

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-86

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING
FIRE CHIEF RICHARD V. BONGARD
UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY
AFTER THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE**

- WHEREAS,** Richard Bongard began his career with the City of Torrance as a Firefighter on February 6, 1978 after graduating from Bishop Montgomery High School and obtaining a degree in business administration from Loyola Marymount University. Rick's passion, experience and skills earned him promotions to the ranks of Fire Captain in June 1991, Battalion Chief in December 1994, and to his current position as Fire Chief on July 19, 1998; and
- WHEREAS,** as a Firefighter, Rick showed dedication and eagerness in his duties; he was a role model and a great motivator. In 1979, he received a commendation for showing courage by crawling into a wrecked vehicle exposing himself to and providing reassurance to a gasoline soaked victim where the chance of ignition threatened them both; and
- WHEREAS,** Rick was a strong voice in TFFA negotiations from 1979-1995, and was awarded the TFD Firefighter of the Year in 1985. He was a major presence and a team leader on the South Bay Firefighters Charity Football Team. He was also the President of TFFA Local 1138 from 1991 to 1994, and an engaged member of the California Professional Firefighters and the International Association of Firefighters; and
- WHEREAS,** as a Fire Captain, Rick expanded his leadership and knowledge that became a strong foundation for his career in Fire Service. He functioned as a recruit training captain preparing many of our personnel to be successful members of the department. Rick received numerous commendations from the Fire Chief and from external organizations for his high level of service. As Battalion Chief, Rick served as Platoon Commander with a tireless advocacy for fire safety, and later as the Administrative Chief with extensive responsibility for the Department's budget administration, recruitment and training; and
- WHEREAS,** under Rick's guiding expertise and leadership, the following accomplishments ascertain his strengths as the Torrance Fire Chief:
- Reorganization and implementation of the Fire Department's ten operation programs;
 - Completed remodels of Station 2 and Station 5;
 - Consolidation of Police and Fire Communications. Dispatch operations are now co-located in one Public Safety Communications Center;
 - Improved the response time and reliability of emergency communications through the installation of high-tech automatic vehicle location devices integrated with the CAD system;
 - Received more than a dozen grants to fund and enhance equipment and services to further protect lives and properties;
 - Upgraded Engine 92 from Basic Life Support (BLS) to Advance Life Support (ALS) and added Paramedic Rescue unit at Station 5;

- Implemented 12-LED electrocardiogram (ECG) capability and partnered with local hospitals to provide STEMI Center capability;
- Dedicated to improving the delivery of pre-hospital care, a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) program for the EMS program;
- Implemented a neighborhood oriented citizen training program, CERT, to assist Torrance families and neighbors following a disaster. TFD trained more than 400 community members by end of 2007;
- After a deadly fire in our City, Rick actively supported legislation to address the fire sprinkler systems of residential care facilities for the elderly throughout California;
- Implemented the Safe House and Safe Surrender program for unwanted infants at all Torrance Fire Stations;
- Functioned as the Liaison to the Los Angeles Area Fire Marshals Association (LAAFMA) representing the Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs;
- Provided leadership and direction as the senior member of the South Bay Fire Chiefs.

WHEREAS, Rick grew from the ranks up to and including Fire Chief with clear vision of the Department’s future. Under his leadership, the Department has excelled. With his integrity, commitment to excellence, and strength of disposition, Rick earned the deep respect and trust of his colleagues and those he led; and

WHEREAS, Fire Chief Rick Bongard provided over 30 years of dedicated service to the City of Torrance and has unselfishly used his experience 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 retiring Fire Chief

RICHARD V. BONGARD

for his dedication, professionalism, and contributions to the City of Torrance while in our employ; and, be it further resolved, that Chief Bongard be wished a full and rewarding life in his retirement years.

INTRODUCED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 24th day of June 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