

Thank you, LeRoy Jackson

Last Tuesday, LeRoy Jackson, long time City Manager was recognized. The Torrance City Council, department heads, staff, legislators, and residents paid tribute to Jackson who is retiring at the end of this month.

Jackson began his career with the City of Torrance in 1966 as a Personnel Analyst. After serving in various capacities on the City Manager's staff, LeRoy was appointed City Manager in 1983, becoming the fourth City Manager in Torrance.

"LeRoy's successful leadership style incorporates teamwork and humility as its cornerstone. He gives all the credit to our elected officials and to his staff. For this reason, he has been able to work with all the different personalities for all these years," stated Kirk Rossberg, Chairman of the Board.

Jackson is said to be one of the longest tenured City Managers in the State of California, if not the country. "LeRoy allowed the Council to take the lead and set the agenda. Yes, he gently nudged Council in certain directions but he let the elected officials set the agenda on major issues that faced the community and then he did a masterful job of executing whatever the council decided. He was also masterful at keeping the budget in check, even when his councils wanted to spend more than was prudent. LeRoy never held a grudge and he always looks forward, never backwards," commented Don Lee, former Chairman of the Board and former Torrance City Councilmember.

Jackson met quarterly with chamber leadership, for decades, to forge a relationship with the business community. "I first met LeRoy when I became active with the Torrance Chamber of Commerce. He was always cordial and had this downhome smile on his face which radiated confidence. When I became President of the Chamber, we would have quarterly meetings with LeRoy. These meetings were informative as they provided an understanding on how each organization could provide a mutual benefit. LeRoy has made Torrance a better place and his leadership will be deeply missed," said Bill Oberholzer, former Chamber President.