

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** the City of Torrance recognizes with great pride, Joe Bonchonsky, Sr., who was one of the pioneers of the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO); and
- WHEREAS,** in 1964, the first AYSO league started with nine teams, four teams in Torrance and five teams in Culver City. Under the guidance and vision of Joe Bonchonsky, Sr., the league rapidly grew to eight AYSO regions in the South Bay; and
- WHEREAS,** Joe Bonchonsky, Sr. conducted the first-ever coaching clinic and the AYSO Refereeing School for South Bay AYSO region; and
- WHEREAS,** for many years, Joe refereed not only AYSO games, but also High School, College, and Professional games. Joe Bonchonsky, Sr. has written over 100 articles for Soccer West and Soccer America National Magazine and authored the referee book, "So You Want to be a Ref," which was published in the "Soccer America Weekly Magazine"; and
- WHEREAS,** Joe Bonchonsky, Sr. served AYSO and the community in a variety of capacities, including Commissioner of 16 teams "Under 10" South Bay Division 1968-1969, South Bay Region Assistant Commissioner 1969-1973, President of the first AYSO South Bay Parents' Organization, first President of Torrance Youth Sports Program, and President of Southern California Soccer Officials Association (High School and College), Public Address Announcer at West Torrance High School Men's Soccer games and for the Los Angeles Aztecs Professional Soccer Team; and
- WHEREAS,** Joe Bonchonsky, Sr. and sons built over 200 sets of soccer goal posts for most every school and park in the South Bay, and as far north as San Luis Obispo and south to San Diego; and
- WHEREAS,** thanks to its pioneers, AYSO has more than 50,000 teams, more than 650,000 players and is supported by more than 250,000 parents across the nation, who passionately dedicate their time and talents as coaches, referees, team parents, administrators and sponsors.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRANK SCOTTO, as Mayor of the City of Torrance, California, do hereby honor, commend and express sincere appreciation to

JOE BONCHONSKY, SR.

for his outstanding contributions and dedicated service to the youth of the community. Joe Bonchonsky, Sr. has made a positive and lasting impact on many lives and serves as an inspiration for all citizens.

Signed this 25th day of May 2010.

Mayor Frank Scotto

ATTEST:

Sue Herbers, City Clerk