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# CITY OF TORRANCE

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

**MICHELLE G. RAMIREZ**  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTOR

## **FAKE PERMIT FEE NOTICES**

The City of Torrance is warning property owners and developers to be alert for a scam in which criminals impersonate city staff to request fraudulent payments of permit fees.

Scammers are using publicly available permit information — such as property addresses, application numbers, and the names of officials — to send convincing emails that appear legitimate. These emails may include professional formatting, detailed permit information, and attached invoices requesting payment via wire transfer, peer-to-peer payment services, or cryptocurrency. Messages often emphasize urgency and warn that delays in payment could affect the permitting process.

Please do not pay these fees, as it is not a legitimate request. The City of Torrance would never request a wire transfer, peer-to-peer payment services, or cryptocurrency.

### **Please take the following precautions:**

- Do not assume an email is legitimate based on letterhead, logos, or official names.
- Verify the sender's email address and domain carefully. All Torrance emails end in [@TorranceCA.gov](mailto:@TorranceCA.gov).
- Confirm any payment requests by contacting the City's Permit Center directly at (310) 618-5910 or via email at [cddinfo@TorranceCA.gov](mailto:cddinfo@TorranceCA.gov).

If you believe you have received a fraudulent message or have been a victim of this scam, please report it to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at <https://www.ic3.gov/>. Please include any relevant email details and payment information.