



## Volunteer's Q & A

*This section is intended to provide answers to questions asked by our volunteers. Please send your questions to Laura Lohnes at [llohn@TorranceCA.gov](mailto:llohn@TorranceCA.gov) and we'll do our best to get answers. For this inaugural issue, staff has provided some answers to frequently asked questions regarding fingerprinting of volunteers.*



### **Why do I have to get Fingerprinted?**

In October, 2002, the City Council passed a Resolution requiring all volunteers and contract employees to be fingerprinted. The goal was to provide the greatest protection to everyone who uses city services. In addition, several state laws require fingerprinting for any volunteer or employee having supervisory or disciplinary control over a minor, elderly, or mentally disabled individual.

### **Where do I get fingerprinted?**

Volunteers can get their fingerprints taken at North Torrance Police Substation at McMaster Park, 3624 Artesia Boulevard. This is the only police facility in Torrance that provides public fingerprinting services. Fingerprint applications can be obtained at 3231 Torrance Boulevard, and appointments are mandatory for fingerprinting.

### **Is fingerprinting messy or uncomfortable?**

The old method of inked fingerprinting is now a thing of the past. The Live Scan system digitally captures your fingerprints, and through a high speed computer line, sends the fingerprints electronically to the State Department of Justice (DOJ). However, it takes some time to get a good image on Live Scan, so be prepared to spend 20 to 30 minutes at your fingerprint appointment.

### **I am old and I no longer have fingerprints, do I still need to have fingerprints taken?**

Unfortunately, the lack of fingerprint ridges can be quite a problem among senior citizens and can cause a failure notice to be generated by the DOJ. The DOJ also requires two failures before they will do a name and social security search. To volunteer for the City, our current policy dictates that the background of all volunteers must be verified by a fingerprint submission to the DOJ. We do sympathize with the hardship that can result from poor ridges.

### **If I have any sort of conviction, then I cannot be considered for volunteer work?**

The City will analyze each conviction and determine if it is related to the nature of the volunteer work you are seeking. The City will also consider how much time has elapsed since the time of conviction. There are certain types of convictions that will immediately disqualify a candidate from volunteer work. If you have questions about your conviction history, please call (310) 618-2967 and staff will assist you.



## About Your City Government

On Thursday, May 21, 2009, Mayor Frank Scotto presented his 2009 State of the City Address. In his speech, he outlined that despite the economic conditions and budget cutbacks from the state the City is still financially stable.

As he stated in his speech, "As we consider the uncertain future, we will continue to take a conservative approach with our finances. We've always been prudent with our spending, and are consistently looking for ways to be efficient as we address the needs of the community. Torrance maintains a balanced budget for the year 2008-2009."

Other highlights of the speech included the Mayor's following announcements:

- We have projects that will now be funded by the receipt of federal stimulus funds for the rehabilitation of Crenshaw Boulevard, which is in design phase; and up to ten new buses for our aging transit fleet. This is going to help modernize our aging bus fleet. The new buses will not only benefit riders, but also the environment, as they will be the new generation of hybrids.
- The introduction of "Focus Based Policing" in the Torrance Police Department to enhance the relationship with the community and improve the way front-line police services are delivered. As a result, in January 2010, Team Policing will be implemented that will create new geographic boundaries for patrol officers bringing more of them to our streets when they are most needed.
- The need for a fifth paramedic unit in our Fire Department arose, and we were able to accomplish this through the redistribution of existing personnel.
- The ranking of Torrance as the 4th safest city in Los Angeles County and the 23rd safest city in the United States with populations of over 100,000.
- The completion of the citywide traffic study and the approval of funding to create a Traffic Management Center, a project with Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, to allow City staff to constantly monitor traffic conditions.
- The rehabilitation of two main thoroughfares: Torrance Boulevard and 190th Street.
- The remodel of the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library to ensure earthquake safety including the renovated Library Meeting Room. This project is being followed by improvements of all the other branch libraries.
- The formation of an Ethics and Integrity Committee to create an ethics plan and guidelines for the City Council, City management, and all City employees.

In his Address, Mayor Frank Scotto assured the community that "...as Mayor of the City of Torrance, the City will do its part to be stewards of the resources we have. We will continue to be prudent managers over these resources so we can address the needs of our growing community." He ended his remarks with challenge to everyone to find "creative ways to help one another! Now more than ever, I say we cannot do it alone."

To view Mayor Scotto's 2009 State of the City Address, you may watch it on CitiCABLE Channel 3 or visit [www.TorranceCA.Gov](http://www.TorranceCA.Gov).

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