

FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF

September 27, 2011

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

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: Commission on Aging and Community Services – Accept and File the
2010-2011 Commission on Aging Annual Report.**

Expenditure: None

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Commission on Aging and the Community Services Director that City Council Accept and File the 2010-2011 Commission on Aging Annual Report.

BACKGROUND

The City of Torrance's *Commission on Aging* serves City Council and the community by identifying problems and matters of concern affecting Torrance's senior population.

The Commission meets at 9:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center. All meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to address the Commission with any concerns of the Torrance senior community.

The *Commission on Aging* provides an annual report to City Council that identifies highlights of the Commission's activities from the past year.

ANALYSIS

The *Commission on Aging's* Annual Report for July 2010 through June 2011 as prepared by the Commission is provided as Attachment A. The Commission approved this Annual Report at its September 13, 2011 meeting. Attachment B is an excerpt from the meeting minutes.

Commissioners and City staff are available should there be any questions or requests for additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMISSION ON AGING

Leilani A. Kimmel-Dagostino

Leilani A. Kimmel-Dagostino
Chairperson

CONCUR:

JOHN JONES
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

[Signature]

JOHN JONES
Community Services Director

By *[Signature]*

Richard Brunette
Recreation Services Manager

NOTED:

[Signature]

LeROY J. JACKSON
City Manager

- Attachments: A) 2010-11 Commission on Aging Annual Report.
B) Excerpt of Item 8 of Commission on Aging Minutes dated 09-13-2011.

Torrance Commission on Aging 2010-2011 Annual Report

Purpose of the Commission

The Commission on Aging is comprised of 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 began the year with six members with the resignation of Dr. Sara Thomas. Bea Virobik was appointed to replace her on July 27, 2010. We held steady until April 1, 2011 when Barbara Cardella tendered her resignation. We hope to be back up to speed next year when Commission appointments will be held.

Current Membership:

MEMBER	STATUS	APPOINTED
Chet Craft	General Representative	2006
Wallace Draper	General Representative	2009
Leilani Kimmel-Dagostino, Chair	General Representative	2009
Lynda Kraemer, Vice Chair	General Representative	2009
Judith Robelotto	General Representative	2010
Bea Virobik	General Representative	2010

Highlights 2010-2011

On July 20, 2010 a joint meeting was held with City Council in the West Annex Commission Room of City Hall. An expression of gratitude was given to the City Council for services offered to the senior citizens population. The main topics discussed were the Focal Point on Aging statistics, affordable housing, the mobile home space rental subsidy program, and the proposed shared housing program. The underlying theme was that affordable senior housing continues to be a problem and will be a major challenge to overcome in the future with our aging population. Mayor Scotto said that he and the City Council were well aware of the need for affordable senior housing and hoped that, in the near future, the City's plans to acquire land would eventually result in a sustainable housing project.

In keeping with tradition, Mayor Scotto issued a proclamation designating May 2011 as Older Americans Month. In conjunction with Older Americans Month, the Commission selected Dee Hardison to be recognized for her volunteer efforts. She was honored by the City of Torrance at the May 10, 2011 meeting of the City Council. In addition, she was honored by Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe at a reception held at the Hahn Hall of Administration on May 25, 2011.

A Commission member who was appointed to serve on the Torrance 2010 Census Complete Count Committee received recognition at the City Council Meeting on September 28, 2010.

Two Commissioners are Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members and serve as Disaster Service Volunteers for the City of Torrance. They have assisted the city by participating in Disaster Drills, the Los Angeles County Flu Shot Clinic POD, the Armed Forces Day Parade, the Fire Department's Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, the Torrance Police Memorial Ceremony, the Senior Faire, the Senior Holiday Luncheon, and the B-17 Bomber "Salute to Veterans 2011 Tour" at Zamperini Field.

A Commission member served on the Youth Council selection committee in June, 2011.

A Commission member attended the 13 week "Partners in Policing" course offered by the Torrance Police Department March-June, 2011.

A Commission member attended an Inspection Trip of the Diamond Valley Lake and Lake Skinner Treatment Plant and Solar Farm and the Colorado River Aqueduct system sponsored by the Metropolitan Water District and the City of Torrance in order to learn more about the Torrance Municipal Water Supply.

Three Commission members have been appointed to the ExxonMobil Citizens Advisory Panel.

One Commissioner was a finalist representing Torrance for California's First Citizen's Redistricting Commission. From a field of 30,725 applicants she made it to the final 60 before being eliminated for consideration.

Community Programs

The 18th Annual Health and Resource Fair co-sponsored by the Salvation Army Adult Day Care Center and the Torrance Community Services Department was held on September 18, 2010.

The Successful Aging Expo was held on May 14, 2011 at the Torrance Marriott Hotel.

Elder Abuse/Fraud

The Torrance Police Department and the Community Services Department continued to sponsor a series of classes on fraud protection for seniors at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library. The HELP group also sponsored Life Planning Classes at the Katy Geissert Library.

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

This year, over 1,551 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.

The Senior Service Directory, which contains a valuable source for information, is on the City of Torrance website and hard copies were distributed to city agencies and city departments.

Bea Virobik continued to coordinate the Focal Point Program and her tremendous efforts are to be commended. She presents updated statistics, accomplishments, and community outreach at our meetings each month.

Affordable Housing for Seniors

Commissioner Judith Robelotto has started doing research on existing shared housing programs. The program in Buena Park is a possible model for consideration. This is a program where a senior who owns a house, has a room to offer, is looking for a roommate to share expenses and help with the maintenance of the house. People who are looking for rooms are screened via a questionnaire, fingerprinting, background investigation, and DMV check. A disclaimer and written agreement is then signed. This program would need to operate as a separate independently owned business or an organization sponsorship because of liability issues. This is an ongoing long term project.

On November 9, 2010 Housing Administrator, D.R. Richardson gave a presentation on the Section 8 Rental Assistance Program and the Mobile Home Subsidy Program. She said that Torrance was using between 610-620 vouchers and 100% of available funds. The Section 8 program is a tenant based program, in that the tenant holds the voucher and must find a unit that will work with the program. There is no designated Section 8 project housing in Torrance. Currently voucher holders are able to find units up to 90% of the time. The Senior Mobile Home Subsidy is \$100 per month and the city is currently paying approximately 50 subsidies. The Program is funded for a 2 year term and would probably be renewed as the program has not used all of its funding.

On May 4, 2011 Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino attended a Planning Commission meeting for a proposed senior apartment complex at the Del Amo Financial Center to see if this apartment complex offered affordable rental housing. After learning that the proposed rents ranged from \$4,000 a month for a 300 square foot apartment to \$7,000 to \$8,000 per month for a larger unit, she voiced an opposition to the project. The project was rejected by the Planning Commission after several homeowners also voiced opposition to the project.

Transportation

On January 11, February 8, and March 8, 2011 Jim Mills, Torrance Transit Manager, gave a presentation to the Commission regarding proposed changes to the Senior Ride and Dial-A-Lift Taxi Programs. There was a concern regarding the viability of the programs due to the increased participation levels and the projected growth in the programs and the Transit Department was soliciting input as to program changes. After several fruitful meetings both with the Commission and community outreach meetings, it was decided that the Transit Department would keep the fares as is, reduce the number of tickets from 16 to 12, and continue to have the City pay the first \$13.00 per ticket with the rider paying the amount after \$13.00 effective July 1, 2011. Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino voiced support of the proposals at the City Council Meeting on April 19, 2011.

The next purchase of replacement buses for the Torrance Transit will be Compressed Natural Gas instead of gasoline/electric hybrids. These new CNG replacement buses are in production currently and are expected to arrive this fall. They have staff overseeing these builds currently. The City is constructing an on-site CNG fueling station that Transit will utilize, along with other facilities out in the field that offer CNG.

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino attended a community meeting for the South Bay Metro Green Line Extension on April 6, 2011 at the Nakano Theater. This meeting was for the purpose of providing input for the Draft Environmental Impact Report phase of project development. Eventually the Metro Green Line hopes to be extended to the new Torrance Transit Center. The cost to extend the Metro Green Line 4.6 miles to Torrance is \$500 million or \$284 million to extend the Metro Green Line 2.1 miles to the proposed Redondo Beach Regional Transit Center at the South Bay Galleria. Measure R funding only earmarks \$272 million for the Green Line Extension so additional funding would need to be found. The project could take over 20 years to complete.

Health

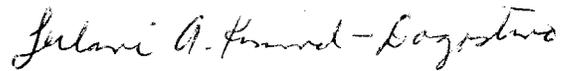
Ms. Vickie Hershberger, representative of Torrance Memorial Medical Center's *Advantage Program*, often attended Commission meetings, keeping Commission members abreast of the many programs and services offered for seniors at the hospital. They offered two free CPR classes on October 9, 2010 and the hospital is undergoing a large expansion.

On April 12, 2011 Torrance Fire Department EMS Coordinator Peterson gave a presentation on ambulance billing and who was required to pay when an ambulance was called. He stated that the City did not do their own transport but contracted with an ambulance provider. The contractor accepts first, second and third party insurance such as Medicare, MediCal, as full payment or allows patients to make interest-free payments on bills. There could also be additional fees from the City if paramedics accompanied the patient in the ambulance. If you have private insurance you might be required to pay any fees that your insurance did not cover. The ambulance fee would only be charged if you were actually transported to the hospital. The paramedics would not charge to help someone get up from a fall or other assistance in the home.

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 Recording Secretary Ellen Seaman.

Respectfully submitted,



Leilani A. Kimmel-Dagostino
2010 - 2011 Chairperson
Torrance Commission on Aging

Attachment: A) 2010-2011 Focal Point Annual Report

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, 2010 - June 30, 2011

The Torrance Focal Point on Aging has been servicing the senior community and South Bay region for the past 15 years. Our office staffed with 12 dedicated volunteers assists individuals 5 days a week, six hours a day.

The 14th edition of our Senior Service Directory can be accessed from our city of Torrance website:
www.TorranceCA.Gov/parks/6619.htm

Statistics:

- 534 calls to Focal Point that required documentation and follow up
- 1017 miscellaneous calls without documentation
- 219 or 41 % of documented calls for affordable senior rental housing
- 1551 total calls for the year

Past year accomplishments/ Community outreach

- Participation in 10 health and community fairs
- 17 presentations to senior community organizations and churches on our services
- 14th edition of the Service Directory published containing more than 750 entries of senior resources with distribution to service providers in the community
- On going net working at places of worship, senior centers and residences
- Staff support and donations of food and sundry items to low-income seniors in Los Angeles County Spa 8. This is the service area in the county that includes all South Bay cities, Inglewood, and Long Beach.
- Four volunteers staff a table at the Torrance Farmer's Market
- Third year of participation in the Successful Aging Expo usually attended by more than 4000 people
- Monthly volunteer staff meeting with guest speakers
- Focal Point services published in magazines and newspapers such as: H.E.L.P newsletter, Daily Breeze newspaper, Senior Life, homeowners association newsletter, libraries, and the city of Torrance website

Goal for 2010-2011: Continue to provide quality services to our seniors and pursue affordable rental or shared housing options.

EXCERPT OF MINUTES

Minutes Approved
 Minutes Subject to Approval

September 13, 2011

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

The meeting was called to order on September 13, 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 Craft, Draper, Kraemer, Robelotto, and
Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino

Absent: Commissioner Virobik

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

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

ANNUAL REPORT

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that the Annual Report had been changed as requested and when approved, would be presented to the City Council on September 27. She requested that Commissioner Kraemer attend the City Council meeting on September 27 to be available to answer any questions from the Council.

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved and Commissioner Robelotto seconded, to accept the Annual Report. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioner Virobik)

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