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Direct questions or concerns to the Commission Liaison at (310) 618-2935, or individual department head prior to submission to the Commission. Parties will be notified if the complaint will be included on a subsequent agenda.

Security procedures: Members of the public will be directed to enter City Hall on the East side of the building through the sliding door. All other entrances will remain locked for entry. Oversized bags or backpacks will not be allowed in the Council Chamber or Commission meeting room. All bags are subject to search.

Any correspondence received after 2:00 p.m. on TUESDAY on any item on the agenda will be provided to the Commission electronically and available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office. A copy of the correspondence will be available for public inspection in a binder at the back of the Council Chamber or Commission Meeting room.

**TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING AGENDA
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2024
REGULAR MEETING
9:30 A.M. IN THE WEST ANNEX COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
AT 3031 TORRANCE BL.**

**THE COMMISSION ON AGING MAY TAKE ACTION ON ANY ITEM
LISTED ON THE AGENDA**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

ROLL CALL: Commission members: Davis, Grundhaus, Hileman, Dojiri, and Chair Mayfield

2. FLAG SALUTE

WORDS OF INSPIRATION

3. REPORT OF THE STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Blvd. and on the City's Website on Thursday, September 26, 2024.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (Limited up to a 15-minute period)

*This portion of the meeting is reserved for comment on items on the Consent Calendar or not on the agenda. Under the Ralph M. Brown Act, the Commission cannot act on items raised during public comment, but may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed; request clarification; or refer the item to staff. **No longer than 1 minute per speaker.** If presenting handout material to Commission, please provide 10 copies to staff before speaking.*

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion and one vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed by a Councilmember from the Consent Calendar and considered separately.

6A. Approve Commission Minutes: September 3, 2024

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. PRESENTATION: THE VOLUNTEER CENTER SOUTH BAY/HARBOR/LONG BEACH.

Presentation, Stepping Forward Together, "Touching Hearts and Opening Minds", by Josh Gezahegn, President/CEO.

7B. DISCUSSION: COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that the Commission on Aging discuss and determine the commission meeting dates for the holiday season.

- 1) Tuesday, December 3, 2024
- 2) Tuesday, January 7, 2025

7C. DISCUSSION: SPEAKERS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that the Commission on Aging discuss and decide on speakers relevant to the senior population.

- 1) **November 5, meeting** – City of Torrance Transit Department, Presentation by David Mach, Transit Planning Manager, on transit program available to the senior community.
- 2) **December 3, meeting** – City of Torrance Emergency Services, Presentation by Tadashi Masumoto, Management Assistant, on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness.
- 3) **January 7, meeting** – Presentation by Helen Dennis, Daily Breeze columnist on Aging.
- 4) **February 4, meeting** – Comfort Keepers, presentation by Crystal Seddon, MBA, General Manager. Comfort Keepers is a homecare company based in Torrance, serving the South Bay area. Comfort Keepers provides caregivers who assist elderly clients at home with services tailored to their needs, including laundry, meal prep, medication reminders, light housekeeping, transportation, companionship, dementia care, and mobility assistance.

7D. DISCUSSION: OLDER AMERICANS AWARDS

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that the Commission on Aging discuss the 2025 Older Americans Award application process, including application deadline.

7E. DISCUSSION: REASSIGN THE ORAL REPORTS ON SENIOR CITIZEN CONCERNS

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that the Commission on Aging discuss and reassign The Oral Reports on Senior Citizen topics for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

7F. ORAL REPORTS ON SENIOR CITIZEN CONCERNS

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that the Commission on Aging report on:

- City Council Activities -
- Housing -
- Health -
- Transportation -
- Community Programs -
- Focal Point Programs -
- Elder Abuse/Fraud -

8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

9. ADJOURNMENT

9A. Adjournment of Commission on Aging Meeting to Tuesday, November 5, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. located in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room.



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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting convened on Tuesday, September 3, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. at the West Annex Commission Meeting Room at City Hall, 3031 Torrance Boulevard.

ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

Present: Commissioners Davis, Dojiri, Hileman and Chair Mayfield

Absent: Commissioner Grundhaus

Also Present: Senior Recreation Supervisor Castro

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

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Hileman read words of inspiration.

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

Senior Recreation Supervisor Castro reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard and on the City's website on Thursday, August 29, 2024 by City Clerk Poirier.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

No items.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Senior Recreation Supervisor Goldenson announced that the Torrance Travelers were offering a trip to the Huntington Library and Museum on September 25, 2024 and registration would begin on Thursday, September 5. She noted that the Senior Arts and Craft Fair would be in November.

Janet Payne reported that she had been contacted by the Senior Taxi service to follow up on her concerns.

A member of the public spoke.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 6, 2024 Commission on Aging

Commissioner Dojiri requested that the spelling of Sylvia Perry's name on page 4 be corrected to Sylvia Perri.

MOTION: Commissioner Dojiri moved and Commissioner Hileman seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of July 2, 2024, as amended. The motion passed by a 4 to 0 vote. (Absent: Commissioner Grundhaus)

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. PRESENTATION: H.E.L.P. Helping Elders Live Productively

Grace Farwell, Program Coordinator of H.E.L.P. provided an overview of the programs and noted that the mission of H.E.L.P. was to provide free education, counseling and resources to older adults and their families so that they could live their best lives. She reported that the H.E.L.P. office was located at 23001 Hawthorne Boulevard, Suite 203 in the AAA Auto Club Building. She confirmed that H.E.L.P. provided free services and discussed the ENGAGE Program, which offered weekly phone calls as well as monthly visits to older adults for help with light chores, tech assistance and to provide non-perishable groceries. She explained that the ENGAGE Program was created to combat the effects of social isolation and loneliness. She confirmed that H.E.L.P. no longer provided legal services, but could offer referrals to outside attorneys. She noted that the ENGAGE Program used volunteers, as well as gerontology interns from local colleges. She distributed information on upcoming events and classes with H.E.L.P.

7B. DISCUSSION: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioner Davis and Commissioner Dojiri nominated Commissioner Hileman to be the Vice Chair.

Commissioner Hileman accepted the nomination.

MOTION: Chair Mayfield moved and Commissioner Davis seconded, to approve Commissioner Hileman to be Vice Chair. The motion passed by a 4 to 0 vote. (Absent: Commissioner Grundhaus)

7C. DISCUSSION: SPEAKERS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Chair Mayfield announced the upcoming speakers:

October 1, meeting – The Volunteer Center South Bay/Harbor/Long Beach, Presentation by Josh Gezahegn, President/CEO, on activities, services and overview of The Volunteer Center.

November 5, meeting – City of Torrance Transit Department, Presentation by David Mach, Transit Planning Manager, on transit program available to the senior community.

December 3, meeting – City of Torrance Emergency Services, Presentation by Tadashi Masumoto, Management Assistant, on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness.

Commissioner Hileman requested that Helen Dennis be asked to speak to the Commission.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Castro confirmed that he would contact Helen Dennis to request her to speak at an upcoming meeting.

7D. DISCUSSION: REASSIGN THE ORAL REPORTS ON SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

Commissioner Dojiri moved and Commissioner Davis seconded to table the reassignment of Oral Reports on Senior Citizens concerns to the October meeting. The motion passed by a 4 to 0 vote. (Absent: Commissioner Grundhaus)

7E. Oral Reports on Senior Citizens Concerns

1. City Council Activities

Commissioner Hileman reported that City Council had requested and received information that of the 218 units to be built at the Gable Hose Bowl site, 17 units would be designated low income. She noted that the Council had discussed homeless and low-income seniors and the lack of housing. She explained that David Mach had discussed the micro transit center and added that the Council had approved a trial of the micro transit system as well as bringing back the red car trolley with rubber wheels.

2. Housing - No report.

3. Health

Chair Mayfield discussed a study and ratings for long-term health care facilities in Torrance, which had been presented to the Council.

4. Transportation - No report.

5. Community Programs - No report.

6. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Dojiri reported the following statistics for the months of:

August 2024:

Total number of documented calls: 25	Web Inquiries: 137
Miscellaneous calls: 26	Total number of calls received: 51
Callbacks:	

Of the documented calls there were the following requests:

	requests for transportation 20%
Requests for housing 32%	Requests for in home services 27%

7. Elder Abuse/Fraud - No report.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2 Commissioners/Staff

Senior Recreation Supervisor Castro stated that he would follow up with Cogir to arrange a tour for the Commission.

Commissioner Dojiri announced a family and elder fraud prevention event on September 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the [Mary K. Giordano Regional Transit Center](#).

Commissioner Hileman requested that an agenda item be added to discuss the Older American Award and whether or not to allow second time recipients. Senior Recreation Supervisor Castro confirmed that he would add the item to the agenda.

9. ADJOURNMENT

9A. At 10:20 a.m., Commissioner Hileman moved to adjourn the meeting to the regular meeting on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. at the West Annex Commission Meeting Room at City Hall, 3031 Torrance Boulevard. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis. The motion passed by a 4-0 vote. (Absent: Commissioner Grundhaus)

####

Subject to Approval



Volunteer Center
South Bay / Harbor / Long Beach

Stepping Forward Together ***“Touching Hearts and Opening Minds”***

President/CEO – Josh Gezahegn
Josh@volcenter.org



1

History of care

For 60 years, the Volunteer Center has been a trusted presence.

Everything we do is designed to build **empathy** and **resilience** in our community **through community service and volunteerism**.

Our work is not the programs alone, but the creation of an **umbrella of care** with all our efforts.



2

Community-Driven Priorities

We serve more than 40 cities across southwestern Los Angeles and engage over **40,200 clients, children, families and volunteers** a year. To do that, we prioritize our resources to help **where care is needed most.**

To determine the best focus for our efforts, we bring **community members and stakeholder organizations** to the table.

Together we identify the **most pressing needs** and **collaborate** on a response.



Where We Care

3

Our Vision

“We envision a community where children and youth have the nutrition and tools they need to learn, serve, and thrive.”

Community service that is peer to peer, is community service that brings us all together.



This is care for one and care for all.



Why We Are

4

Where Care Is Currently Needed Most



FOOD INSECURITY

YOUTH MENTAL WELLNESS

SOCIAL & EDUCATION INEQUITY

5

Social Justice



Court-Referred Community Service

Our court-referred community members conduct service as an **alternative sentence**, experiencing **personal transformation through service-learning**.

Our program provides local nonprofits with 32,000 hours each year through 6,500+ court-referred volunteers.



6

Educational Inequity



Operation Teddy Bear

Our Operation Teddy Bear program **targets educational inequity** in the academic resource distribution process by providing children with the tools, books, and materials they need to **effectively learn** and complete assignments.

Each year, we provide more than **70,000 educational materials** to **5,000 first graders in 60+ Schools** throughout the South Bay community.



7

Food Insecurity



Food for Kids



The same students who need support with educational resources also need access to **healthy, affordable** meals seven days a week.

Our Food for Kids program provides **3,500 weekend** meals to students and local families each Friday.

Over the past decade, the Volunteer Center has served **over 1,200,000 weekend meals** to Title-1 schools in the South Bay community.

8

Social and Emotional Wellness



Youth and Family Support Programs

Our commitment to meeting immediate needs extends to mental health – supporting our community members in living **whole and balanced lives** with tools for strong mental health and support in times of struggle.

This knowledge has driven us to establish our **Empathy in Action** and **teen programs** with a foundation in social and emotional wellness.



9

Youth Mental Health



Impact Makers

Impact Makers - Building Skills For Life is a **social-emotional wellness and service-learning** program for high school-aged youth.

An immersive 12-week journey, youth engage in a curriculum that enables them to serve their community, develop empathy towards others, and acquire essential mental wellness tools.

Structured as weekly **2.5-hour group sessions**, coupled with **2 to 3 hours devoted to community service placements**. Impact Makers serves an average of 25 students per cohort.

Identity Development, Leadership, Community Awareness and Wellness.



10

Touch Hearts & Open Minds

Empathy and resilience are our tools.
Volunteerism is our delivery method.

Joining us means engaging with Empathy in Action – programs and experiences that prioritize social and emotional wellness, service-learning, diversity, equity, and inclusion, and that impart essential life and well-being skills to youth and adults.

- **Sign Up for Our Email List**
- **Give a Financial Gift**
- **Become a Monthly Donor**
- **Help Stock our Food Pantry**
- **Join Our Volunteer Waitlist**
- **Become a Sponsor**
- **Attend an Event**
- **... Spread the Word!**



How to Help

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Our Sponsors



12

Connect With Us

Sign up for our newsletter and follow us on social media for updates and additional content.

www.volcenter.org

