

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

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: Community Services – Recommendation to recognize Penny Rahmeyer and Bea Virobik as recipients of the 2007 Older Americans Award**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Commission on Aging and the Community Services Director recommend that Your Honorable Body recognize Penny Rahmeyer and Bea Virobik as recipients of the 2007 Older Americans Award and present them with appropriately inscribed plaques.

### **Funding**

Not applicable.

### **BACKGROUND**

At their meeting of March 13, 2007, the Commission on Aging recommended that Bea Virobik be recognized with an Older Americans Award for 2007. At their meeting of April 10, 2007, the Commission on Aging recommended that Penny Rahmeyer also be recognized with an Older Americans Award for 2007. The Commission traditionally selects one to six seniors to be recognized by the Torrance City Council each year, and has been making recommendations for these awards for over 28 years. The Commission also selected Bea Virobik to be honored by the County of Los Angeles at its 42nd Annual Older Americans Recognition Day Ceremony on May 16, 2007.

### **ANALYSIS**

Penny Rahmeyer, a Torrance resident since 1951, has been foster parenting for the past 43 years. A loving mother of five, Penny decided to open her heart and home to foster children in 1964 and remains a foster parent to this day. Over the years, she has warmly welcomed more than 140 children, many with severe medical problems including Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Downs Syndrome, Shaken Baby Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, and AIDS. She currently has two autistic children, a 5 ½ year old girl and a 14 year old boy, living with her.

Bea Virobik, a 40 year resident of Torrance, has been involved with several local organizations including the Torrance Commission on Aging, the South Bay Health Resources Partnership Advisory Council, Behavioral Health Services' Medicine Education Program Advisory Council, and the Census 2000 Complete Count Committee. Although Bea has been active with each of these groups and projects, she is, without a doubt, best known for her role as the Manager of the Torrance Focal Point on Aging, an information and referral program where older adults, their families and caregivers, can obtain access to aging services in the community.

Both Penny Rahmeyer and Bea Virobik are most deserving of special recognition for their contributions to the community.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMISSION ON AGING

  
Arthur L. Callen, Chairperson

CONCUR:

  
GENE BARNETT  
Community Services Director

GENE BARNETT  
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

By   
Suzie Wand  
Senior Recreation Supervisor

NOTED:

  
LeROY J. JACKSON  
City Manager

Attachments: A) Excerpt of Minutes dated March 13, 2007  
B) Excerpt of Minutes dated April 10, 2007

**ATTACHMENT A****EXCERPT OF MINUTES**

X Minutes Approved  
 Minutes Subject to Approval

March 13, 2007

***MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR  
 MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON AGING***

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Callen at 9:30 a.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Breaker, Craft, Clutter, Griffith,  
 Virobik and Chairman Callen

Excused Absent: Cardella

Staff: Recreation Supervisor Snodgrass  
 Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand (left meeting at 9:40 a.m.)

**9. OLDER AMERICAN MONTH RECOGNITION**

Chairman Callen distributed his letter nominating Commissioner Virobik for the 2007 Older Americans Award. Commissioner Virobik thanked Chairman Callen for the nomination, and shared that she may be unable to attend the awards ceremony due to an upcoming medical procedure.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Craft moved, Chairman Callen seconded, to nominate Commissioner Virobik as a candidate for the Older Americans Recognition Program. The motion carried unanimously.

**EXCERPT OF MINUTES**

Minutes Approved  
 Minutes Subject to Approval

April 10, 2007

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
 THE COMMISSION ON AGING**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order in the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center on April 10, 2007 by Chairman Callen at 9:32 a.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Breaker, Cardella, Craft, Clutter, Griffith, Virobik and Chairman Callen

Absent: None

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

**9. OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand explained that the County's recognition event has been scaled back to the type of event it used to be. She stated that the event, scheduled for May 15<sup>th</sup>, will be held at the Hall of Administration and will be free of charge. She relayed that she and Cindy Snodgrass will be driving to the event and confirmed that six people will be attending.

Commissioner Griffith read an email she received regarding Ms. Penny Rahmeyer, a Torrance resident since 1951, who has opened up her home to over 140 foster children. Noting her contribution, Commissioner Griffith asked if the Commission would be inclined to nominate Ms. Rahmeyer as a candidate to the City's Recognition Program.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Griffith moved, Chairman Craft seconded, to nominate Penny Rahmeyer as a candidate for the Older Americans Recognition Program. The motion carried unanimously.

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