

# T O R R A N C E



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Three Torrance Residents Killed by Suspected Impaired Driver**

Torrance, Calif., Dec. 18, 2014 – Flags were lowered to half staff this morning in honor of three Torrance residents killed on the evening of Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2014 when they were struck by a car in Redondo Beach.

The deceased are identified by Redondo Beach Police as Saeko Matsumura, 87; Mary Anne Wilson, 81; and Martha Gaza, 36.

The Mayor, City Council and City staff offer condolences to the families of the victims, as well as support to those who remain hospitalized.

“Our hearts are heavy this morning as we learn more about the horrific events of last night,” said Mayor Patrick Furey. “The fact that this happened during the holiday season makes it especially tragic for all involved.”

The three victims were leaving a church program at St. James Catholic Church in Redondo Beach, crossing Pacific Coast Highway eastbound in a crosswalk at Vincent Street with a group of pedestrians when they were struck by a car going northbound on Pacific Coast Highway. The vehicle then crossed over into southbound lanes and collided head-on into another vehicle.

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According to authorities, eight adults and five children were injured. The majority of those injured were pedestrians.

Torrance Police Department responded to assist at the scene of the accident and provide continuity of service in the community. Torrance Fire Department also assisted with treatment and transport of patients.

A 56-year-old female driver, identified as Margot Bronstein of Redondo Beach, has been arrested for felony vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated. Bronstein is being held in Redondo Beach on \$300,000 bail. She is expected to be in court Friday, Dec. 19, 2014, in Torrance.

Mayor Furey recorded a brief statement currently shown on Torrance CitiCABLE (TWC 3/Verizon 31), Facebook.com/TorranceCA, and YouTube.com/TorranceCitiCABLE.

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