

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

**Members of the Council:**

**SUBJECT: Community Services – Recognize Caroline Elam, Maureen O'Donnell and Janet Payne as recipients of 2010 Older Americans Awards.**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendation of the Commission on Aging and the Community Services Director that City Council recognize Caroline Elam, Maureen O'Donnell and Janet Payne as recipients of *2010 Older Americans Awards* and present them with appropriately inscribed plaques.

Funding

Not applicable.

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

For over 31 years the City of Torrance's Commission on Aging has annually recommended from one to six senior citizens for recognition by City Council for their outstanding service to the community.

At their meeting of February 9, 2010, the Commission chose Caroline Elam and Janet Payne to be recommended for recognition and to receive an Older Americans Award plaque for 2010. At their meeting of March 9, 2010, the Commission additionally recommended that Maureen O'Donnell receive an Older Americans Award plaque. The Commission further selected Janet Payne to be honored by the County of Los Angeles at its *45<sup>th</sup> Annual Older Americans Recognition Day Ceremony* on May 19, 2010. Attachments A and B contain excerpts from the February 9 and March 9, 2010 Commission meeting minutes.

Service performed by each of the recommended honorees is as follows:

**Caroline Elam**, a Torrance resident since 1987, is heavily involved in Disaster Preparedness for the City of Torrance. A well-respected member of CERT (Certified Emergency Response Team) and TARA (Torrance Amateur Radio Association), Ms. Elam has taken on several leadership roles within the organizations and has assisted with training exercises and disaster drills at city, county, and state levels.

Ms. Elam is also a faithful volunteer at the Focal Point on Aging, an information and referral program for older adults and their families and caregivers. She works at least one three hour shift per week, assisting individuals both on the phone and in person with questions about a variety of concerns.

In addition, she assists with a number of other tasks such as participation in Health and Resource Fairs and the training of new volunteers. Ms. Elam has also volunteered for the past several years with annual Toy Drives coordinated through the Torrance Police and Fire Departments.

**Maureen O'Donnell** has a long and distinguished record of service to the community. A former City of Torrance Commissioner and Councilwoman and retired Government and U.S. History teacher, Ms. O'Donnell has always been passionate about education. She served for four years on the Torrance Unified School District Board of Trustees and is currently in her second term on the El Camino Community College Board of Trustees.

At present, she volunteers as a Geography Teacher at Nativity Catholic School and last year, she developed a "Diversity Book Collection" project which supplies books of ethnic and historic interest to a number of schools.

An animal lover and home finder for dogs, cats, and birds, she worked with others to raise over \$53,000 for the Torrance Police Department to acquire a specially trained German Shepherd dog from Germany. Ms. O'Donnell is also a member of the Torrance Symphony Board of Directors and the Salvation Army, Torrance Corps Advisory Board.

**Janet Payne** has been involved in community service in the City of Torrance for over 30 years and her contributions are many and varied. Her affiliations include: the Torrance Woman's Club, the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation, the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, the Switzer Learning Center and the Volunteer Center.

Of special note, however, is her volunteer work in Downtown Torrance. A founding member of the Old Torrance Neighborhood Association in 1981, Mrs. Payne has continued to remain heavily involved, serving in a number of leadership positions.

She currently serves as the organization's Advisor and was also instrumental in recent neighborhood clean-up efforts for which the OTNA received *Green Pride* Awards. In addition, she has made unparalleled contributions to the Torrance Historical Society and Museum. A Board member and volunteer for over 25 years, she currently serves as the Museum Coordinator, leading museum tours and historic home tours in addition to a multitude of other tasks.

Caroline Elam, Maureen O'Donnell and Janet Payne are all most deserving of special recognition for their contributions to the community.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMISSION ON AGING

*Leilani Kimmel-Dagostino*

Leilani Kimmel-Dagostino  
Chairperson

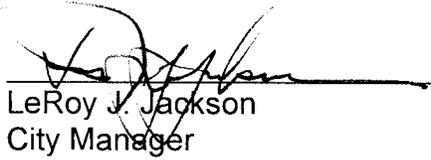
JOHN JONES  
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

CONCUR:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Jones  
Community Services Director

By   
\_\_\_\_\_  
RICHARD BRUNETTE  
Recreation Services Manager

NOTED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
LeRoy J. Jackson  
City Manager

Attachments: A) Commission on Aging Excerpt of Minutes dated February 9, 2010  
B) Commission on Aging Excerpt of Minutes dated March 9, 2010



**EXCERPT OF MINUTES**√ **Minutes Approved** ~~Minutes Subject to Approval~~**February 9, 2010****MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING****CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order on February 9, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Cardella, Craft, Draper, Kraemer, and Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino  
 Absent: Commissioner Thomas  
 Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

**OLDER AMERICANS AWARDS**

Responding to a question from Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino, Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated she did not know the due date for the nominations for Older Americans Award, but she stated that the City Council's Recognition of Older Americans was usually on the second Tuesday of May, which would be May 11, 2010. She also reported that normally the county's awards were in the third week of May, but that there had been no definite date announced. She further stated that two county commissions were merging and that the change could affect the Older Americans Award.

Commissioner Kraemer distributed Janet Payne's resume and nominated her for the Older Americans Award.

Former Commissioner Griffith requested that Maureen O'Donnell be considered as a nominee for the Older Americans Award.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino distributed Caroline Elam's resume and nominated her for the Older Americans Award.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the Commission could select from one to six nominees for the local Torrance recognition award, but could select only one nominee at the county level, assuming the county was continuing the program this year.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that it was necessary to have permission from a person before nominating them and to obtain a resume from the nominee that would be used to write the recommendation to the City Council.

Former Commissioner Griffith stated that she would ask Maureen O'Donnell if she was interested in being nominated for an Older Americans Award.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Kraemer, Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand recommended that the Commission vote for the County nominee now, in order to be ready in the event that the County announced a deadline that was prior to the next meeting.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Craft moved and Commissioner Kraemer seconded, to nominate Janet Payne for the County Award for Older Americans, if the County elected to continue the award. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioner Thomas)

**MOTION:** Commissioner Craft moved and Commissioner Kraemer seconded, to nominate Janet Payne and Caroline Elam for the City of Torrance Award for Older Americans. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioner Thomas)

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the March Commission on Aging meeting would be the deadline for any additional candidates' names for nomination for the local award.

Former Commissioner Griffith stated that she would try to obtain information from the County as to whether or not they would continue to offer the award.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the City would need the addresses and phone numbers of the nominees in order to notify them of the award and that the County award required the age of the nominee.

**EXCERPT OF MINUTES**

√ **Minutes Approved**  
 ~~Minutes Subject to Approval~~

March 9, 2010

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING****CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order on March 9, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Cardella, Draper\*, Kraemer, Robelotto and  
Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino  
 Absent: Commissioners Craft and Thomas  
 Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand  
 \*Commissioner Draper (arrived at 9:35 a.m.)

**OLDER AMERICANS AWARDS**

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that at the meeting on February 9, two candidates had been nominated: Janet Payne and Caroline Elam and a third, Maureen O'Donnell was recommended, but the Commission had needed Ms. O'Donnell's permission before going forward with the nomination.

Former Commissioner Griffith stated that Ms. O'Donnell was delighted to be nominated and that Former Commissioner Griffith would send Ms. O'Donnell's information to Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand announced that the Los Angeles County Older Americans Award Program would be on May 19 at 10:30 a.m. at the Hahn Hall of Administration and the Torrance Older Americans Award ceremony would be on May 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Council meeting.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Robelotto moved and Commissioner Kraemer seconded, to nominate Maureen O'Donnell for the City of Torrance Award for Older Americans. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioners Craft and Thomas)

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