

**MINUTES OF A JOINT MEETING  
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL  
AND THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order in the Torrance Cultural Arts Center, Garden Rooms A and B, on October 16, 2007 by Chairman Craft at 5:30 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: City Council Members Barnett, Brewer, Drevno, Nowatka, Sutherland, Witkowsky and Mayor Scotto

Commission on Aging Members Beaker, Callen, Cardella, Clutter, Griffith, Virobik and Chairman Craft

Absent: None

Staff: City Manager Jackson  
Assistant City Manager Giordano  
City Attorney Fellows  
City Clerk Herbers  
Assistant to City Manager Sunshine  
Management Associate Chaparyan  
Management Associate Fulton  
Police Captain Kreager  
Fire Chief Dumais  
Acting Community Services Director Reeder  
Community Services Recreation Manager Jones  
Community Services Senior Supervisor Wand  
Community Services Business Manager Minter  
Principal Librarian Theyer  
Librarian Weiner  
Community Development Director Gibson  
Finance Director Tsao  
Transit Business Manager Mills

**3. REPORT OF THE CITY CLERK ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

City Clerk Herbers reported that the Agenda was posted on Thursday, October 11, 2007.

#### **4. EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE FOR SERVICES OFFERED TO THE SENIOR CITIZEN POPULATION**

Chairman Craft expressed the Commission's gratitude for the many programs and services offered to the senior citizen population by the City of Torrance, which include the Bartlett Center, the Focal Point Program, Senior Taxi and Dial a Ride programs.

#### **5. AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

##### **A. Discussion regarding the continued need for affordable rental housing for senior citizens**

Commissioner Virobik thanked the City Council for their support of the Focal Point Program. She stated that the majority of requests coming into the Program concern affordable rental housing for seniors, noting that 45.7% of last year's calls were in regard to housing. She talked of the lengthy waiting lists for such housing, and shared that such lists span three to four years.

A general discussion with members of the City Council, members of the Commission on Aging, and staff was held. Mayor Scotto stated that the City Council is dedicated to meeting the need for affordable rental housing for seniors. He shared that many ideas are currently in the works and that City staff is diligently exploring proposed solutions to this issue. However, Mayor Scotto explained that many of these proposals are in the preliminary stages and he could not formally comment on them until discussions are finalized.

##### **B. Possibility of working with real estate developers to provide additional housing options for seniors citizens**

Commissioner Griffith spoke on the possibility of working with real estate developers to designate unsold assets as affordable housing. Mayor Scotto stated that staff has looked into this suggestion and will do so again as the housing market changes. Additional discussion was held on the process of the City obtaining land, and then partnering with non profit organizations to offer additional housing options. Mayor Scotto reiterated that he and members of the City Council agree with the Commission that addressing the need for affordable rental housing is a priority of the City.

#### **6. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND DISABLED**

##### **A. Discussion of disaster preparedness programs currently in place for special populations**

Councilwoman Witkowsky acknowledged the City Council's commitment and efforts in ensuring seniors are aware of the City's disaster preparedness programs. She also spoke on CERT, TARA and the Neighborhood Watch Programs currently in place. Fire Chief Dumais spoke on the recent Disaster Preparedness Expo, with Mayor Scotto noting how informative the event was and encouraged seniors and Neighborhood Watch representatives to attend next year's event.

Assistant City Manager Giordano and Police Captain Kreager spoke of the Public Safety Committee's efforts to expand the Neighborhood Watch Program, and the role of Block Captains to serve as general public safety liaisons.

A general discussion with members of the City Council, Commission on Aging and staff was held to address the various methods of outreach to the senior population. Thomas White and Ges Davis from Retired Senior Volunteer Program (R.S.V.P.) briefly reviewed their outreach programs and their willingness to work with other organizations, noting the importance of pooling resources.

Mayor Scotto thanked the Commission members for their dedication to the issues of seniors and for their volunteerism to the City. He encouraged the Commission to continue their outreach efforts to inform seniors on disaster preparedness.

## **7. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Scotto, members of the City Council, and members of the Commission on Aging expressed their gratitude for their respective efforts in addressing the needs of seniors.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

The Commission on Aging meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. to Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. at the Bartlett Center, Hosler Conference Room.

The City Council recessed to the City Council Chambers at 3031 Torrance Blvd. for the regular City Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Approved as Submitted December 11, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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