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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND

2011 FEB -3 AM 10: 08

Letter of Nomination

February 15, 2011

The Honorable City Council  
One City Hall Plaza, Second Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear President Reid and members of the City Council:

Pursuant to City Charter section 601, the Mayor, hereby appoints the following persons as members of the following Board or Commission, subject to the City Council's confirmation:

**COMMISSION ON AGING**

**Karen Smulevitz**, Mayoral appointment to serve the term beginning November 24, 2010 and ending November 23, 2013, filling the seat previously held by Annie McCoy.

**Donna Griggs**, Mayoral appointment to serve the term beginning September 2, 2010 and ending September 1, 2013, filling the seat she previously held.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jean Quan  
Mayor

2011 FEB -3 AM 10:08

APPROVED FOR FORM AND LEGALITY

**DRAFT**

CITY ATTORNEY

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

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### RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF KAREN SMULEVITZ AND DONNA GRIGGS AS MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON AGING

**WHEREAS**, Section 601 of the City Charter provides that members of City boards and commissions shall be appointed by the Mayor subject to confirmation by the affirmative vote of five members of the City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, Ordinance No 9921 C.M.S. adopted May 13, 1980 and amended in 1985, 1989 and 1995 establishes the Commission on Aging to advocate for the elderly and serve as an Advisory Board to the Department on Aging; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission on Aging consists of eleven (11) members serving not more than two consecutive three year terms; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable Mayor Jean Quan has appointed Karen Smulevitz to serve a three year term subject to confirmation by the City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable Mayor Jean Quan as appointed Donna Griggs to serve a second three year term subject to confirmation by the City Council; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that pursuant to City Charter section 601, the City Council hereby confirms the Mayor's appointment of Karen Smulevitz to the Commission on Aging for a three year term beginning November 24, 2010 and ending November 23, 2013, filling the seat previously held by Annie

McCoy and Donna Griggs to a second three-year term beginning September 2, 2010 and ending September 1, 2013, filling the seat she previously held.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,  
PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES – BRUNNER, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, SCHAAF, DE LA FUENTE,  
BROOKS, KAPLAN AND PRESIDENT REID

NOES –

ABSTENTIONS-

ABSENT-

ATTEST:

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LATONDA SIMMONS

City Clerk and Clerk of the Oakland City  
Council

January 31, 2011

FILED  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND

To Whom It May Concern:

2011 FEB -3 AM 10:08

My name is Karen Smulevitz. I was born in Chicago, Illinois on March 14, 1945, and I will be 66 years old this year. In 1967 I moved to San Francisco and married Sheldon Smulevitz, and my daughter Amanda was born that year. In 1969 we relocated to Oakland and my son Daniel was born. I have lived in Oakland ever since, although separated from my husband. I have one grandchild, my daughter's son Jayden.

Over the years I have held various jobs, but the closest I could come to claiming a career is to say I have always been a student of the world around us, trying to learn as much as possible about people and our environment.

I have been a bookkeeper, waitress, post office clerk and telephone operator. When my children were in preschool and elementary school, I was a stay-at-home mom who volunteered in their classrooms and tutored neighbors' children.

Going to school part-time. I completed two years of college and earned a certificate as a veterinary assistant, but went to work at the post office, as I was by then a single mom and needed the health benefits.

Later I drove taxicabs in Oakland for a woman-owned company which gave me the opportunity to learn the various neighborhoods in our city. We specialized in careful service to elderly passengers, and that is when I first became interested in the needs of senior citizens. That company, Taxi-Taxi, co-founded Van Go, an early wheelchair van service, before East Bay Paratransit was established. I have used this service myself, in times of ill health. When the company was sold, I worked as the office manager and dispatcher for the new owners..

In my last years of work, I was self-employed, chauffeuring older women and school children, and doing yard work and dog grooming.

In the 1990s my asthma became severe and I was hospitalized on a ventilator twice.

Unable to work, I went on SSI. Being incapacitated ate away at me, so I joined the YMCA in order to improve my health. When I was well enough, I started walking, and walked right into United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County, an organization that reflected my goals, and I am proud to say I am still a member. Today my asthma is under control, but in 2003 I was diagnosed with stomach cancer, had major surgery then and again in 2008. I firmly believe that exercise and healthy living, pillars of United Seniors, enabled me to survive.

Also, I believe I am low income for a reason; it helps me empathize with vulnerable populations, and it has forced me to find happiness in the simple things. This stage of my life is second best only to raising my kids, and in many ways it's better. I have more time to volunteer and take part in pleasurable activities. I hope to encourage other seniors to live well and participate in all that Oakland has to offer.

Besides being active in United Seniors, I am a vice-president of California Alliance of Retired Americans, and a board member of Oakland Parks Coalition. The creekside in Arroyo Viejo Park is my Adopt-a-Spot, where I am a park steward, and coordinate Earth Day events. I attend my NCPC as often as possible.

As a transit-dependent senior, I am avidly involved in transportation issues, often speaking before BART, MTC, and AC Transit boards. I follow Oakland's Bicycle

Pedestrian Advisory Council, belong to Walk Oakland Bike Oakland, Transform, and Urban Habitat's Transportation Justice Working Group. I believe it is important to speak for seniors whenever transit and pedestrian issues are discussed.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated, as is your patience. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Karen Smulevitz