

Council Meeting of
October 23, 2007

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

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: Community Services – Approve Commission on Aging 2006-2007
Annual Report**

RECOMMENDATION

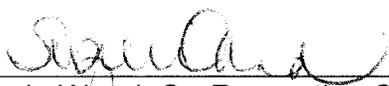
The Community Services Director and the Commission on Aging recommend that Your Honorable Body accept and file the Commission on Aging 2006-2007 Annual Report.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS

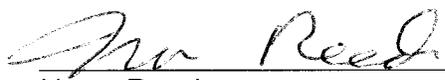
The Annual Report for July, 2006 through June, 2007, as prepared by the Commission on Aging is attached for your information and review. The Commission approved this report at its meeting of October 9, 2007, and asked staff to transmit it to Council.

Respectfully submitted,

NORM REEDER
ACTING COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

By 
Suzie Wand, Sr. Recreation Supervisor
Liaison to Commission on Aging

CONCUR:


Norm Reeder
Acting Community Services Director

NOTED:


LeRoy Jackson
City Manager

Attachment: A) Excerpt of Minutes of October 9, 2007 – Item 8
B) Commission on Aging 2006-2007 Annual Report

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EXCERPT OF MINUTES

Minutes Approved
 Minutes Subject to Approval

October 9, 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 October 9, 2007 by Chairman Craft at 9:36 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

8. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT

Members of the Commission commended Commissioner Callen and staff for the quality and thoroughness of the Annual Report. Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the Report will be submitted at the October 23, 2007 City Council Meeting and confirmed that Commissioner Callen will be in attendance.

MOTION: Commissioner Griffith moved, Commissioner Virobik seconded, to approve the Torrance Commission of Aging 2006-2007 Annual Report. The motion carried unanimously.

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ATTACHMENT B**Torrance Commission on Aging
2006-2007 Annual Report****Purpose of the Commission**

The Commission on Aging is currently comprised of seven 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 Commissioner Carol Dean in January, 2007, the City Council, in March, 2007, concurred with staff's recommendation to adopt a new ordinance which effectively reduced the membership of the Commission on Aging to seven members. In addition, the Club Representative positions were eliminated, thereby making all members General Representatives.

Current Membership:

MEMBER	STATUS	FIRST APPOINTED
Charles Breaker	General Representative	1999
Art Callen	General Representative	1985
Barbara Cardella	General Representative	2004
Richard Clutter	General Representative	1996
Chet Craft, Chair	General Representative	2006
Irene Griffith	General Representative	1998
Bea Virobik	General Representative	1998

Highlights 2006-2007

Keeping with tradition, Mayor Scotto issued a proclamation designating May, 2007 as Older Americans Month. In conjunction with Older Americans Month, the Commission selected Penny Rahmeyer and Bea Virobik to be recognized for their volunteer efforts. Both were honored by the City of Torrance at the May 8 meeting of the City Council. In addition, Bea Virobik was honored by L.A. County Supervisor Don Knabe at a reception held on May 16.

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:

City of Torrance Harvest Health Fair
 H.E.L.P. Anniversary Celebration
 Salvation Army Volunteer Recognition Luncheon
 South Bay Special Olympics
 City of Torrance Senior Faire
 R.S.V.P. Volunteer Recognition Luncheon
 Safety Tips for Senior Citizens

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 11 years and continues to assist the senior citizens population by addressing their concerns on a myriad of issues.

This year, over 1,650 calls for assistance were handled by 11 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 rental housing for seniors in Torrance.

Transportation

During the past year, the Commission has worked closely with the Torrance Transit Department, especially in relation to revisions made to the Senior Taxi Program. Transit staff members Jim Mills and Enny Chung have addressed the Commission on numerous occasions to keep us updated.

Health

Commission members have attended a number of seminars relating to the Medicare Prescription Drug Program (Medicare, Part D) and have made an effort to keep seniors in the community abreast of this relatively new program.

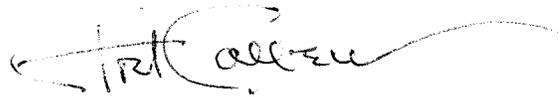
The Commission has assisted in disseminating information about the City's "Cooling Centers", scheduled to be open and available to citizens during intense heat waves. Bartlett Center is one such site.

Ms. Claire Coignard, representing Torrance Memorial Medical Center's *Advantage Program*, often attended Commission meetings, keeping Commission members abreast of the many programs and services offered for seniors at the hospital. In addition, members of the Commission regularly shared important information from H.E.L.P. (Healthcare and Elder Law Programs Corporation) in regard to 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 Suzie Wand, Staff Liaison and Kara Pompano, Recording Secretary for their continued guidance and support.

Respectfully submitted,



Art Callen
2006 - 2007 Chairperson
Torrance Commission of Aging