

T O R R A N C E



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City of Torrance Appoints Martin Serna as New Fire Chief

Torrance, Calif., January 14, 2016 – Torrance City Manager, LeRoy J. Jackson is pleased to announce the appointment of Martin Serna as its new Fire Chief. Since starting his career in 1993 as an entry level firefighter at the Torrance Fire Department, Martin Serna has risen through the ranks of Fire Engineer, Fire Captain, Battalion Chief, and Assistant Fire Chief before becoming the 9th Fire Chief of the City of Torrance.

Martin was chosen among 8 internal applicants. According to City Manager Jackson, Serna was chosen out of an outstanding selection of candidates because, “He demonstrates good leadership and expertise, he has a great vision for defining the future of the Fire Department.”

With the Fire Department responding to over 70% in health emergencies, it has become their key function as first responders. Jackson said, “The next step will be to see how the department fits in to new health systems and linkages with hospitals.”

Prior to his appointment as Chief, Serna worked for seven years as the department’s Fire Marshall ensuring the local Torrance municipal code was updated as it related to California Fire Code. He was also responsible for the formulation of the annual budget estimates, purchasing expenditures control and department accounting. From overseeing the auxiliary firefighter program to managing Hazardous Material and Specialized Emergency Programs, Serna brings a wealth of knowledge from the experience he gained over the nearly 23 years he has been with the City.

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Martin Serna received an Associate Arts Degree in Fire Science from Mount San Antonio Community College and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Fire Administration from Columbia Southern University. He also completed the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and is currently completing his Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership/Public Administration at Columbia Southern University.

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