

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

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: Community Services – Approve Commission on Aging 2007-2008  
Annual Report**

**RECOMMENDATION**

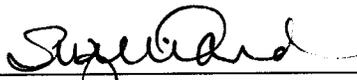
Recommendation of the Community Services Director and the Commission on Aging recommend that City Council accept and file the Commission on Aging 2007-2008 Annual Report.

**BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS**

The Annual Report for July, 2007 through June, 2008, as prepared by the Commission on Aging is attached for your information and review. The Commission approved this report at its meeting of October 14, 2008, and asked staff to transmit it to Council.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN JONES  
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

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

CONCUR:

  
John Jones  
Community Services Director

NOTED:

  
LeRoy J. Jackson  
City Manager

- Attachment: A) Excerpt of Minutes of October 14, 2008 – Item 9  
B) Commission on Aging 2007-2008 Annual Report



**ATTACHMENT A****EXCERPT OF MINUTES** Minutes Approved Minutes Subject to Approval**October 14, 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 October 14, 2008 by Chairman Craft at 9:32 a.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

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

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

**8. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT**

Commissioner Callen made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Thomas to accept the Commission on Aging Annual Report as submitted. The MOTION carried unanimously. The Annual Report will be submitted to the City Council for consideration at their October 28 meeting.



## **Torrance Commission on Aging 2007-2008 Annual Report**

### **Purpose of the Commission**

The Commission on Aging is currently comprised of five 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 started the year with seven members and now have only five. Bea Virobik's term limit was completed and she was replaced by Sarah Ann Thomas. Shortly after that transition took place, Richard Clutter resigned due to health reasons and more recently, Charles Breaker resigned, also due to ill health. The Commission will be very happy when the vacancies are filled as there is a fear of not having enough members present to conduct meetings. In fact, the July meeting could not be held for lack of a quorum.

### **Current Membership:**

<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>FIRST APPOINTED</b>
Art Callen	General Representative	1985
Barbara Cardella	General Representative	2004
Chet Craft, Chair	General Representative	2006
Irene Griffith	General Representative	1998
Sarah AnnThomas	General Representative	2008

### **Highlights 2007-2008**

Keeping with tradition, Mayor Scotto issued a proclamation designating May, 2008 as Older Americans Month. In conjunction with Older Americans Month, the Commission selected Helen Dennis and Irene Griffith to be recognized for their volunteer efforts. Both were honored by the City of Torrance at the May 6 meeting of the City Council. In addition, Irene Griffith was honored by Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe at a reception held on May 14.

## **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:

Salvation Army/City of Torrance Health and Resource Fair  
 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 12 years and continues to assist the senior citizens population by addressing their concerns on a myriad of issues.

This year, over 1,450 calls for assistance were handled by 12 Focal Point volunteers. The majority of questions were in regard to affordable rental housing for seniors. In addition, Focal Point volunteers participated in numerous Health and Resource Fairs and the program was featured in local newspapers and magazines.

Former 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.

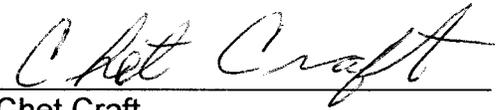
## **Health**

Ms. Claire Coignard or another representative of 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 for her continued guidance and support and to Kara Pompano, who served as the Commission's Recording Secretary before moving out of state.

Respectfully submitted,



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Chet Craft  
2007 - 2008 Chairperson  
Torrance Commission of Aging