

# Mayor Patrick J. Furey

## 2016 State of the City Address



Good afternoon everyone! Thank you for joining me for my third State of the City Address. 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 want to congratulate this year's Citizen of the Year – Mr. Kirk Rossberg. It's an honor to share this day with you. You and your family are a part of the Torrance legacy. And, we really appreciate all you and your family have done for our community.

Let's give Kirk a round of applause!

My congratulations also to all of the past recipients of this very distinguished award. You are what makes our city so great.

Now, There are a number of folks I have to thank. So, please bear with me.

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. In addition, he serves as a member of the Sanitation District of Los Angeles County, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), and serves as the Chair of the Los Angeles County City Selection Committee. He also is the voting delegate for the National League of Cities.

Patrick J. Furey graduated with honors from the UCLA Attorney Assistant Training Program and worked as a legal assistant for nine years prior to attending law school. He holds a juris doctor degree from the University of West Los Angeles and is a member of the California State Bar Association. Prior to being seated as the mayor, he retired from the County of Los Angeles as a Principal Deputy County Counsel assigned to the Children's Services Division.

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

I want to thank the North High School JROTC for the presentation of colors and the National Anthem. I am very proud of the young men and women of the Award Winning Saxon Battalion who are led by Command Sergeant Major Raul Duran.

Thank you also to David Oster for taking the time to lead us in the pledge and, who along with Bob Chiota and our newest Councilmember Milton Herring were instrumental in bringing to my attention the need for a Social Services Commission in Torrance.

Next, thank you to Mark Waronek for the words of inspiration. Mark is not only a friend, he is a council member of our neighboring city Lomita, a mentor, an integral part of our chamber family, and a consummate community volunteer.

I also have to thank my colleagues on the council. They have been working hard on some of the initiatives I brought forward at the outset of our administration – the website is rolling out and we are almost complete with the view and historical preservation ordinances. Thank you for your help.'

**#WhyTorrance**

I would like to take our Cable and Community Relations Team led by Michael D. Smith, Jin Chun, and Jamie Le. They ensure that information relevant to our City gets distributed to our businesses and residents through CitiCABLE, CitiSOUNDS, press releases, the website, social media, and so many other ways. They are also responsible for the video and helping me gather my thoughts today. We are so lucky to have such a professional team.

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

I also have to thank our City Manager LeRoy J. Jackson and our Assistant City Manager Mary Giordano for all of their assistance in keeping 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.

Lastly and most importantly, a very special thank you to my wife 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.

So once again, another year and I'm honored and somewhat humbled to serve you and our great City. Please don't expect a big surprise at the end! But, if you pay attention closely—you may get a few hints about some exciting things that will be coming forward very soon.

In preparation for today's event I've been reflecting on what brought me to Torrance. As many of you know, I'm a Philly guy... transplanted to the California sunshine who finally ventured to Torrance in pursuit of a world class education for my children.

My story is not very different than many of yours. But whether you came here to reside... maybe you commute to the city for work... or just swing by for visits of entertainment, shopping or play, I pose the question...

Why Torrance?

I'll start with Education.

### **#Education**

Like I mentioned, many of you were like me... gravitating to Torrance because of the great education system and that idea still rings true today! Torrance Unified School District can proudly boast a 96% graduation rate. One of the highest in the State of California. Also, a record 12 schools – Adams, Anza, Arlington, Arnold, Fern, Hickory, Riviera, Seaside, Towers, Victor, Wood, and Yukon Elementary Schools – are recipients of the 2016 California Gold Ribbon Schools Award. These schools were chosen because they represent learning centers where students succeed as a result of dynamic teaching and collaborative learning communities.



A big thank you to Dr. George Mannon and his staff.

Our schools set such high standards that the City must continue to rise to the occasion to maintain educational programming that can align with our bright students. It has now been a decade since we started the tradition of Students and Government Day for 8th grade students. And, our program in High School Government classes will continue for its 3rd year!

This program may be the best part of being mayor. I have had the privilege in speaking with more than 4,000 students in a small classroom setting to explain local government and stressing the importance of public service. And, I am constantly impressed with the quality of youth in our community.

Obviously, we're starting the conversation of local government with our students early, and they've been very receptive. In fact, participants from our 8th grade program have gone on to pursue careers in law, political science and have obtained numerous leadership roles. And so many of those TUSD graduates have gone on to colleges, universities, and trade schools. For that reason, it's no surprise why families choose to plant their roots in Torrance. However, the schools and educational programs are just one element.

I ask again... why Torrance?

Education? Opportunity? Safety?

Let's explore that further...

So, in hopes to uncover what draws people to Torrance, we posted the question on Social Media, "Residents? What brought you to Torrance?"

And, we received responses ranging from weather, to volleyball leagues, to LOVE.

But for one family, a plethora of elements ultimately led her family to Torrance to become whole again.

Nataly Martinez's father moved to Los Angeles from El Salvador to better provide for his family. A truck driver, he travelled everywhere for work which allowed him to explore different locations. Nataly recalled that from the beginning, her father loved Torrance. As an immigrant family, Torrance provided diversity... and it still does! In fact today, the Torrance community speaks more than 80 languages.

## #WhyTorrance

From ramen to Indian curries, you can find cuisines from around the world, all over town.

Also as a low income family, the competitive quality living, in addition to financial assistance programs allowed the Martinez Family to thrive. The small town feel and proximity to the ports were an added benefit for Nataly's father. So, in 1996, he decided it was time to collect his family from El Salvador and plant their roots in Torrance. Nataly stated, "Torrance means a lot to me because it's the city where my whole nuclear family reunited to live together as one unit. I have so many stories and experiences that make me so grateful to be in this city. I feel very blessed that my family lives here."

So for the Martinez Family, Why Torrance?

- The diversity
- Competitive quality living
- small town feel
- and proximity to the Ports

In the past 20 years, the Martinez Family established a home in Torrance with no plans of moving. What is responsible for the longevity of their stay? In part that would have to be the peace of mind that they are living in a safe and secure city.

## #SAFEandSECURE

Our Premier Fire Department remains an ISO Class 1 Fire Department one of less than 60 nationwide, but why is that great for you? The Insurance Services Office or ISO classification ratings are based upon several criteria including a community's emergency communications systems, fire department, water supply, fire prevention efforts and public fire safety education programs. Communities receive a rating on a scale of one to 10. One being the top rank. ISO ratings have been used by insurance companies when determining property insurance rates. So, our very own ISO class 1 fire department is not only keeping you safe, they're also saving you money!

Thank you to our new Fire Chief, Martin Serna.

The Torrance Fire Department has also been training community members in disaster preparedness since the early 1990's. More than 1,000 community members have attended our 24-hour Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) – three day academy. And that's what makes Torrance stand out... The residents and community members who are always willing to participate in the positive growth of our city. This valuable information allows you to help your neighbor and yourself if the City resources are stretched to their limits and additional help is a long way off.

Building on the CERT foundation: "help yourself - help your neighbors", and partnering with the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, the Torrance Fire Department is now expanding on this program. The Fire Department has adapted the CERT curriculum to meet the needs of the local business owners and employees. Our Business Emergency Response Training program – what we call BERT includes hands-on exercises covering: basic first aid, disaster preparedness, utility control, fire suppression, search & rescue, disaster psychology, and domestic terrorism.

This program is free of charge to local residents and business members with the first class coming up on October 26th from 8 a.m. to noon at the Chamber's new offices on Crenshaw Boulevard.

Also in the business community expanding programs... is our Police Department. This year, the Torrance Police Department has provided Active Shooter Awareness and Risk Mitigation Training for all City employees, which included bringing in-person training and safety assessments to all departments. The Department also offered similar training to the Torrance Unified School District, all retail stores at the Del Amo Fashion Center, and to more than 50 local businesses in partnership with the Chamber. I know the training was well received and it highlights the police department's commitment to public safety and "Excellence Through Teamwork." Thank you Police Chief Mark Matsuda!

As many of you know, Torrance has been contending with both coyote sightings and attacks on pets this year. In response to these attacks and sightings, the City established a Coyote Management Plan. The goal of this Management

Plan is to support coexistence with urban coyotes using education, behavior modification and development of a tiered response to aggressive coyote behavior. The tiered response requires active participation on the part of the entire community including residents, homeowners associations, volunteers and city personnel. Signs were created and placed in areas where both sightings and attacks have been reported. A video was created in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife called "Living with Coyotes" in addition to a new program called Wildlife Watch that will educate residents on how to coexist with the coyote. In fact, 100 domed shaped self-closing trash can lids that will prevent debris that lure coyotes will roll out into parks today! In addition, I have recently reached out to our nearby cities to tackle this problem on a regional basis.

We take this problem very seriously, and I assure you our plan is based on research and best known management practices to ensure the safety of our community.

So again, we ask... Why Torrance?

Like most Southern California cities, we have a population of homeless seeking refuge in our community. And, we are seeking a solution regionally and state-wide. But, Torrance has been actively addressing this issue for some time.

About a year ago, the Community Lead Officer Detail became aware of the rise in homeless related issues in the city of Torrance. Tasked with the job of handling quality of life related issues, the CLO detail took on the difficult task of handling this rapidly escalating problem.

Together with other agencies, the Police department continues to address the issue. And, the CLO detail has also been actively assisting homeless individuals with looming legal issues in addition to mental health issues. And, they are obtaining great results.

The Torrance Mental Evaluation Team is a field-based, co-response team that partners with a Department of Mental Health Clinician with a specially trained Torrance Police Officer and has been in operation for 16 months. T-MET provides training and resources to first responders, new officers, families of subjects with mental illness and the general public. Further, TMET handles all calls related to mentally ill subjects while on duty. As a result, patrol officers are cleared more quickly to resume regular patrol responsibilities. To date, TMET contacts have resulted in no reviewable use of force incidents and there have been no injuries to mentally ill subjects, officers or clinicians. TMET was also the first co-response team in Los Angeles County to receive Medi-Cal Certification as a Mental Healthcare Provider. It works!



The Torrance Police Foundation was recently established by a group of business and civic leaders to help provide resources and support to the department in its quest to promote excellence in policing and to ensure our men and women in blue have the most advanced resources and training to provide their highest level of service in keeping Torrance safe.

The Torrance Police Foundation provides grant funds directly to the Torrance Police Department to support requests that are not funded by the city funds or cannot be funded by the city in a timely manner.

TPF depends entirely on the generosity of corporations, businesses, individuals, foundations, and other philanthropic organizations to support its operations and grant program. No public funds or tax dollars are accepted for its operations or programming. But, if you want to become a donor or just want more information, you can look at the website [TorrancePoliceFoundation.org](http://TorrancePoliceFoundation.org) - or you can speak to former Mayor Scotto or former Councilman Messerlian, two of the folks that helped get the foundation started.

### **#HealthyCity**

The quality of life in Torrance is exceptional. In fact, Tech Co. named Torrance one of the 25 Healthiest Cities in the U.S. Of course, playing a vital role in that ranking is our medical community. Serving our city we have several medical centers and 2 hospitals located in Torrance, in addition to nearby UCLA Medical and Kaiser Permanente.

In August, Torrance Memorial received Magnet® recognition for the second time from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, which recognizes nursing excellence.

Torrance Memorial has also been ranked as one of the best hospitals for 2016-17 in California and the Los Angeles metro area for the fifth straight year by U.S. News & World Report, placing the hospital 21st in the state and 11th in the region. The report recognized Torrance Memorial for providing high performing and quality care in the many areas.

They continue to improve facilities with a \$33 million renovation of Torrance Memorial's 33-year old North Tower. The revamped North Tower will house new Pediatric, Neonatal Intensive Care and Maternal Care Units.

Deemed "a model for the nation" Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance earned recertification as a Center of Excellence for Palliative Care from the Joint Commission, a not-for-profit that accredits and certifies nearly 21,000 health care organizations and programs in the U.S.

Palliative care services help patients cope with temporary pain that is a part of a treatment process, as well as helping patients and their families keep pain from interfering with a patient's quality of life as they near the end of their journey.

The medical center also received the Healthgrades, 2016 Patient Safety Excellence Award. Honored hospitals are comprised of the top 10 percent of hospitals nationwide evaluated for performance on 14 Patient Safety Indicators as defined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.



#### **#Infrastructure**

The Martinez family said another great thing about living in the family-friendly city over the past 20 years has been watching Torrance develop. And, I imagine one of the reasons is the pride we take in improving and maintaining our infrastructure.

We have always recognized that infrastructure development is a vital component in encouraging a city's economic growth. Developing infrastructure also 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 continue to expand our City's infrastructure.

One of the most exciting infrastructure improvements, is the twenty-two million dollar Torrance Transit Park and Ride Regional Transit Terminal project! This transit center will interface with the Regional Rapid Service and existing light rail. It is envisioned to have level boarding platforms for transit vehicles, state-of-the-art passenger information kiosks and maps, parking spaces for Rideshare Van/Carpool participants and enhanced shelters, E/V charging stations, fare vending machines and public restrooms.

Phase 1 was recently completed and Southern California Edison is in the process of relocating 9 wooden power poles through January 2017 to make way for widening of Crenshaw Blvd for the new access driveways. If you haven't been following the project, you should visit our work zone cam online at [TorranceCA.Gov](http://TorranceCA.Gov)! Just type Transit Center into the search engine.

And, if you have not been watching, we have been aggressively lobbying the Metropolitan Transportation Authority – almost non-stop - to get the Green Line extended to our transit station in a reasonable time.

Sometimes I feel that we are jousting at windmills, but we will not give up.

The City continues to improve our water supply... something we water conserving Californians are familiar with. We've acquired a property behind Yukon Elementary School for development of the North Torrance Well Field, which will include a new groundwater well, a new 3 million gallon storage tank and treatment facilities. This site will result in increased water quality and production capacity. This is great for you, our business partners because like the Fire Department, water supply is also an evaluation piece of the ISO Class 1 criteria.

Projects coming in the near future? The Crenshaw Blvd Rehabilitation will be starting construction soon. From Sepulveda to Skypark, and PCH to the City's south boundary, this project will repair the pavement on Crenshaw Blvd and also include signage, traffic signal and landscape upgrades. The PCH & Hawthorne Intersection will also see improvements. This project will improve the traffic operation of the intersection demonstratively. Construction is anticipated to start in summer 2017.

Most recently, we acquired the vacant property at 182<sup>nd</sup> and Crenshaw and are planning major improvements of the intersection and to the on and off ramps of the 405 – something that is sorely needed.

#### **#Businesses**

One of my favorite aspects of being Mayor is the quality time I get to interface with our business community. It gives me an opportunity to learn about the companies, dig a little deeper into their history, and sometimes find out what brought

them to our city...

And, we have had some interesting responses to Why Torrance?

Dominic Iannitti, President and CEO of Doc Magic started his business in Carson in 1988, a young entrepreneur in junior college. Having lived in the South Bay the greater part of his life, Dominic was very familiar with Torrance and specifically the Red Car Brewery.

During a visit to the brewery he realized he wanted to move his business to the downtown area of Torrance. He recognized the convenient location, close to key freeways, allowed relatively quick access to Los Angeles and Orange Counties. And as a resident of Palos Verdes Estates, Dominic knew downtown was just minutes from the beach and the peninsula.

But the best part? The Torrance location was within stumbling distance of the Red Car Brewery!

Side note: if you're at a brewery not within stumbling distance, make sure you identify a designated driver!

### #BrewCity

As I was saying... The breweries have been really good to us. In recent years, they've added a new reason as to why Torrance is a destination city. With 9 breweries in our city, we are the leading craft brew city in the region. Visitors are literally getting a taste of Torrance and the \$250 billion industry has also brought a touring element to our city. It is great to see new businesses created based on our pool of successful industries.

businesses in the and business and livability, it's in city.



Stories like Dominic's, remind me that we have some of the best world and the attraction to our city is not just our competitive utilities license fees, no gross receipts tax, or nationwide rankings for safety fact all of the businesses that make Torrance an economically thriving

As of today, we have

almost 10,000 licensed businesses located in Torrance.

We have another 3,400 businesses who are located outside of Torrance but are licensed to do business in our City.

That's more than 13,000 businesses wanting to work within our community. And yes, I think we can give some credit to our beloved breweries for drawing in some of our companies..... but like I mentioned earlier, our hardworking economic development and business friendly programs also happen to be a great draw!

I want to thank Economic Development Managers Fran Fulton and Domenica Megerdichian for all of their hard work, which seems to garner results every day.

For example, recently through their efforts, a grant/loan was provided to L-3 Communications. Our staff worked with our partners at GO-Biz and Southern California Edison to capture benefits and take advantage of incentives. Because of the research and benefits provided, the company has decided to stay and grow in Torrance, and now plans to consolidate their Northern California location into the Torrance facility, adding approximately 200 employees, many to be hired locally.

Also very exciting, we just found out yesterday, that Tritium Proprietary Limited, an Australian energy company, will be opening their US facility here in Torrance, California. Tritium designs and manufactures DC fast charging stations for electric vehicles. Currently, all Tritium products are built in Australia, and 95% of their product is exported around the world. The Torrance facility will be Tritium's first overseas facility, which will focus on servicing and repair of chargers, quality control, testing, assembly and manufacturing and research & development. Tritium actually already has some of their products in use here in Torrance- they manufactured the ChargePoint electric vehicle charging stations at the Civic Center campus and other facilities.

The Economic Development Team has been in constant contact with the Tritium team since August. Just this past Monday, they met with a representative who visited from Australia. By yesterday morning, the Tritium rep shared that they will be signing a lease for an approximately 10,000 square feet facility up the street from City Hall!

Tritium International Operations Manager, Matthew Finn said, "The support Torrance has offered has been a big factor to why we have decided to move here"

The company plans to be in the facility, and operational by November 2016.

## #TADA

We are proactive, conducting frequent business visits in our community, reaching out to our businesses to help them grow and succeed. We also understand the power in numbers. Joining forces this year, more than 15 Torrance dealerships formalized the Torrance Auto Dealers Association. And, efforts are underway to assess advertising opportunities, including a Buy in Torrance campaign, and we are researching the feasibility of a digital freeway sign and other way-finding signs throughout the City and in retail corridors.

Thank you to all of the dealers, with a special thanks to Joe Giacomini of Martin Chevrolet and Jeff Robinson of Scott Robinson Honda and Chrysler for their leadership and vision.

## #Partnerships

We continue our thriving partnerships with the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, The South Bay Workforce Investment Board, the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, as well as the El Camino South Bay Small Business Development Center.

## #AttractingNewCompanies

Torrance is unique because of its Community Feel, with International Reach. Our already existing partnerships with companies based abroad have shown us the importance of international businesses.



Last year I had the opportunity to make a trip to China. Our intent? To “plant seeds” and establish relationships with interested cities. And, I believe it is starting to bear fruit.

We continue to have visits from foreign delegations. And, based on the frequency of these visits, there is no question people around the world are intrigued by the City of Torrance. As we see the growing interest in our city from those abroad, we put together an International Economic Development Advisory group meeting to address ways we can work together to develop international relationships. Long-term and in conjunction with our trips abroad, we hope that creating these relationships will eventually open up new doors to foreign businesses growing or expanding their business in Torrance. And, in partnership with the Chamber, we are looking to do a trade mission to Japan and Taiwan next spring.

To help businesses explore Torrance from the comfort of their country, The South Bay Workforce Investment Board, in partnership with the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, has funded and made available the website [SouthBayBusiness.org](http://SouthBayBusiness.org), a regional site selection tool that is used by the South Bay Cities and interested parties in identifying available real estate for attraction or expansion, as well as providing specific information for each city in the South Bay including demographics, services, and incentives available. This is another great way to attract new businesses and market our city.

Speaking of marketing... let's talk retail! Or, should I say **#Retail**

Recently, the LA Business Journal named Del Amo Fashion Center the PACESETTER as it is the largest retail center in Los Angeles County at 2.4 million square feet. It is also the largest mall in the Western United States and fifth in the country. As most of you know, Simon Property Group Inc., completed a multi-hundred-million dollar renovation that redesigned 550,000 square feet of retail space that is currently 99 percent leased.

I can tell you one guy who is very proud... David Contis, Vice President of Simon Property Group, or as some of us know him, the Mayor of the mythical city of Del Amo, California!

Joking aside, the Del Amo Fashion Center has been breaking records left and right. We've been told that our Nordstrom is leading the chain in retail sales. The Fashion Center is expected to almost double the 2012 revenue this year and it has seen more than \$100 million in revenue from just the restaurants and patio cafes.

And to add to the already existing dining options, they've recently added Pink's Hot Dogs!

The mall has found new life thanks to Simon Property Group and they aren't stopping anytime soon. Dick's Sporting Goods will open as an anchor store next year and you can expect to see new exciting entertainment concepts in the lifestyle wing and at the south end on The Boulevard in the near future.

Across the Boulevard, the 8 acre complex renamed Del Amo Crossing in the city's financial district, is also going through a \$35-million makeover. The iconic building will welcome a 24 Hour Fitness Super Sport and also a restaurant thanks to the Mueller Co.

## #Downtown

And, how about the resurgence of entertainment and eating establishments in Old Torrance? We continue to enjoy the legacy establishments like the Torrance Bakery, The Red Car, The Depot, La Capilla and Rudy's. But, the success of the Tortilla Cantina, The Old Torrance Coffee Shop and Keegan's Pub can't be ignored. And, with a one-hour wait for dinner at Restoration Kitchen and Wine, old Torrance is becoming its own destination spot.

## #Arts

While the restaurant success is one measure, I have to believe that the resurgence of arts and entertainment in that area has something to do with the increased foot traffic. The Torrance Theatre Company produces sold out performances most weekends throughout the year and Destination Art and all of the new art galleries are introducing the neighborhood to new fans every day. And, the Downtown Antique Fair will be celebrating its 18th anniversary next month with the eclectic group of shoppers it brings to town.

Our economic development team and I be meeting with the Old Torrance merchants and property owners in the next couple of months to discuss recommendations I recently received from the Mayor's Institute on City Design to further stimulate business in that area of town. Stay tuned!

## #Visibility

With all of the renovations and upgrades in our community, it's no surprise why the City of Torrance continues to be a popular location for filming and special events. Boasting the automotive standards of the world, we are currently working to bring a significant, elegant, world-class automotive event to Torrance next fall. Updates coming very soon!

Special events generate revenue for the city as well as bring new visitors and visibility to our community.

## #DiscoverTorrance

Also working hard for more visibility of our city, Discover Torrance, the visitor's and tourism bureau, continues outreach at various regional events, including hosting an informational booth at the L.A. Beer Week event during the summer. If you have not checked out their website, DiscoverTorrance.com, take an opportunity to explore the great things they are working on!

As you can see, we are a thriving city with so many elements that make us unique. But it is our strength and strong community that truly identifies Torrance.

## #TorranceStrength

This year we saw the change in ownership of the Torrance Refinery while tackling the 2015 ExxonMobil Refinery Explosion. The safety of our residents, business partners, and visitors has always been a priority to us. In the first quarter of 2016, the City hosted various meetings with the Community and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) on a startup plan to get the Torrance refinery back up to full operation. In May, the plant was safely restarted and returned to full operation after being down for more than a year. It is the strength of all of you, our residents, businesses, that enabled us to financially survive the refineries down time.



On July 1, 2016, PBF Energy took control of the Torrance refinery under the name, Torrance Refining Company LLC. The new refinery leadership gave the City and the Community its assurance they would run the plant safely and reliably to ensure the community is safe from refinery operations. PBF CEO, Tom Nimbley recognized publicly that The Torrance Refinery was always viewed as the best in the state and maybe best in the nation and he promised our community that it is PBF's intention to get it back to that level.

I'm happy to report that The Torrance Refining Company has demonstrated through its first three months of ownership are transparent in their operations and open in their communications.

The Fire Department continues to work closely with the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Office of Emergency Services on new State Refinery regulations. These mandated regulations will further ensure the safe operation of the Torrance refinery as well as all refineries throughout the State of California.

I want to thank our community for their patience and interest in refinery matters. The participation we have seen in meetings, the interaction we've had with so many of you, only demonstrates the pride and concern you have for our City. Our strong sense of community is why it's such an honor for me to be your Mayor.

In fact, next month I will be starting a series of “Torrance Town Halls with the Mayor.” I will be visiting different locations in Torrance to give an update to our residents on our City. A modified State of the City, my hope is to give our residents more insight to what is currently “in the works.”

We will be visiting the north end on October 27<sup>th</sup> at North High, the south east area at Hull Middle School on December 1st, then travel to the south, central and western areas after the holiday season. Stay tuned for more details!

Last year, I announced the return of the 4th of July Fireworks Show... and we made it happen! The City of Torrance once again saw a light show to celebrate our independence day! It was great to see our community come out, enjoy the show and display their patriotism. Like our annual Armed Forces Day Parade and Celebration, we hope to continue this reinvented tradition each year.

We are not perfect, this we know. We are tackling issues like the coyotes and integrating new owners of the Torrance Refinery... but we are not a City of catastrophe... We are a city of success. We’ve survived the economic downturn, we survived several months of the refinery not operating ... AND, we will survive the Toyota move.

While the future of the Toyota property is still somewhat unknown, we are ready to assist and work with Toyota when they are ready to move forward. The property continues to garner plenty of inquiries. It is a prime location and we are willing to facilitate in any way we can.

### **#WhyTorrance**

We recognize we are not the Big Dog of Los Angeles County. But why would we want to be? Old Torrance provides our city with a charming small town feel while our Kashiwa Sister City in Japan and international business partnerships demonstrate our great international reach.

We have residents and businesses that identify with the importance of reducing our carbon foot print and contribute to the advances in the industry. We continue to offer performing and fine arts that drive a crowd and sell out. Our abundance of culture and diversity illustrate that Torrance really has something to offer everyone. We are a location surrounded by enormous opportunities but remain a balanced city with open spaces. We have a rich history spanning over 100 years with a developing Boulevard providing modern flair.

So now.... I ask you... join me in sharing Why Torrance? *(Wait for a response)*

Why Torrance?  
*(Wait for a response)*  
Why Torrance?  
*(Wait for a response)*

Like resident Nataly and the Martinez Family, or business owner Dominic Iannitti and Doc Magic...

Help put us on the map!

Share with the world the treasures within Torrance.

Start the conversation.

Don't wait for them to ask... tell them...

#Why Torrance!

Again, I thank the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce for inviting me speak today, and to everyone in attendance today, the great people that make up our business community, thank you.

Thank you for exemplifying Why Torrance.

