

NURTURING GROWTH, FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

TORRANCE MAYOR GEORGE K. CHEN'S

STATE OF THE CITY

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2025 | 11:30 A.M.

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[INTRO VIDEO](#)

Good afternoon, everyone! On behalf of the City of Torrance and the Torrance City Council, thank you for joining me today. I am truly excited and humbled to deliver my 4th State of the City address as your Mayor. Before I get started, I'd like to introduce myself and all of my colleagues on the Torrance City Council in a brand new way.

[VIDEO - 01 - Elected Officials](#)

Our communications team filmed us at some of our favorite spots throughout the City, you can see the full videos on our YouTube channel. These videos show each of

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our elected representatives in their home turf, showing their unwavering dedication to the City of Torrance.

What you just saw also sets the stage for this year's address. It's another first for the city where you'll see more and hear less, so you can witness our growth over the past year.

But before we dive into it, I'd also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our federal, state, and county legislators and their representatives for their continued advocacy and steadfast support of our city's initiatives and policies, we deeply value your partnership and commitment.

I'd also like to thank our City Manager, Aram Chaparyan and City Attorney, Patrick Sullivan, along with the entire executive team and most importantly, our dedicated City employees. We have close to 1,750 City employees who work tirelessly to ensure Torrance runs efficiently, safely, and with care, often behind the scenes, and here's a recent employee family picnic where we got to celebrate them.

[VIDEO - 02 - Employee Picnic](#)

Another driving force here in the room is Donna Duperron and the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce. Thank you for being a mainstay, the nucleus in our

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business community, nurturing existing businesses while welcoming new ones. Donna recently mentioned in a meeting that she's been with the chamber for 25 years. That level of commitment is commendable. Let's give her a round of applause.

I'm also deeply grateful to all the generous sponsors whose support makes it possible to celebrate our vibrant business community at the annual State of the City address.

And lastly and most importantly, I want to say a special thank-you to my wife, Amy, and our two daughters for their unconditional love and support throughout this journey. Their encouragement is my greatest source of strength and inspiration.

CITY ON THE RISE

2024 marked a year of growth, reinvention, and resilience for our City. Torrance welcomed new businesses, celebrated international partnerships, and advanced projects that make our City safer, cleaner, attractive, more efficient, and resilient. We are laying a foundation for long-term success to *Nurture Growth while Focused on the Future*.

[VIDEO - 03 - Business Highlights](#)

When people ask what makes Torrance a great City, my answer is simple:

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We have it all. We are financially strong. We are safe. We are clean. We are business friendly. We are global.

And we are home to every imaginable retailer and service, from shopping, to dining, to everyday conveniences, world-class hospitals, access to quality education, and our own police and fire departments that go above and beyond every single day. We are strategically positioned for success and we are turning that vision into reality. Torrance is more than a typical city, some might call it a complete ecosystem, or what I like to call a Micro-Nation, as we have expanded our visibility domestically, and now globally.

That's why as your Mayor, my priorities have focused on the very pillars that sustain and grow this complete ecosystem: Financial Stability, Public Safety, practical accessible transportation , Educational Leadership, and Global Expansion.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

When I took office in 2022, the City was still emerging from a period of financial uncertainty but now our reserves stand strong.

Our reserves were dangerously low, hovering around \$581,000, we were rated 4th from the bottom of the state, and now we have moved way beyond that risk category. We are no longer in the red.

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Fast forward to today, thanks to disciplined fiscal management and strategic planning, we've transformed our financial outlook into a much stronger position. Our adopted 2025-2026 Operating budget is \$586.5M and our reserves now stand at \$131.5 million, a remarkable turnaround that underscores our commitment to financial planning and disciplined spending. Our reserves increased three additional zeros safeguarding our City against unforeseen crises, ensuring that we can protect services and support our community should we encounter unexpected circumstances.

I want to thank my colleagues and City staff for prioritizing disciplined spending and advancing economic development efforts that generate revenues. Together, we've positioned Torrance for long-term stability, financial strength, and confidence in our future.

Speaking of confidence, did you know that Torrance ranks 3rd in Los Angeles County for sales tax revenue, trailing only to Los Angeles and Long Beach? This demonstrates the strength of our diverse and thriving commercial base. Businesses want to come to Torrance.

The City's assessed property value has climbed to over \$42.1 billion, a 4.6% increase from last year. With a median home value of approximately \$1.2 million, these figures reflect sustained confidence in Torrance as a place to live, work, and invest.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety remains the cornerstone of everything we do, and Torrance continues to lead with innovation and community trust. It is our highest priority because without safety, neighborhoods can't thrive and businesses won't come and grow, and families won't stay. Here's a look at how the Torrance Police Department continues to set the standard for excellence.

[VIDEO - 04 - Safe & Secure](#)

The City currently has a \$4.7 million recruitment and retention program, one of the most competitive in the nation offering up to \$100,000 for experienced lateral officers and other bonuses for both sworn officers and civilian professional staff, ensuring we not only attract but retain the best talent in the field.

We also completed a multi-year rebranding of our marked police fleet, an employee-led effort that brought our vehicles' look and feel closer to the City's branding.

Continuing a common theme in the 21st Century is technology. It has been a driving force in transforming how we protect our City. One of our most significant achievements was the launch of the Real Time Response Center (RTRC), a state-of-the-art system integrating live data from 300 City-owned cameras, more than 1,400 TUSD school feeds, and nearly 100 automated license plate readers. This technology

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gives officers and analysts immediate situational awareness, enabling faster, more precise responses to crime.

Thanks to the Torrance Police Foundation, we're expanding to eight Drone Dock Stations across the City, mounted on the Police building and various fire stations, to enhance our Drone as First Responder program. This will dramatically expand coverage, reduce emergency response times, while deploying resources effectively.

We are also preparing to launch Fusus Connect, our new camera registry and live-feed sharing program with private businesses and residents. Pending finalization, this initiative will allow participants to register their cameras or share live feeds with law enforcement during critical incidents. The City has set aside \$20,000 to subsidize the first wave of small businesses and private parties who join, making it easier for the community to take part in the net. We are continuing to expand more cameras in the public areas to keep our community safe.

Along with our volunteers, these initiatives reflect a modern, community-centered approach to policing, rooted in innovation, transparency, and collaboration. And they send a clear message: in Torrance, public safety is a promise we keep, and will enforce.

We're also excited to share a big announcement today. Please join me in congratulating Bob Dunn who was appointed as Torrance's new Chief of Police.

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Chief Dunn brings an exceptional background in law enforcement and a proven record of leadership and community partnership. We are confident in his vision and experience and excited to see him lead the Torrance Police Department into the next chapter.

The Torrance Fire Department also had an extraordinary year, beginning in 2025, they responded to three of the region's most catastrophic wildfires. Here's a look into its highlights.

[VIDEO - 05 - Torrance Fire Highlights](#)

The team logged more than 16,000 incident responses in 2024, the most in our history, They maintained national accreditation and the elite ISO Class 1 Rating, upgraded our ambulance fleet with Advanced Life Support units and expanded coverage during peak hours. We also launched a Fire Drone Program, complementing the Police Department's drone capabilities while giving crews a new tool for rapid assessment, search and rescue, and hazard monitoring.

They also initiated wildfire prevention through the adoption of the Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps and community outreach, raising awareness, educating residents, and ensuring preparedness.

Public safety isn't only the responsibility of our uniformed departments, it's a shared mission. At a recent community preparedness event held at Pelican Products headquarters in Torrance, the company exemplified what it means to be a true

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partner in public safety. By sharing their expertise and resource, they helped educate, inspire and equip our community to be better prepared before disaster strikes. And they are all made in the U.S.A.

We also continue to grow National Night Out as it brings together neighborhood watch groups with first responders. This year we hosted six events, one in each district, and I had the opportunity to visit many of them. We even had the pleasure of welcoming LA County District Attorney Nathan Hochman when he made stops in Torrance. The turnout was inspiring, a true reflection of our community's commitment to looking out for one another.

We also strengthen safety through our volunteer programs, which support surveillance operations and disaster response planning, as well as through strategic partnerships with property owners, such as Simon Property Group, to enhance safety at our retail centers with the successful implementation of the Youth Supervision Policy at Del Amo Fashion Center.

This spirit of collaboration is what keeps Torrance strong, connected, and safe. Together, our public safety strategy is modern, responsive, and deeply rooted in community trust. Just a few weeks ago, the City of Torrance, in conjunction with Los Angeles County hosted a Proposition 36 Community Forum at City Hall, inviting the community to learn more about the recently passed measure.

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Prop 36 updates California's criminal justice laws to address repeat offenders and drug-related crimes more effectively, aiming to improve accountability and enhance community safety. The forum was well attended, providing valuable information, encouraging dialogue, and highlighting the strong collaboration between the City and the County D.A. It also reaffirmed a clear message: public safety and fighting crime remain top priorities for Torrance. With public safety priority at the forefront, businesses and investors are looking into establishing their businesses in Torrance which in turn generates revenues, which in turn gives the City the ability to provide quality services to the community.

We continue to do our part in addressing homelessness in our community. Since opening 3290 Temporary Housing Village on Civic Center Drive in 2022, we have connected 42 people experiencing homelessness with a permanent housing solution. Let's take a look at an example of a powerful story of how support, resources, and community care helped one individual find his way to success.

[VIDEO -06 - Homeless Outreach](#)

Thank you to all of our outreach workers and Community Lead Officers who continue to make a difference every day. I'm happy to share that we recently hired our 4th outreach worker and continue to collaborate with partners like Harbor Interfaith Services, Venice Family Clinic, and South Bay Cities Council of Governments who are critical in helping Torrance connect our people experiencing

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homelessness to services and housing. This past year, we were especially grateful to establish a new partnership with the Little Tokyo Service Center, helping ensure our services are culturally appropriate and accessible.

Our success would not be possible without the generosity of our community. From donating supplies during the Social Services Commission's annual toiletry drive, to supporting the Torrance Unified School District's back-to-school drive for unhoused and foster students, our residents continue to show up for one another. Our faith-based community also continues to grow, engaging churches, temples, and synagogues to be part of the solution.

Transportation & Infrastructure

Keeping Torrance moving, both literally and figuratively is critical to our economic vitality, connectivity, and our quality of life. Let's take a look at some of these highlights.

[VIDEO – 07 - Torrance Transit](#)

Since the launch of Connect Torrance micro transit, more than 15,500 rides have been completed, including 3,360 rides in August alone. Overall, Torrance Transit proudly served more than 2.4 million passenger trips last year, that's a an impressive 30% increase from the previous year, restoring service to pre-pandemic levels.

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We're also investing in the future of clean, sustainable transit with 24 new buses, 20 compressed natural gas, 2 battery electric and 2 hybrid electric buses which will enter service beginning in fiscal year 2026. A new heavy duty recharging infrastructure will support the electric buses and advance our zero-emission transit goals.

The long-awaited Red Trolley is making its return, bringing back a beloved legacy rubber-wheel service. The first prototype trolley has been completed and branded with service anticipated in 2026.

And thanks to the hard work of our General Services Department, the results of their efforts can be seen and felt all across the City. They're a big part of why we see so many EV charging stations at our City Parks and other City owned facilities. They also work alongside our Public Works Department who have been hard at work delivering projects that make Torrance cleaner, greener, and more connected

From increasing e-waste recycling events, to installing more than 13,000 new water meter registers to paving the way for the launch of a new water usage application coming in December that will help residents monitor and conserve water more easily. Let's take a look at some of their work in action.

[VIDEO – 08 - Public Works Highlights](#)

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We've also improved wayfinding and city pride with 24 new directional signs, the fabrication and installation of 572 new street name signs, and the addition of two new entryway monument signs, bringing our total to 17.

All of these upgrades aren't just about improving appearances, they're strategic investments in Torrance's future. With the 2026 FIFA World Cup, 2027 Superbowl, and LA28 Olympic and Paralympic Games on the horizon, we're ensuring our city is prepared to welcome the world. These improvements send a clear message to our residents, businesses, employees, and all visitors alike, that this is a safe, clean, and welcoming City that is worth investing.

We're also proud to share that one of our own corporate citizens, American Honda, headquartered right here in Torrance is the Founding Sponsor for the LA28 Olympics and Paralympic Games. Their Power of Dreams is what continues to fuel the innovation and mobility as well as these athletes who will be realizing their dreams on the world stage.

[VIDEO - 09 - Honda Announcement of LA28](#)

And when the worlds athletes, teams, and visitors arrive to train and compete, they'll have access to some of the finest healthcare in the region. Torrance Memorial Medical Center and Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center consistently

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rank among the nations best, offering advanced specialty care, cutting edge technology, and exceptional patient care. In addition, UCLA Health, Kaiser Permanente, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, and Optum bring unparalleled expertise in specialties ranging from sports medicine to complex surgery and cancer treatment. These renowned medical centers not only serve our residents every day, but also stand ready to support elite athletes and international guests, underscoring Torrance's readiness to welcome the world and host guests on the global stage.

[VIDEO – 10 - Hospital Highlights](#)

INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

Congratulations to Torrance Memorial on your centennial anniversary. Innovation is transforming how we serve Torrance, and our City's Information Technology Department, working closely with every department has delivered upgrades that make life easier, safer, and more connected for residents and businesses alike. For example, our newly upgraded MyTorranceCA Mobile App is now better than ever to keep you connected to the City. Just scan the QR code that you see on the screen.

The next release will introduce AI-powered capabilities and streamlined inspection scheduling, making it even easier for residents and businesses to connect with City services.

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Together, these advancements reflect our commitment to leveraging technology to modernize City operations while delivering tools that directly benefit the public and strengthen community connections.

EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP

Building a strong City isn't just about what we build, it's about who we build up. Now let's talk a little bit about education, from Torrance Unified School District to El Camino College and everything in between.

[VIDEO – 11 - Education Highlights](#)

With more than 22,000 students, employing close to 3,500 staff members, representing 74 languages and welcoming 66 international students on F1 Visa's, TUSD reflects the rich diversity of our City.

We're also fortunate to have our local private institutions such as Bishop Montgomery, Ambassador Christian, South Bay Christian School, First Lutheran, Switzer Learning Center and many more I'm sure I've missed but this helps round out our partners in education. And we continue to partner with higher education institutions like El Camino College and Cal State Dominguez Hills who continue to be tremendous partners and assets to our community.

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This past year, El Camino College launched Intern South Bay, connecting students with hands-on career experience alongside employers like the City of Torrance. ECC also made history by awarding its first-ever bachelor's degrees in respiratory care, and next spring, North Torrance High will graduate the first Early College cohort earning both a high school diploma and an associate degree. The El Camino College Foundation also awarded a record \$1 million in scholarships to more than 800 students. With top transfer rates to UC and CSU campuses, a powerhouse debate team, and even serving as a training site for the U.S. Olympic Women's Sand Volleyball Team, El Camino College continues to shape and strengthen the future of South Bay.

And just down the road, Cal State Dominguez Hills continues to shine as a leader in higher education, recognized nationally for social mobility and innovation. The university remains one of the top institutions in the nation for graduating first-generation students, and its accredited business and public administration programs are preparing the next generation of leaders across the region.

Together, these institutions highlight the South Bay's vital role in taking center stage with the LA Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2028. Torrance recently participated in a discussion with Cal State Dominguez Hills on the opportunities LA28 presents for workforce development, and innovation. With El Camino hosting Olympic training and Cal State Dominguez Hills leading conversations on the Games' lasting

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legacy, Torrance is proud to stand at the heart of a region that will welcome the world in 2028 and create lasting benefits for our community.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

The past year has been one of the busiest and most productive for our Office of Economic Development, a year that has strengthened Torrance's position as both a regional economic leader and a global player.

[VIDEO – 12 - Ribbon Cuttings](#)

Beyond retail and dining, we've championed expansions in aerospace, advanced manufacturing, electric vehicle technology, and hydrogen innovation.

One key example of that innovation was our work with Sares-Regis ownership and Air products to preserve one of the region's most reliable hydrogen fueling stations, right here in Torrance. By safeguarding this critical resource along the 405 corridor, we not only protected local access but also reinforce Torrance's position as a hub for mobility, where you can refuel or recharge regardless of the vehicle you choose to drive.

Together, these investments are building real momentum in Torrance. And with major international sporting events on the horizon, that momentum will only grow stronger. Visitors from across the globe will fill our restaurants, book our hotels, and

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shop in our stores. This is the moment to think creatively about how your business can be part of that wave.

Think about hosting your next team meal at local favorites like Brews Hall, Red Car, Gaetano's, or recommend a staycation at one of our conveniently located hotels, or plan a memorable excursion on the FlixBus, departing from the Torrance Regional Transit Center.

This economic momentum is matched by an unprecedented focus on international relations. Over the past year, we hosted delegations from Armenia, Austria, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Spain, Taiwan, and the list goes on.

We've signed a total of five Friendship City agreements, strengthened our Sister City relationship with Kashiwa, Japan, and celebrated cultural firsts such as the Irish Fair, the Lunar New Year Festival, and the Torrance Friendship Games.

[VIDEO – 13 - International](#)

Thank you to the Torrance families who hosted our international guests, as well as our partners at the Torrance Chamber, Discover Torrance (Debbie, your support never goes unnoticed!), the Torrance Unified School District, Toyota Hydrogen

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Solutions, Skechers, ITO EN, and our dedicated City staff who made sure our facilities looked their best and our guests experienced concierge-like hospitality!

If you haven't already, I invite you to follow the City's Instagram, Facebook and YouTube and stay connected. You'll find inspiring stories not just about the Friendship Games, but about all the exciting things happening across our City including the return of our hugely popular Summer Concert Series, made possible thanks to the Community Services Department and our presenting sponsor, the Torrance Refining Company. These concerts drew thousands of residents together to enjoy music, community, and summer evenings under the stars, showcasing how our corporate citizens play a big role in enhancing the quality of life for all.

You'll also see highlights from some of our high-profile events like the 88 Cities Summit hosted in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation or LAEDC. This was the First Time in their history to take this event outside of the City of LA. They loved the space at our Cultural Arts Center, the proximity of our location and the hospitality and support they received in planning their event here in Torrance.

[VIDEO - 14 - 88 Cities & Various Events](#)

As we look to the future, our Community Development Department is hard at work shaping what's next for Torrance. With our next chapter already taking shape, our

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growth story is far from over. Several exciting projects are currently under review, each bringing new energy, jobs, and amenities to our community. Soon, we could be welcoming Smoking Tiger Coffee and Lab at the former Seaside Palace location on Sepulveda Boulevard, and Prime Pizza in the same complex, adding fresh flavors and new gathering spots for residents and visitors alike.

On Hawthorne Boulevard, Five Below will take over the former Party City location, and Bath & Body Works is planning a new store just across the parking lot near the Boot Barn.

Athleisure brand Vuori, Ah-Low, and Aritzia are calling Del Amo Fashion Center Home, and by the way, did you know, Del Amo is one of the busiest shopping centers on the West coast with foot traffic comparable to Disneyland? Skechers opened their newest retail space at the corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Crenshaw Boulevard, bringing more retail variety to the area. And in the heart of Torrance, Grocery Outlet is set to breathe new life into the former S-Mart site on Torrance Boulevard, offering value and convenience to shoppers, that's just down the way from the newest Offset Coffee Shop in Downtown Torrance.

We're also looking forward to a new fueling station at Sam's Club on Skypark Drive and the arrival of Eat Fantastic on Western Avenue and Del Amo, adjacent to Torrance's own Brewery Row, both of which will serve the needs of our growing population and workforce.

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These projects reflect a continued confidence in Torrance as a place to invest and grow. They're more than just new businesses, they're new opportunities for economic vitality, community engagement, and a stronger local economy.

Our team takes every opportunity to showcase Torrance on the biggest stages, whether at the South Bay Economic Forecast Conference, Select LA, the Biocom Greater LA Life Science Forum, the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas where AFEELA's U.S. launch was announced, or the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) conferences in Las Vegas and New York City.

Last December, in the Big Apple, Torrance was featured on the NASDAQ digital billboard in the middle of Times Square alongside one of our valued corporate citizens, Navitas Semiconductor, in celebration of their 10th anniversary. It was a proud moment, not just for them, but for all of us who represent this City.

Through partnerships with the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, Discover Torrance, LAEDC, JETRO, KOTRA, KOSME, BioCom, UCLA's LA Best, LaunchStarz, and Global LA, we've expanded Torrance's reach to global investment, trade, and innovation networks.

Along with innovative organizations, I've had the great pleasure of meeting with international companies that proudly call Torrance their headquarters. These global

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leaders bring fresh ideas, cutting-edge technology, and strong business networks to our city.

[VIDEO – 15 - Foreign Business Highlights](#)

And as mentioned earlier, one of the new entryway signs is on Sartori Avenue in the form of an archway welcoming visitors with charm and identity. We held a ribbon cutting ceremony earlier this week and if you haven't seen it lit up at night, it's just another reminder of our ongoing commitment to making Torrance more beautiful, vibrant, and business ready.

We also marked significant development milestones, including the permit approvals for the Lennar - Madrona Del Amo project, a complex, years-long effort that will help define the future of housing in Torrance. The ongoing redevelopment of the Gable House property, and the upcoming Legacy Partners Apartments, represents a wave of transformative projects that will reshape our city's residential and mixed-use landscape for years to come.

Everything we've achieved is the result of teamwork between City leadership, our business community, residents, and regional partners. Torrance is no longer just a city on the map. We are a hub for finance, safety, infrastructure, education, economic growth, and global engagement. We are also actively preparing for the

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opportunities ahead with the FIFA World Cup in 26, Superbowl in 27 and the Olympics in 28. Start your trading pin designs now.

And now, the opportunity before us is greater than ever. The groundwork has been laid, the momentum is building, and the future is ours to shape. So, I invite you, our business leaders, our partners, our innovators to join us. Bring your vision, ideas, innovation, expertise, and your tenacity. Together, we will grow stronger companies, stronger industries, and a stronger Torrance.

Because here, growth isn't just encouraged, it's strategically planned. Let's build that future, together. Let's make the impossible, possible.

May God bless the City of Torrance. And may God bless the United State of America.

Thank you.

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