

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-54

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING AND COMMENDING
POLICE OFFICER KEITH THOMPSON
AS THE RECIPIENT OF A MEDAL OF VALOR AWARD**

- WHEREAS,** on July 7, 2007 at 12:30 a.m., a victim's vehicle was taken from her at gunpoint by a suspect. The victim stated the suspect opened her rear vehicle door, pointed a handgun at her and threatened her to get out of her vehicle. In fear for her life, the victim complied and exited her car. As the victim began to run, she observed a second suspect standing at the rear of her vehicle; and
- WHEREAS,** on the same date, a crime broadcast was made throughout the South Bay advising that a carjacking had occurred in the City of Hawthorne and that a male suspect took a lone female's vehicle at gunpoint. The broadcast further advised that there were possibly two suspects; and
- WHEREAS,** at 1:55 a.m., Torrance Police Officers located the carjacked vehicle at Reynosa Drive and Cabrillo Avenue driving without lights, possibly intending to commit another violent crime in the City of Torrance. Officers attempted to stop the vehicle and a pursuit ensued eastbound on Sepulveda Boulevard to the southbound 110 freeway. The pursuit was joined by Officer Thompson and his partner; and
- WHEREAS,** at the intersection of Gaffey Street and the 110 freeway, Officers attempted an unsuccessful P.I.T. maneuver on the suspect vehicle. The suspect re-entered the 110 freeway, now driving northbound. At this point, several Torrance PD units were in pursuit along with a LASD airship. During this time, the suspect was driving erratically at speeds in excess of 100 mph; and
- WHEREAS,** the suspect exited at Gage Avenue in Los Angeles and another unsuccessful P.I.T. maneuver was attempted. The suspect continued to drive at a high rate of speed attempting to elude officers in a residential neighborhood. With no regard for human life, the armed carjacking suspect drove at high speeds through residential streets and alleys; and

WHEREAS, when the suspect crashed into a parked vehicle, Officer Thompson feared the suspect would continue to flee in the carjacked vehicle and commit more violent crimes. Officer Thompson made the decision to place his life in harms way as he pinned the suspect's vehicle with his police unit. When the suspect exited the vehicle, Officer Thompson observed the suspect to be holding a silver handgun and crouched down. Fearing for his life and the life of his partners, Officer Thompson discharged his firearm, striking the suspect several times; and

WHEREAS, Officer Thompson is to be commended for his calm demeanor throughout the highly stressful incident. Officer Thompson placed himself in harms way to protect his partners and to apprehend a highly dangerous suspect.

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

KEITH THOMPSON

who, while acting to protect the citizens of Torrance, exemplified the highest traditions of the Torrance Police Department core values of service, excellence and pride, and most definitely exceeded what is routinely expected through his heroic act of bravery.

INTRODUCED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 22nd day of April 2008.

Mayor Frank Scotto

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
JOHN FELLOWS III, City Attorney

ATTEST:

by _____
Ronald T. Pohl, Assistant City Attorney

Sue Herbers, City Clerk