

# T O R R A N C E

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## **City of Torrance Appoints John R. Jones as New Community Services Director**

**TORRANCE, Calif., January 25, 2008** – With pleasure, the City of Torrance announces the appointment of John R. Jones as the new community services director effective Monday, January 28, 2008.

Known for his energy, optimism and team work, John Jones brings over 27 years of experience in serving the City of Torrance; he rose through the ranks starting as a volunteer before being employed in 1980 as performing arts coordinator. According to City Manager LeRoy J. Jackson, "John's enthusiasm and passion for public service will serve our citizens well."

Prior to his appointment, Jones has been serving as the City's recreation services manager – a post he's held since 1990. As manager, he achieved numerous accomplishments, including the development and subsequent City Council adoption of a fee resolution for the Benstead Plunge, contracts negotiation with private partners to enhance quality programs, and successful implementation of youth focused programs such as "Students and Government Day" in the City of Torrance. He was also staff liaison to City commissions and served on the Board of the Workforce Investment Network and other organizations.

John Jones was instrumental in the development of the department's volunteer program and of numerous capital projects, including the Sports Center at Charles H. Wilson Park, the Madrona Marsh Nature Center and the renovation of the Benstead Plunge. Additionally, he played an integral role in the consolidation of the Library and Parks & Recreation departments, presently known as the Community Services Department (CSD).

As the new CSD director, Jones will oversee a department of 275 staff members and be responsible for organizing, planning and directing a broad range of leisure services and programs that will enrich the lives of the diverse Torrance community.

John Jones received an associate's degree in Recreation Administration from El Camino College and subsequently received a bachelor's degree in Recreation and Leisure Studies with a minor in Business Administration from California State University, Dominguez Hills where he is presently a part-time instructor.

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