FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF

September 25, 2012

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: **Commission on Aging and Community Services** – Accept and File the 2011-2012 Commission on Aging Annual Report.

Expenditure: None

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Commission on Aging and the Community Services Director that City Council Accept and File the 2011-2012 Commission on Aging Annual Report.

BACKGROUND

The City of Torrance's *Commission on Aging* serves the City Council and the community by identifying problems and matters of concern affecting Torrance's senior population.

The Commission meets at 9:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center. All meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to address the Commission with any concerns of the Torrance senior community.

The *Commission on Aging* provides an Annual Report to the City Council that identifies highlights of the Commission's activities from the past year.

ANALYSIS

The *Commission on Aging's* Annual Report for July 2011 through June 2012 as prepared by the Commission is provided as Attachment A. The Commission approved this Annual Report at its August 14, 2012 meeting. Attachment B is an excerpt from the meeting minutes.

Commissioners and City staff are available should there be any questions or requests for additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMISSION ON AGING

Leilani A. Kimmel-Dagostino
2011-12 Chairperson

CONCUR:

JOHN JONES
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

By _____
Richard Brunette
Recreation Services Manager

JOHN JONES
Community Services Director

NOTED:

LeROY J. JACKSON
City Manager

Attachments: A) 2011-12 Commission on Aging Annual Report.
B) Excerpt of Item 8 of Commission on Aging Minutes dated 08-14-2012.

ATTACHMENT A

Torrance Commission on Aging
2011-2012 Annual Report

Purpose of the Commission

The Commission on Aging is comprised of seven residents of Torrance who act to identify those problems affecting the senior population, and to serve as a liaison to the City Council.

The Commission on Aging meets the second Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center. All meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to address the Commission on Aging with matters of concern to the senior community.

Membership of the Commission on Aging

We began the 2011-12 year with six members as Barbara Cardella had submitted her resignation on April 1, 2011. She was replaced by Kathleen Davis on January 24, 2012. We held steady until April 9, 2012 when Wallace Draper tendered his resignation. He was replaced on June 12, 2012 by Ghislaine Davis.

Current Membership:

MEMBER	STATUS	APPOINTED
Chet Craft	General Representative	2006
Ghislaine Davis	General Representative	2012
Kathleen Davis	General Representative	2012
Leilani Kimmel-Dagostino, Chair	General Representative	2009
Lynda Kraemer, Vice Chair	General Representative	2009
Judith Robelotto	General Representative	2010
Bea Virobik	General Representative	2010

Highlights 2011-2012

On February 2, 2012, the Torrance Kiwanis Club awarded a *Certificate of Recognition* to the Commission on Aging for their commitment to meeting a need in the community by taking on the challenges that afflict the less fortunate. The award was presented by Mayor Frank Scotto at the Torrance Kiwanis Club's annual *Celebration of Community* Luncheon.

In March, 2012, through the Commission on Aging's efforts spearheaded by Bea Virobik and Councilwoman Susan Rhilinger, in collaboration with the National League of Cities, a free *Prescription Discount Card* was made available to Torrance residents

who are without health insurance, a traditional benefits plan, or have prescriptions that are not covered by insurance. This card affords an average savings of 23% off the regular retail price of prescription drugs at participating pharmacies.

Commissioner Leilani Kimmel-Dagostino attended an Inspection Trip of the State Water Project and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta on April 27 and 28, 2012 sponsored by the Metropolitan Water District and the City of Torrance in order to learn more about the Torrance Municipal Water Supply.

In keeping with tradition, Mayor Scotto issued a proclamation designating May, 2012 as *Older Americans Month*. In conjunction with Older Americans Month, the Commission selected Torrance Transit Ambassadors Marcy Taguchi and Edith Stieglitz and former Councilwoman Hope Witkowsky to be recognized for their volunteer efforts. They were honored by the City of Torrance at the May 8, 2012 meeting of the City Council. In addition, Hope Witkowsky was honored by Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe at a reception held at the Hahn Hall of Administration on May 30, 2012.

Commissioner Kathleen Davis served on the Youth Council Selection Committee on June 7 and 8, 2012.

Three Commission members: Ghislaine Davis, Lynda Kraemer, and Leilani Kimmel-Dagostino currently serve on the ExxonMobil Citizens Advisory Panel.

Commissioners Judith Robelotto and Leilani Kimmel-Dagostino will be serving on Congresswoman Janice Hahn's Senior's Advisory Council. The purpose of the Council is to advise the Congresswoman on key issues that are important to seniors, such as health care and Social Security, and also to provide feedback on legislation.

Community Programs

The *19th Annual Health and Resource Fair* presented by the Torrance Community Services Department and the Salvation Army, Torrance Corps was held on September 17, 2011 at the Salvation Army site located at 4223 Emerald Street.

The *2nd Annual Senior Prom* was held on April 13, 2012 at the Ken Miller Recreation Center.

The *Successful Aging Expo* was held on May 12, 2012 at the Torrance Marriott Hotel for the 4th year. More than 4,000 people attended the event. May 12 also marked the date for the *13th Annual Senior Faire*, sponsored by the Torrance Community Services Department and held at the Ken Miller Recreation Center.

In response to seniors' concerns regarding fee increases to the *Torrance Travelers* Excursion Program, the Commission on Aging sent a letter to Mayor Scotto and members of the City Council concerning a revalidation of the current pricing levels. In addition, Commissioner Leilani Kimmel-Dagostino addressed the Council on May 8, 2012 during a Budget Workshop regarding this issue. Feedback from tour participants is also being compiled. The City Council Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee will address the issue at their August 13, 2012 meeting.

Elder Abuse/Fraud

The Torrance Police Department and the Community Services Department continued to sponsor the *'Seniors Don't Be Scammed'* series highlighting fraud protection and prevention information for seniors. The series is presented at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library. The Health and Elder Law Program (HELP) organization also sponsored Life Planning Classes at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

Commissioner Chet Craft kept the Commission abreast of several internet and telephone scams. He currently teaches a computer class for seniors at the Carson Senior Center.

Safety and Emergency Planning

Three Commissioners are Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members and serve as Disaster Service Volunteers for the City of Torrance. They have assisted the City by participating in Disaster Drills, the Armed Forces Day activities, the Fire Department's Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, the Torrance Police Memorial Ceremony, the Senior Holiday Luncheon, and the B-17 Bomber "Salute to Veterans 2012 Tour" at Zamperini Field.

At the Commission meeting on August 9, 2011, Sergeant Jennifer Uyeda presented information on the Torrance Police Department's *Return Home Registry* program which was free to the public and designed to assist officers in locating lost or wandering persons when they go missing from their home or caregivers. Police Officer Erik Eidet reported that the Department receives 5 to 8 calls per month for missing persons, both children and the elderly.

Commissioners Leilani Kimmel-Dagostino and Kathleen Davis attended the South Bay Cities Council of Governments *13th Annual General Assembly Meeting* on February 24, 2012 which focused on preventing disasters and planning for recovery. The meeting was open to elected officials, their staff and City Commissioners.

On March 8, 2012, the Torrance CERT hosted a meeting at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library, open to the public, on *Emergency Preparedness at Torrance Memorial Hospital and Providence Little Company of Mary Hospital,* featuring Judy Retter from TMMC and Chris Riccardi from PLCM.

On May 1, 2012, CERT members, in conjunction with the Torrance Police Department, blanketed homes in North Torrance with flyers warning of burglary and distraction scams. Because of this awareness program, several arrests of suspects were made.

At the Commission meeting on May 18, 2012, Kathi Galbasin, CERT Volunteer Coordinator, gave a presentation on *Disaster Preparedness for Seniors* which included information on the *CERT* program, *Map Your Neighborhood* program, the *Neighborhood Watch* program, and the written *Disaster Plan for Seniors* which is posted on the City website.

CERT conducted a disaster drill at the Bartlett Senior Center on June 14, 2012 which focused on dealing with a disaster in a downtown area with a large senior citizen population.

Focal Point on Aging

The Torrance Focal Point on Aging continues to receive favorable recognition from Torrance residents as well as those in surrounding communities. The Focal Point Program has now been in existence for 16 years and continues to assist the senior citizens population by addressing their concerns on a myriad of issues.

This year 1,379 calls for assistance were handled by Focal Point volunteers and 186 or 36% of the documented calls were regarding affordable senior rental housing. In addition, Focal Point volunteers participated in numerous Health and Resource Fairs and the program was featured in local newspapers and magazines. Detailed information can be found in the Focal Point attachment.

The 15th edition of the *Senior Service Directory*, a valuable resource for seniors, their families, and caregivers, is on the City of Torrance website and hard copies were distributed to various community agencies serving older adults as well as all City Departments. The directory was developed and is updated annually by Bea Virobik and Focal Point volunteers.

Bea Virobik continued to coordinate the Focal Point Program and her tremendous efforts are to be commended. She presents updated statistics, accomplishments, and community outreach at our meetings each month.

Affordable Housing for Seniors

On August 23, 2011, the City Council appropriated funding in the amount of $72,000 from the Reserve for Program Contingencies for 60 subsidies for the *Senior Mobile Home Space Rent Subsidy Program* for an additional year. There are currently 50 families participating in the program and six or seven pending applications. The funding is only available for 60 subsidies of $100/month. The three participating mobile home parks are South Bay Estates, Del Amo Gardens, and the Torrance Mobile Home Park.

The Commission on Aging is continuing to follow City Council negotiations with Meta Housing Corporation for the mixed use work force affordable housing project at 1640 Cabrillo Avenue.

Transportation

At the November 8, 2011 Commission on Aging meeting, a problem regarding obtaining senior taxi service vouchers was discussed. This involved the presentation of a utility bill with a spouse's name on it in order to prove residency. It was recommended that both spouses have their names on their utility accounts to avoid problems after the death of a spouse. A reminder about utility accounts was then placed in the next issue of the Young Seniors (5-0 and on the Go) Newsletter.

The City now has 20 compressed natural gas buses and 10 hybrid electric buses, with plans to receive 8-10 more compressed natural gas buses later this summer. The Transit Ambassadors Team has done an outstanding job in promoting transit to our senior citizens population.

Health

The City of Torrance hosted a free Flu Vaccination Clinic at the Ken Miller Recreation Center on November 7, 2011. There were 430 participants who took advantage of the opportunity to receive a free vaccination.

Vickie Hershberger, Wellness Educator at Torrance Memorial Medical Center, often attends Commission meetings and keeps Commission members abreast of the many programs and services offered for seniors at the hospital. They offered two free CPR classes on October 1, 2011 and the hospital is undergoing a large expansion.

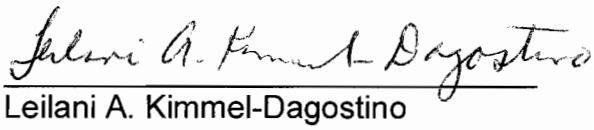
Farrah Benedict from Home Instead has regularly attended our meetings and provided valuable information regarding their programs and services for seniors.

Former Commissioner Irene Griffith, a member of LA County Commission on Aging (LACCOA), regularly attends our meetings and advises us of the services, programs, and challenges in LA County.

Conclusion

The Commission is indebted to the City Council and the City Staff for their support and assistance in making the Commission on Aging a viable force for the senior citizens community. The Commission on Aging gives special thanks to Suzie Wand, Staff Liaison for her continued guidance and support and to the Commission's Recording Secretary Ellen Seaman.

Respectfully submitted,



Leilani A. Kimmel-Dagostino
2011 - 2012 Chairperson
Torrance Commission on Aging

Submitted by: Bea Virobik, Office Manager, **Focal Point on Aging**
Russ Nolte Annex of the Bartlett Senior Center
1339 Post Avenue
Torrance, CA 90501

Focal Point Annual Report
June 30, 2011 - June 30, 2012

Our staff of dedicated volunteers at the Focal Point on Aging office have been assisting and referring seniors and their families to community resources for the past 16 years. The office is open 6 hours a day, 5 days a week. Our volunteers "go the extra mile" by placing follow up calls to each client, making sure the referrals were appropriate. In the past year, two of our volunteers received special recognition from the Torrance City Council. Monthly meetings of our volunteers are conducted, with invited guest speakers. The meetings also provide an opportunity to discuss challenges, experiences and do problem-solving.

Statistics:

- 520 calls to Focal Point that required documentation and follow up
- 859 miscellaneous calls without documentation
- 186 or 36 % of documented calls for affordable senior rental housing
- 1379 total calls for the year

Past year accomplishments/ Community outreach

- Participation in 8 Health and Community Fairs
- 13 presentations to senior community organizations and churches
- 15th edition of the Service Directory published containing more than 829 entries of senior resources with distribution to service providers in the community; can also be accessed at http://www.torranceca.gov/Parks/Documents/FOCALPOINTDIRECTORY20122013.pdf.
- On-going networking at places of worship, senior centers and residences
- Support and donations of food and sundry items to low-income seniors in Spa 8. This is the service area in the County that includes all South Bay cities, Inglewood, and Long Beach.
- Volunteers regularly staff a table at the Torrance Farmers' Market
- Fourth year of participation in the Successful Aging Expo, usually attended by more than 4000 people
- Monthly volunteer staff meeting with guest speakers
- Focal Point services published in magazines and newspapers such as: H.E.L.P newsletter, Torrance Tribune and Daily Breeze newspapers, Senior Life, Homeowners Association newsletters, libraries, and the City of Torrance website

Goal for 2012-2013: Continue to provide quality services to our seniors and pursue affordable rental or shared housing options.

ATTACHMENT B

EXCERPT OF MINUTES	☐ ~~Minutes Approved~~ √ **Minutes Subject to Approval**

August 14, 2012

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on August 14, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

Present:	Commissioners Craft, G. Davis, Kimmel-Dagostino, Kraemer, Robelotto, Virobik, and Chairperson K. Davis
Absent:	None
Staff:	Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino noted that on page 2, under Highlights, it should read Commissioner Ghislaine Davis, not Commissioner Kathleen Davis.

MOTION: Commissioner Robelotto moved and Commissioner Craft seconded, to approve the Annual Report, as amended. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

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SUBJECT TO APPROVAL