

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

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: Community Services** – Accept and File the City of Torrance  
*Commission on Aging's "Annual Report to the City Council for 2008-2009"*.

**Expenditure:** None

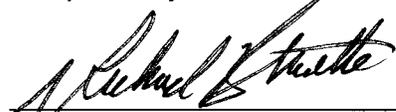
**RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendation of the Community Services Director and the City of Torrance's  
*Commission on Aging* that City Council accept and file the Commission's "Annual  
Report to City Council for 2008-09".

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

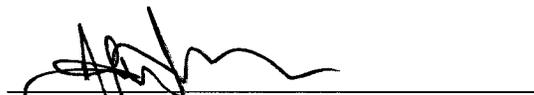
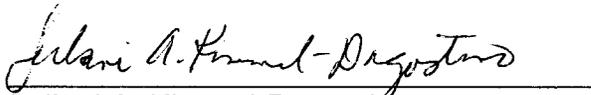
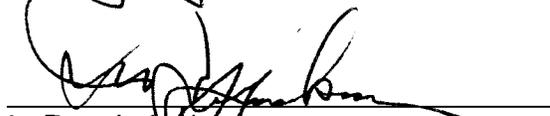
The *Commission on Aging* provides an annual report to City Council that identifies  
highlights of the Commission's activities for the period of July 2008 through June  
2009 (Attachment A). The Commission approved this annual report at its meeting  
on September 8, 2009 (Attachment B), however at the time of this report the minutes  
had yet to be approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Brunette  
Recreation Services Manager

Noted:

  
John Jones  
Community Services Director  
Leilani A. Kimmel-Dagostino  
Commission on Aging Chairperson  
LeRoy J. Jackson  
City Manager

Attachments: A) Commission on Aging Annual Report to City Council for 2008-09  
B) Excerpt from Sept. 8, 2009, Commission on Aging Mtg Minutes



## **Torrance Commission on Aging 2008-2009 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 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 five members and held steady until the new appointments which brought us to full strength of seven members. We had one of our most active members termed out, Irene Griffith. She left some big shoes to fill. We also got three enthusiastic volunteers in Wallace Draper, Leilani Kimmel-Dagostino and Lynda Kraemer.

### **Current Membership:**

<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>FIRST APPOINTED</b>
Art Callen	General Representative	1985
Barbara Cardella	General Representative	2004
Chet Craft	General Representative	2006
Wallace Draper	General Representative	2009
Leilani Kimmel-Dagostino, Chair	General Representative	2009
Lynda Kraemer	General Representative	2009
Sara Ann Thomas	General Representative	2008

### **Highlights 2008-2009**

Keeping with tradition, Mayor Scotto issued a proclamation designating May, 2009 as Older Americans Month. In conjunction with Older Americans Month, the Commission selected Jackie La Bouff, Dale Sato, and Merla Wilson to be recognized for their volunteer efforts. The three were honored by the City of Torrance at the May 12 meeting of the City Council. In addition, Merla Wilson was honored by Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe at a reception held on May 21, 2009.

## **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 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Faire
- R.S.V.P. Volunteer Recognition Luncheon
- Safety Tips for Senior Citizens
- "Community Celebration" – recognition of 76 non-profit groups in Torrance
- "Dancing with the Senior Stars" event sponsored by the Community Services Department
- Veteran's Day observances in the community

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

This year, over 1,507 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. Detailed information can be found in the Focal Point attachment.

Former Commissioner Bea Virobik continues to coordinate the Focal Point Program and her tremendous efforts are to be commended. Commissioner Barbara Cardella gets the information from Bea Virobik and presents it at our meetings each month.

## **Affordable Housing for Seniors**

Affordable rental housing in the Torrance area continues to be one of the most difficult issues confronting seniors. Steve Barclay made a presentation on "An Overview of the Section 8 Rental Assistance Program" and D.R. Richardson distributed information about the Senior Mobile Home Subsidy Program. Both are from Torrance Community Development Department. 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.

A Commission on Aging member served on the Strategic Plan Committee for Transit and helped develop key performance indicators for the Strategic Plan sub-goals. These include new senior-friendly bus routes and improvement of transit opportunities for seniors.

## **Health**

Ms. Vickie Hershberger 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 the Commission's new Recording Secretary Ellen Seaman.

Respectfully submitted,



Chet Craft  
2008 - 2009 Chairperson  
Torrance Commission on Aging



Submitted by: Bea Virobik, Office Manager, **Focal Point on Aging**  
 Russ Nolte Annex of the Bartlett Senior Center  
 1339 Post Avenue  
 Torrance, CA 90501

**Focal Point Annual Report  
 June 30, 2008 - June 30, 2009**

Our dedicated Focal Point staff of 12 volunteers have been providing information and referral for older adults and their families for 13 years. This year one of our volunteer was recognized by our city council for her outstanding volunteerism.

Our Senior Service directory is access on the internet on our Torrance web site in a PDF file at:  
<http://www.tornet.com/parks/6619.htm>.

Affordable senior housing continues to be the number one most requested inquiry. In most apartment complexes there is at least a 2-3 year waiting list before a rental is available.

**Statistics:**

- 533 calls to Focal Point that required documentation and follow up
- 974 miscellaneous calls without documentation
- 198 or 37.1 % of documented calls for affordable senior rental housing
- 1507 total calls for the year

**Past year accomplishments/ Community outreach**

- Participation in 10 health and resource fairs
- 5 presentations to community organizations and churches on our Focal Point services
- 12th edition of the Service Directory published and distributed to service providers in the community
- Net working with home owners associations, organizations, and places of worship
- Beach Cities Health District and Redondo Beach Senior and Family Services use our directory as resources for their clients needs
- Our volunteers support and donate to the low-income seniors in Spa 8
- Participated in the Successful Aging Expo attended by over 3,000 people
- Monthly volunteer staff meeting with guest speakers

**Goal for 2009-2010:** Continue to provide the same level of services to our seniors and pursue affordable rental housing options.



## ATTACHMENT B

<p><b>EXCERPT OF MINUTES OF REGULAR SEPTEMBER 8, 2009, MEETING OF THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING....</b></p>	<p>✓ Minutes Subject to Approval</p>
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**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order on September 8, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Callen\*, Cardella, Craft\*\*, Draper, Kraemer, Thomas, Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino

Absent: None

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand  
Commissioner Callen\* (arrived at 10:05 a.m.)  
Commissioner Craft\*\* (arrived at 9:37 a.m.)

**8. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT**

It was determined to amend the annual report as follows: Under *Transportation*, the following will be added: *A Commission on Aging member served on the Strategic Plan Committee for Transit and helped develop key performance indicators for the Strategic Plan sub-goals. These include new senior-friendly bus routes and improvement of transit opportunities for seniors.*

It was also noted that the Focal Point attachment needed to be included with the annual report.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Callen moved and Commissioner Kraemer seconded, to approve the annual report, as amended. The motion carried.