, but in the last year we’ve also been correctly referred to as an “Economic Powerhouse” and also identified as a positive example in economic development. I believe the more than 2,000 new business licenses issued in Torrance last year and the 300 or so new members of the Chamber bear that out. But, I have to say that is just the result of what we are doing. We’re out there; hitting the pavement, making the contacts, helping new and existing businesses grow and expand!

Did you know that Torrance, at a rate of under 5 percent is below the County, State, and Nation in unemployment?

Our Economic Development Team includes professionals from varying backgrounds who are constantly working in order to expand the level of communication and coordination, and ultimately create proactive measures to fully capture the benefits and marketing edge of working and doing business in Torrance.

Recently, in an AirTalk segment on radio station KPCC, the panelists discussed the effects of the new \$15 an

hour minimum wage in the City and County of Los Angeles. Tracy Rafter, Founding CEO of the Los Angeles County Business Federation mentioned Torrance as one of the cities taking the initiative to keep businesses and their employees happy. And, that is because we are acutely aware of the concerns of our local business community and we are doing all that we can to assist.

In a recent article, Marcus Yam of the Los Angeles Times referred to Torrance as an “Economic Powerhouse.” And, that is because Torrance continues to be an attractive location for businesses - and inquiries are received on a regular basis from companies looking to establish themselves or enlarge their footprint in our city.

The Torrance Team is constantly working with professionals in the commercial real estate community and utilizing site selection tools, as well as providing incentives such as permit expediting, recruitment, and financial assistance to help the Economic Development Office bring in new businesses to keep the city growing.

In the past Torrance has subscribed to online real estate database services to help identify available space to attract businesses or facilitate expansions within the city. Through the partnership with the South Bay Economic Development Roundtable and the South Bay Workforce Investment Board, a regional site selection tool will now be available that will not only help identify available space, but will also provide specific information for each city in the South Bay including demographics, services, and incentives available... Without any cost to Torrance!

Our growing community of craft breweries is a great example of our streamlined permitting process and business friendly environment.

I know some of you are wondering why brew in Torrance? Well! Opening a brewery in Torrance takes 3 months and about \$3,800 in permit fees. Compare that to the 12 months and almost \$7,000 in fees that is required in some neighboring cities. So, it only makes sense why they chose Torrance.

But, that is only one reason why businesses want to be here.

The quality of life in Torrance is exceptional, a contributing factor are our schools. We are honored that our very own Torrance Unified School District proudly boasts, one of the highest graduation rates in the state of California at more than 95%

Torrance students are constantly being recognized for their academic and extracurricular activities. Whether they are being accepted to the colleges of their choice or receiving honors in debate, choir, robotics, athletics, music or dance competitions, our students are able to achieve their goals because of supportive parents and the talented team of teachers, classified employees, and administrators that work tirelessly to ensure their success.

Did you know, three Torrance schools – Jefferson Middle School, Richardson Middle School, and West High School – are the recipients of the 2015 California Gold Ribbon Schools Award? These schools were chosen because they exemplify learning centers where students succeed as a result of dynamic teaching and a collaborative learning community.

This year, we continued the tradition of Students and Government Day for 8th grade students. And, we initiated a new program for our High School Government classes.

In this new program, I explained how Local and State Government fit in with what the students were learning about in their United States Government classes. Through telling my own story, and sharing with high school seniors the various opportunities to become involved in the community, I engaged students in the civic process. It was a rare opportunity for me to have a dialogue with our future community leaders about the transition from being a high school student, to the opportunities and challenges of becoming an adult.

This year alone, I spoke to more than 1500 students at Torrance High, South High, West High, North High, Sherry, and Bishop Montgomery in a classroom setting.

And, I am happy to report that both of these unique programs will continue again next year.

The City of Torrance recognizes quality and compassionate healthcare because our great hospitals and medical facilities set such high standards. Staying true to the reputation of the “Health Care Capital of Los Angeles County,” providing options to our community has always been important to Torrance. We are lucky enough to have 2 hospitals in Torrance and many medical centers like UCLA Medical and Kaiser Permanente, serving our city.

For five consecutive years Torrance Memorial was voted the south bay’s best hospital by Daily Breeze readers.

Also on their horizon is an upcoming renovation to the north tower to benefit women’s and pediatric services. In July, U.S. news and world report ranked it among the top six percent of hospitals in the state for 2015-16.

In addition, Providence Little Company of Mary received Healthgrades’ 2015 Patient Safety Excellence Award for preventing patients from suffering complications during hospital stays. The distinction places Providence among the top 10 percent of hospitals in the nation for excellent performance as evaluated by Healthgrades, a leading online resource for comprehensive information about physicians and hospitals.

Also contributing to our quality of life, one of the greatest benefits we have in living in or having a business in Torrance is the peace of mind we have in being such a safe city.

Our Police Department has continued its community outreach and crime fighting strategies throughout the year to combat the increase in crimes impacting the region. The combination of outstanding community support, progressive policing, and relentless follow-up has allowed the Torrance Police Department to stay ahead of crime trends.

Noteworthy, just last month, the Torrance Police Departments Cold Case Unit received an award from the California Police Officers Association for solving a homicide that occurred in 1979! The Torrance Police Department is law enforcement at its best. Let’s hear it for our men and women in blue.

The Torrance Police Department has also created another way to open the lines of communication. The Department’s mobile app allows users to report issues or concerns directly from your mobile device AND... with photos! Users can view the Department’s contact information, explore the TPD’s social media, view wanted and missing persons, press release feeds, and get answers to frequently asked questions!

Our Premier Fire Department remains an ISO Class 1 Fire Department one of less than 60 nationwide. And, it offers mutual aid to neighboring cities and throughout the entire State of California during fire season.

In fact, just last week, 9 men and two Torrance Engines returned home from the Butte Fire up North where they were providing their expertise. And, this is already the second time this fire season that the men and women of the Torrance Fire Department helped out with a Strike

Team to fight a wildfire. Let's give them a round of applause.

Recently, our Fire Chief - William Racowski announced he will be retiring at the end of the year. I will miss him on a personal and professional level. His leadership and connection to the community has been an amazing asset for Torrance.

But, because of his fine leadership and the management team he has created, I can assure you we will be in great care at the time of his exit.

General George S. Patton once said, "Prepare for the unknown by studying how others in the past have coped with the unforeseeable and the unpredictable."

The February ExxonMobil explosion and subsequent incidents have been any eye opener for our city. We are keenly aware of the concerns our community and we share many of those concerns.

With the safety of our community in mind, we have met with refinery officials and safety experts numerous times seeking explanations for all incidents.

As partners of the business community we are quite knowledgeable about the economic impact the closure has made on our region.

We feel certain that the regulatory authorities - Federal, State and Regional will not permit the refinery to resume operations until all safety measures are in place.

In working to keep the public trust and keep the lines of communication open, the Council will be conducting a public workshop on October 13th and ExxonMobil officials will be there to listen to community concerns and explain the status of the refinery and exactly what safety measures are being put into place.

To offer more peace of mind to our business community and residents, and because of the rising popularity in mobile devices, the City has taken the proper steps in establishing Torrance Alerts.

The Torrance Alerts notification system enables residents to receive informational messages from the City in the event of an emergency. It's a free service provided by the City to make sure you have the information you need, when you need it.

Information sent through the Torrance Alerts system is intended to help keep you updated should the City or region experience an event such as an earthquake, fire, public health emergency or similar situation. I urge you all to sign up and stay connected. The sign up process is easy and you can personalize what kind of notifications you'd like to receive in addition to how you'd like to receive them. Just visit the City's website.

Now, let's get down to business!

By now I am sure you have all noticed the exciting changes happening at the Del Amo Fashion Center! A reconfiguration, demolition, and reconstruction of the Del Amo Fashion Center will result in the addition of a new neighbor and anchor tenant, Nordstrom! And, a new multi-level parking structure, in addition to 21 electric vehicle charging stations, and more than 100 new stores. Everyone is buzzing about this project!

Upon completion the Fashion Center will be the largest shopping center in the Western U.S and the 5th largest mall in America! With more than 600 construction jobs and 400 retail and restaurant jobs created, Simon Property Group has made a huge impact in our economic growth and Nordstrom has not even opened yet! I really have to thank them for their contribution to our city.

Elected officials from local, regional, and state are excited to see this project come to fruition but you know who the happiest person is... Terry Furey - MY WIFE! Nordstrom will have its grand opening in just a few days on October 9th and 60 of the new stores mentioned will be open as well!

Taking over the site once occupied by the Ball Corp., is the NYX cosmetics distribution center. NYX cosmetics a division of the L'Oreal conglomerate can be found at Ulta, Target, Urban Outfitters, CVS, and independent beauty supply stores nationwide as well as internationally. An estimated more than half a million dollars in construction will begin very soon. Also exciting, their first retail store will open in our very own Del Amo Fashion Center!

An exclusive, members only club is also expanding here in Torrance.... It will feature more parking... a car wash facility... and get this, an expanded gas station! Costco! The new store will be approximately 18 thousand square feet larger than the existing location and construction is expected to be completed next Summer.

We understand that having a safe and affordable place to call home is important to everyone in our City, so we welcome Welbrook South Bay, Sunrise Senior Living,

and Cabrillo Family Apartments. By providing more rental options for local residents, these housing units contribute to the economic and social well-being of the entire community.

Connecting our community to the builders of the South Bay, the premier lumber company, Ganahl Lumber was recently approved to commence construction and operation of a lumber yard and building supply store on nearly 19 acres on Del Amo Boulevard. The main building, approximately 86 thousand square feet, will be utilized for retail sales and large volume distribution operations. This project is expected to be completed by next August.

The 8 acre complex in the city's financial district housing the tallest building in Torrance, dating to the mid-1960s, will get new shops, restaurants, a high-end health club, and a \$35-million makeover over the next two years. Renamed the Del Amo Crossing, owner Stephen Muller of Muller Co. said, "it's a rare opportunity to reinvent what was once one of the area's most prestigious business complexes." We are thrilled to have an iconic building back in our City. Let's give the Muller Company a round of applause.

As I mentioned earlier, the more than \$250 billion dollar beer industry, has made its mark in Torrance.

Soon, as mentioned in the video, we will have a total of 9 breweries in our city! Now... beer isn't the only thing these breweries are creating. Jobs, commercial activity and tax revenue all bubble up from this industry. With our brewery owners on the forefront of this movement, Torrance has become a craft beer destination. And, because of the popularity of our breweries, people are visiting our city and discovering our hometown feel.

To all of our brewery owners I say, "Cheers!" And thanks for choosing Torrance!

With an expected completion date of this November, a 30 thousand square feet Rusnak Maserati auto dealership and service center will open on the Blvd.. The Rusnak Auto Group has been a premier European luxury automotive dealer in Southern California for over 50 years.

Also on the Blvd., Scott Robinson Honda recently finished renovations and it's really looking fresh. I have to commend them for helping us polish the Blvd. and putting Scott Robinson Chrysler next on the makeover list.

In an organized effort, currently taking place is the creation of a Torrance Auto Dealers Association, as well as establishing a Buy in Torrance retail marketing campaign. I have to thank Jeff Robinson, Victoria Rusnak and Jeff La Plante for being instrumental in this development. Let's give them a round of applause.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the departure of Toyota Motor Corporation happening in 2017. As a business partner, they have contributed a lot to our city. The Toyota Sports Complex has been consistently booked since its opening and they continue to support the city's activities. Though the future of the property is still unknown, I can say that there have been many, many inquiries about the property. Companies on both a national and global scale are interested in moving their business to Torrance and we are eager to help or facilitate in any way.

The City of Torrance is within a Foreign Trade Zone and last September, we partnered with the Port of Long Beach, the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation, and others to host a Foreign Trade Zone workshop that provided information about the advantages and opportunities of doing business in a foreign trade zone and how this important economic development tool can help businesses better compete in global markets.

Torrance also continues to receive various foreign delegations interested in learning how a full service city operates by viewing, hearing presentations, and visiting City facilities and local businesses. Some of the visitors have also been interested in establishing sister or friendly city relationships.

In fact, I will be traveling to China soon to pursue some of these opportunities to create relationships with interested cities. Long-term, we hope that creating these relationships will eventually open up new doors to foreign businesses growing or expanding their business in Torrance.

As I stepped into office, an advisory board focusing on international business was on my mind and a high priority to compete in the 21st Century

I'm happy to report that the Office of Economic Development is pursuing the establishment of an International Economic Development Advisory Board to pave the way for increased international investment and trade with Torrance. The USC Sol Price School of Public Policy conducted a capstone project to study the concept of establishing such a board in Torrance. Several of the

concepts identified in the study will be incorporated in to the formation of the Board. I look forward to this in the very near future.

But I have to say, we really do appreciate our current businesses.

The element of retention is most dependent on our relationships and partnerships in the community.

Each year the Office of Economic Development hosts the Torrance Advantage Awards business recognition event that allows our City to say ‘thank you’ to the businesses that do so much for our community. It also provides an opportunity to showcase various companies and areas of our city.

We’ve also continued revitalization efforts in downtown Torrance and will be stepping up our efforts with sidewalk improvements and decorative lighting. Discussions on implementing more user friendly signage are taking place and exploration of funding options is already underway.

Another addition to our community are 6 new public electric vehicle charging stations. A few weeks ago, as part of National Drive Electric Week, we hosted an EV Charging station ribbon cutting ceremony, and an EV-Expo and EV-Ride and Drive Event.

This is a great example of Torrance’s commitment to environmental sustainability. Whether it’s pioneering one of the first publicly accessible Hydrogen Fueling stations with Toyota and Shell on 190th Street, allocating space for both CNG and Bio-Diesel refueling at the City Yard, completing the Torrance Transit department buses to all a Green Fleet by the end of this year, or ensuring that both Level 2 and DC fast charging stations are made accessible throughout the City of Torrance; all of these initiatives ensure that Torrance minimizes not only it’s operational carbon footprint but also supports our residents, businesses and their employees that want to do the same.

Now, I can’t mention all of the steps we are taking to improve the environment without acknowledging Honda. Designing for our environment, Honda continues to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions in their products that contribute to global climate change.

Did you know that Honda vehicles are 90% recyclable and their power equipment products are 95% recyclable? Environmentally conscious in design, they use fewer

substances that are potentially harmful to the environment and manufacture with fewer scarce or non-recyclable materials. Honda’s build easy-to-dismantle products help to facilitate the recycling of materials. They are a trailblazer in both innovation and environmental leadership and we are happy to continue our relationship with them.

So guess what? We won the Wyland Foundation National Mayor’s Challenge for Water Conservation! We beat out almost 4 thousand cities and claimed more than 400 thousand gallons in water reduction pledges!

As Mayor, it is great to know that in the midst of California’s drought, our City can come together to make a pledge to save water. In Torrance we recognize all of our vital resources.

As one of the first cities to enact a water supply ordinance, the City of Torrance knows the value of water. We have been conserving and recycling water within our business community and in our parks and will continue to be proactive in water conservation.

In fact, because of our excellence in water conservation, I will be sharing our best practices at the U.S. Conference of Mayors 2015 Water Summit in October.

We encourage residents not just in our City, but in the Nation, to look at ways they can conserve this vital resource. So, fix that leaky faucet, take shorter showers or use only Energy Star appliances, because our actions can result in benefits for our whole community.

We recently unveiled the improved Amie, Henrietta and Entradero Stormwater Basins with a virtual ribbon cutting ceremony. These improvements are intended to capture and infiltrate more storm water into the groundwater basin. As part of the process we installed native landscaping and created access trails and educational opportunities at the Henrietta and Entradero Basins.

In addition, as we prepare for the expected El Nino, these Stormwater basins will also act as a runoff collector to prevent flooding and downstream erosion, in addition to improving water quality. An open house at the Henrietta Basin is scheduled for November and I encourage you all to visit and explore this oasis of nature!

Speaking of our carbon foot print, Transit’s Fleet Modernization Project is entering its final phase. The goal of this project is to transition all Diesel buses to Alternative Fuel vehicles – thus reducing our emission

and overall carbon footprint. So, by this time next year, Transit hopes to be operating a 100%, all alternative fuel bus fleet.

However, the most exciting transportation project right now is the Torrance Transit Park and Ride Regional Transit Center. The ground breaking occurred just a few days ago. This state-of-the-art transportation hub will be a key location for multi-modal travel in the South Bay region, and if I have my way, a final stop on the green line.

If all goes as planned, this facility will be fully operational in early 2017. Transit will also be expanding our Line 4 "South Bay to Downtown LA" service later this year. It will operate all day, and also provide service on the weekends.

Along with this, Transit will be enhancing our Line 3 Rapid Service from Redondo Beach to Long Beach. New bus shelters, a bus signal priority system, and numerous other passenger amenities are set to be unveiled to complement our Rapid line bringing our customers even better service.

We recognize that infrastructure development is a vital component in encouraging a city's economic growth and developing infrastructure enhances a city's productivity, consequently making businesses more competitive and boosting a region's economy. In order to provide our residents, business partners, and visitors ease in navigating through our city, we have been hard at work improving our City's infrastructure.

At more than \$40 million dollars, street and pavement rehabilitation; repairs to sidewalks, gutters, and sewers, upgrades in traffic signals and landscaping; and the addition of bike lanes will take place in locations such as Crenshaw Boulevard, the intersection of PCH and Hawthorne, 182nd and Crenshaw, and recently have been completed on Palos Verdes Boulevard. substances that are potentially harmful to the environment and manufacture with fewer scarce or non-recyclable materials.

Not only does infrastructure enhance the efficiency of production, transportation, and communication, it also helps provide economic incentives to public and private sector participants. The accessibility and quality of infrastructure in a region helps shape domestic business' investment decisions and determines the region's attractiveness to foreign investors.

All this business talk and who do we have to thank? Our hard working and talented City staff continue to look for ways to improve all our city has to offer. Under the leadership of our City Manager, LeRoy J. Jackson and Assistant City Manager, Mary Giordano, our team works day to day to plan for Torrance's future. Without their dedication, we would not have the services we are able to offer you today.

In addition to our staff, the Torrance volunteer community is really like no other. We have amazing boards and commissions that do incredible work, and without these groups of involved citizens, our community would not be as vibrant a place.

Just this past Tuesday, a new opportunity to serve our community was established. The new Social Services Commission will assist and address the population of veterans, the homeless, special needs children and intellectually challenged adults. Commissioners will be appointed in January so stay tuned.

Also a new addition is the Website Redesign Ad Hoc Committee. Created to provide direction for the upcoming TorranceCA.gov overhaul and redesign, the team has already completed the Request for Qualifications phase and is currently accepting Request for Proposals from the qualified candidate pool. With a new Content management system, social media integration, refreshed look and feel, and so much more, we should expect to see a new website rolling out this time next year.

In our near future, we will soon be unveiling OpenGov to increase our transparency. OpenGov allows us to make easy to read and user friendly financial data, readily available to the public.

Speaking of committees hard at work, this November, in addition to our Annual Armed Forces Day Parade and Celebration that takes place in May, we will be acknowledging our troops and especially our Vietnam Veterans as we partner with the Department of Defense for the 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemoration. Let's give our veterans a round of applause.

The Armed Forces Day Ad Hoc Committee is currently planning a week-long celebration and I encourage and invite you all to join us to honor our men and women of the United States Armed Forces.

Also on the books for the committee, a 5k Race will be added to our 57th Annual Armed Forces Day Parade and Celebration. I have to thank the Torrance Area Chamber

Chamber of Commerce for their desire to fund this special addition to the celebration. It's great that we can add to an already long standing tradition.

So I leave you with this... spread the word.

Be our Advocate.

So what's new and exciting and coming to Torrance?

Torrance is open for business, and Business IS Booming!

Last year I mentioned we were working on a transit initiative. And, we have been. Staff is actively searching for funding to bring a rubber tire trolley service to Torrance. From the transit center to downtown to the mall and hotels and even a stop at the beach, this service will be completely within our city boundaries giving everyone a reliable, safe way to get around town.

If successful, this project could potentially bring back the "Red Car" – in a new form; and provide a convenient mode of transportation to our residents, visitors, and business partners.

So, get ready for a retro throwback in the now modern city of Torrance.

So are you ready for the finale reveal? The fireworks? Well, that's just it! Soon, I will be bringing information to council that will allow a fireworks show to return to Torrance next July 4th!

I know this popular event has been missed by many, and I'm happy to announce, they will once again light up our sky!

Like any City, we have our challenges. But when it comes to facing those challenges, we are out there grabbing the bull by its horns. So, when the negative buzz is ringing in your ears, think about all we have to offer:

- competitive utilities and business license fees
- no gross receipts tax
- clusters of major industries
- skilled labor pools
- proximity to LA and Long Beach Ports and Los Angeles International airport
- freeway access
- excellent year-round climate
- beautiful open space
- theatre and the arts
- nationwide rankings for safety and livability
- excellent schools, and
- a business friendly, full-service and customer-centered City.