

May 10, 2011

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

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: Community Services – Recognize Dee Hardison as the 2011
Older Americans Award Recipient.**

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Commission on Aging and the Community Services Director that City Council recognize Dee Hardison as the 2011 Older Americans Award recipient and present her with an appropriately inscribed plaque.

Funding

Not applicable.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

For over 32 years, the City of Torrance 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 March 8, 2011, the Commission chose Dee Hardison to be recommended for recognition by City Council at their meeting on May 10, 2011. In addition, the Commission selected Mrs. Hardison to be recognized by the County of Los Angeles at its *46th Annual Older Americans Recognition Day Ceremony* on May 25, 2011. Attachment A contains an excerpt from the March 8, 2011 Commission meeting minutes.

Dee Hardison has an unparalleled history of volunteer service to the City of Torrance and the greater South Bay region. Well respected for her two terms as Mayor and two terms as Councilwoman in the City of Torrance, Mrs. Hardison was also an active member of both the Parks and Recreation and Planning Commissions. Her countless list of affiliations include: the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation, the Pediatric Therapy Network, the Torrance Performing Arts Consortium, the Torrance Sister City Association, the Torrance Rose Float Association, the Torrance Historical Society, the Southern California Association of Governments, the South Bay Economic Development Partnership, the California Elected Women's Association for Education Research, the Los Angeles County Beach Commission, the City of Torrance Ethics and Integrity Committee, and the Harbor UCLA Medical Alliance.

As a retired Special Education teacher, education is of supreme importance to Mrs. Hardison and she has been one of Torrance Unified School District's strongest advocates. She has been a member of the Torrance Education Foundation for 20 years and currently serves as Vice-President and Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee. She remains active in local government and earlier this year, was appointed by the City Council to chair the Torrance Election and Candidates Ethics Committee and also serves as Vice Chair of the Torrance Centennial Committee, which is planning events in celebration of the City's upcoming 100th birthday. She is Board Chair for LINC Housing, a non-profit organization that builds and preserves affordable housing for seniors and families throughout the state. In addition, Mrs. Hardison is also well known throughout the region for her tireless work as the Board Chair of the LA Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor UCLA Medical Center, where the Hanley Hardison Institute was named in her honor.

Mrs. Hardison is most deserving of the 2011 Older Americans Award, based on her many years of outstanding service to the community.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMISSION ON AGING

Leilani Kimmel-Dagostino

Leilani Kimmel-Dagostino
Chairperson

JOHN JONES

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

CONCUR:

[Signature]

John Jones
Community Services Director

By *[Signature]*

RICHARD BRUNETTE
Recreation Services Manager

NOTED:

[Signature]

LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachment: A) Commission on Aging Excerpt of Minutes dated March 8, 2011

EXCERPT OF MINUTES

√ Minutes Approved
 Minutes Subject to Approval

March 8, 2011

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
 THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on March 8, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

Present: Commissioners Cardella, Craft, Kraemer, Robelotto, Virobik and Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino

Absent: Commissioner Draper

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

MOTION: Commissioner Robelotto moved to approve the excused absence of Commissioner Draper; motion was seconded by Commissioner Virobik. The motion passed by a roll call vote. (Absent Commissioner Draper)

OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION

Commissioner Virobik nominated Dee Hardison for an Older American award and distributed her resume and a list of her volunteer involvement.

Former Commissioner Griffith noted that the County 4th District would be doing an Older American Award this year on May 25. She stated that she would be meeting with Supervisor Knabe to plan the event.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that it might be too late to consider Transit Administration Manager Mills' candidates for the County or City Council as the vote needed to be taken at this meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Robelotto moved and Commissioner Craft seconded, to nominate Dee Hardison for both the Los Angeles County and the Torrance City Council Older Americans Award. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioner Draper)

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the City's Older Americans Recognition Day may be the second Tuesday in May, but it had not yet been decided.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that she would inform Transit Administration Manager Mills that the Commission had decided that it was too late to consider and vote on the candidates from Transit for this year's award.