

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-67

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING
FIRE CAPTAIN/ASSISTANT FIRE MARSHAL
ROBERT W. GEBEL
UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY
AFTER THIRTY-NINE YEARS OF SERVICE**

- WHEREAS,** Robert Gebel began his career with the City of Torrance as a Firefighter on July 5, 1972, and subsequently served in the capacity of Firefighter/Paramedic from March 26, 1975. He promoted to Fire Captain on March 20, 1983, spending ten years in Operations and was assigned to the Fire Prevention Division as Assistant Fire Marshal on January 10, 1993; and
- WHEREAS,** as a young Firefighter/Paramedic, Bob showed enthusiasm and passion in his duties. He had a natural ability and calm demeanor for handling emergencies that instilled confidence and reassurance with the people around him at the emergency scene; and
- WHEREAS,** Bob was an outstanding Captain who always acted in the best interest of the City and citizens of Torrance. He maintained high morale and motivation by employing leadership traits that blended management skills with technical expertise; his professional conduct and personal ethics earned the respect of management, colleagues, and subordinates; and
- WHEREAS,** Assistant Fire Marshal Gebel made public safety a priority while assuring that the highest level of protection and service was provided. After three fire fatalities in 2002, he spearheaded the AB 2065, a Health and Care Facilities Fire Protection, and subsequently two other bills, through the State legislature for fire sprinklers in residential care homes for the elderly. The Elder Fire Sprinkler Protection Act became a highly successful, statewide public awareness campaign. Captain Gebel and his inspectors received recognition awards for their efforts. Unfortunately, two of the bills were vetoed; and
- WHEREAS,** Bob accepted his responsibilities for City fire and arson investigations in a serious and professional manner. A key player in our fire cause and investigation program, he was a 17-year participant on the South Bay Arson Control Team and assisted member cities in numerous major fire investigations; and
- WHEREAS,** Bob is an excellent communicator and very active in the fire prevention arena. He was co-founder of the Los Angeles Area Fire Marshals Association (LAAFMA) representing 78 cities in Los Angeles County. As a board member since 2001, he created an e-mail discussion forum serving over 950 fire prevention professionals in government agencies and cities. The list has become the premiere informational and resource tool for fire prevention safety professionals throughout California; and

WHEREAS, Captain Gebel continuously supervised the transition to the new fire codes. He always had harmonious relationships with various City departments he dealt with; successfully worked on business licenses and billing issues; developed with fire inspectors the most stringent fire protection company licensing and enforcement program in the state; and coordinated various workshops including an annual fire prevention fraud and awareness seminar for Torrance and South Bay businesses; and

WHEREAS, Captain Bob Gebel retired from the City's employment in October 2011. He provided 39 years of dedicated service to the City of Torrance and unselfishly used his expertise for maximum team performance to the benefit of the Fire Department and the citizens of Torrance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Torrance, California, does hereby commend, honor, and congratulate

ROBERT W. GEBEL

for his dedication, professionalism, and contributions to the City of Torrance while in our employ; and, be it further resolved, that Bob be wished a full and rewarding life in his retirement years after his valiant record years of long service.

INTRODUCED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 28th day of August 2012.

Mayor Frank Scotto

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
JOHN L. FELLOWS III, City Attorney

ATTEST:

by _____
Patrick Q. Sullivan
Assistant City Attorney

Sue Herbers, CMC
City Clerk