

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

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: Community Services – Recognize Helen Dennis and Irene Griffith  
as recipients of the 2008 Older Americans Award**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendation of the Commission on Aging and the Community Services Director that the City Council recognize Helen Dennis and Irene Griffith as recipients of the 2008 Older Americans Award and present them with appropriately inscribed plaques.

### **Funding**

Not applicable.

### **BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

At their meeting of April 8, 2008, the Commission on Aging recommended that Helen Dennis and Irene Griffith be recognized with the Older Americans Award for 2008. 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 29 years. The Commission also selected Irene Griffith to be honored by the County of Los Angeles at its 43rd Annual Older Americans Recognition Day Ceremony on May 14, 2008.

Helen Dennis, a Torrance resident since 1951, is a nationally known expert on aging, employment, and retirement. She taught at USC's Andrus Gerontology Center for 20 years and has written multiple articles and books. Locally, Mrs. Dennis authors a weekly column in the *Daily Breeze*, providing resources and answering questions on a wide range of issues pertinent to older adults in our community. In addition to her fine work with the *Daily Breeze*, Mrs. Dennis serves as a featured speaker at various events and is the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of H.E.L.P. (Healthcare and Elder Law Programs Corporation), a non-profit education and counseling center that provides information to older adults and their families.

Irene Griffith, a 47 year resident of Torrance, has been involved with several local organizations, most notably the Torrance Commission on Aging and the Los Angeles County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council. She has served in both of these groups for the past 10 years, tirelessly advocating for increased and improved services for seniors. In addition, she has been active at her church, St. Margaret Mary, where she teaches Sunday School, leads weekly small groups, provides bereavement support to families, and serves as a Eucharistic Minister.

Both Helen Dennis and Irene Griffith are most deserving of special recognition for their contributions to the community.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMISSION ON AGING

Chet Craft  
Chet Craft, Chairperson

JOHN JONES  
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

CONCUR:

for Mike Wilson  
JOHN JONES  
Community Services Director

By Suzie Wand  
Suzie Wand  
Senior Recreation Supervisor

NOTED:

LeROY J. JACKSON  
LeROY J. JACKSON  
City Manager

Attachments: A) Commission on Aging Excerpt of Minutes dated April 8, 2008

**EXCERPT OF MINUTES**

Minutes Approved  
 Minutes Subject to Approval

April 8, 2008

**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 8, 2008 by Chairman Craft at 9:31 a.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Breaker, Callen, Cardella, Griffith, Thomas, and Chairman Craft

Absent: None

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

**9. OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand announced that nomination for the Older Americans Recognition must be submitted today. She reminded the Commission that they need to nominate for two events, the City Council Recognition on May 6<sup>th</sup> and the Los Angeles County Older Americans Recognition on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Griffith nominated Helen Dennis.

Chairman Craft nominated Commissioner Griffith.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Craft, Commissioner Callen seconded to select Helen Dennis and Commissioner Irene Griffith for City of Torrance's Older Americans Recognition on May 6, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Callen, Commissioner Thomas seconded to select Commissioner Irene Griffith for Los Angeles County Older Americans Recognition on May 14, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

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