

Council Meeting of
October 24, 2006

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

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: Community Services – Approve Commission on Aging 2005-2006
Annual Report**

RECOMMENDATION

The Community Services Director and the Commission on Aging recommend that Your Honorable Body accept and file the Commission on Aging 2005-2006 Annual Report.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS

The Annual Report for July, 2005 through June, 2006, as prepared by the Commission on Aging is attached for your information and review. The Commission approved this report at its meeting of October 10, 2006, and asked staff to transmit it to Council.

Respectfully submitted,

GENE BARNETT
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

By Cindy Snodgrass
for Suzie Ward, Sr. Recreation Supervisor
Liaison to Commission on Aging

CONCUR:

Gene Barnett
Gene Barnett
Community Services Director

NOTED:

LeRoy J. Jackson
LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachment: A) Excerpt of Minutes of October 10, 2006 – Item 9
B) Commission on Aging 2005-2006 Annual Report

ATTACHMENT A**EXCERPT OF MINUTES**

- Minutes Approved
 Minutes Subject to Approval

October 10, 2006

***MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON AGING*****1. CALL TO ORDER****2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Breaker, Craft, Clutter, Dean, Griffith,
Virobik, and Callen

Excused Absent: Commissioner Cardella

Staff: Wand

8. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT

MOTION: Commissioner Dean moved to approve the 2005-2006 Commission on Aging Annual Report with one change as noted by Virobik: *"This year, over 1,600 calls for assistance were handled by 12 Focal Point volunteers."* Commissioner Craft seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Torrance Commission on Aging 2005-2006 Annual Report

Purpose of the Commission

The Commission on Aging is currently comprised of eight residents of Torrance who act to identify those problems affecting the senior population, and to act 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

Following the resignation of Edward "Ted" Doty in January, 2006, the Commission on Aging voted overwhelmingly in favor of recommending reducing the number of Commission members to seven in order to be consistent with other City Commissions. It was further recommended that the membership be reduced through attrition and that all members be considered "General Representatives."

Current Membership:

MEMBER	STATUS	FIRST APPOINTED
Charles Breaker	Walteria Senior Citizens Club	1999
Art Callen, Chair	Senior Citizens Golf Club	1985
Barbara Cardella	General Representative	2004
Richard Clutter	General Representative	1996
Chet Craft	General Representative	2006
Carol Dean	General Representative	2001
Irene Griffith	General Representative	1998
Bea Virobik	General Representative	1998

Highlights 2005-2006

Keeping with tradition, Mayor Walker issued a proclamation designating May, 2006 as Older Americans Month. In conjunction with Older Americans Month, the Commission selected Owen Griffith and the City Manager's office selected Art Callen to be recognized for their volunteer efforts. Both were honored by the City of Torrance at the May 9 meeting of the City Council and by the L.A. County Board of Supervisors at their Older Americans Recognition Luncheon held on May 17 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

CITICABLE

Commissioner Art Callen continued his work of producing segments for the *Senior Scene*. Some of the features that have aired in the past year include:

- Medicare Prescription Drug Program, Part D
- Torrance Senior Faire
- Torrance Focal Point Program
- Bartlett Center Programs
- Flu Vaccination Clinic

Focal Point on Aging

The Torrance Focal Point on Aging continues to gain the plaudits of not only Torrance residents, but from surrounding communities as well. The Focal Point Program has now been in existence for ten years and continues to assist the senior citizens population by addressing their concerns on a myriad of issues.

This year, over 1,600 calls for assistance were handled by 12 Focal Point volunteers. The majority of questions were in regard to affordable rental housing for seniors.

Focal Point volunteers participated in numerous Health and Resource Fairs and the program was featured in local newspapers and magazines.

Commissioner Bea Virobik continues to coordinate the Focal Point Program and her tremendous efforts are to be commended.

Affordable Housing for Seniors

Affordable rental housing in the Torrance area continues to be one of the most difficult issues confronting seniors. This Commission will continue in its efforts to champion affordable housing for seniors in Torrance.

Transportation

During this past year, the Commission has worked closely with the Torrance Transit Department, especially in relation to revisions made to the Senior Taxi Program.

Health

The Commission has been monitoring the numerous legislative proposals affecting the senior health plans in order to keep the population informed.

Commission members voiced their concerns about the new Medicare Prescription Drug Program (Medicare, Part D) with Julia Rosenberg, member of the California Senior Legislature. Although the new Prescription Drug Program is national in scope, it was hoped that our state elected officials would have a voice in the

restructuring of the program, which has caused tremendous confusion among the senior citizens population. A capacity crowd of seniors were in attendance at a seminar sponsored by Assemblyman Ted Lieu to discuss the Medicare Prescription Drug Program earlier this year at the Salvation Army, Torrance Corps facility.

Ms. Claire Coignard, representing Torrance Memorial Medical Center's *Advantage Program*, regularly attended Commission meetings, keeping Commission members abreast of the many programs and services offered for seniors at the hospital.

Senior Concerns

Ms. Pat Long and other representatives from H.E.L.P. (Healthcare and Elder Law Programs Corporation) also regularly attended Commission meetings to share important information about services available to assist seniors with everyday issues related to aging.

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 Mrs. Suzie Wand, Staff Liaison, for her continued guidance and advice.

Respectfully submitted,



Art Callen
2005 - 2006 Chairperson
Torrance Commission of Aging