RESOLUTION NO. 2010-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HONORING *FIREFIGHTER ROBERT K. PETERSON* UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY AFTER THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

WHEREAS, Robert Peterson began his career with the City of Torrance as a Firefighter on August 27, 1979. Always a "B-Shifter", he was assigned to various engine companies and was routinely offered move-up assignments to Captain due to his competent decision-making ability; and

WHEREAS, Firefighter Peterson, fondly known as "Bob Pete" to his co-workers, is one of the original members of the department's Hazardous Materials (Haz Mat) team from its inception in 1987. Bob developed and implemented policies and procedures used to handle hazardous materials inventory and special equipment training. He helped establish the team's original operational guidelines and training programs, and several of the Standard Operating Guidelines used to this day; and

WHEREAS, Bob Pete has great concern for our environment and practices what he preaches, both as a professional, in his role as a Haz Mat team member, and in his personal life, by logging thousands of miles riding a bicycle to work for many years; and

WHEREAS, Firefighter Peterson took his own initiative when he saw a need to improve the Haz Mat program. He had a strong understanding and background of Haz Mat policies and procedures at both local and state levels. His involvement, perseverance, and effective communication were instrumental in developing one of the Hazardous Materials response programs; and

WHEREAS, Bob Pete assured that the team had the equipment necessary to provide service to the community. He was safety-conscious and demonstrated a high level of initiative and calmness in emergency actions. Bob assisted in evaluating the type of Haz Mat response vehicle needed by the team and was instrumental in the design, purchase and configuration of Fire's current Haz Mat response vehicle; and

WHEREAS, Firefighter Peterson constantly improved his own knowledge base and was a mentor to many Firefighters in the training and operations of Haz Mat. He was a tireless worker who put in extra hours every day on projects to benefit the City. His good nature and sincere personality made him a valuable member of the Department; and

WHEREAS, Firefighter Peterson was a recipient of a Sustained Superiority Award at the 2009 Medal of Valor ceremony honoring his many years of outstanding service as a Hazardous Materials Response team member, and recognizing his contributions, leadership, and commitment to the Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Bob received numerous commendations from the Fire Chief and the public for his dedication to the fire service. On April 17, 1986, Firefighter Peterson responded to a call of "shots fired" at Cravens and Marcelina in downtown Torrance. As more gunfire broke out and a Torrance Police Officer was reported "down", knowing that he himself faced the possibility of being shot, Firefighter Peterson crawled into the line of fire, helped place the wounded officer on a backboard, and moved himself and the wounded officer back to a safe area. Bob received a commendation for his heroic action and exemplary conduct, which are reflective of his commitment to the safety of our community; and

WHEREAS, Firefighter Peterson retired from the City's employment on December 9, 2009. He provided 30 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 retired Firefighter

ROBERT K. PETERSON

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.

INTRODUCED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of January 2010.

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Mayor Frank Scotto

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
JOHN FELLOWS III, City Attorney

ATTEST:

by _____
Patrick Q. Sullivan, Deputy City Attorney

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Sue Herbers, City Clerk