

CITY OF OAKLAND
AGENDA REPORT

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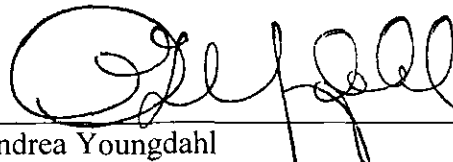
2008 MAY 15 PM 6:48

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: Department of Human Services
DATE: May 27, 2008

RE: **Annual Update From the Mayor's Commission on Aging**

Attached is the Annual report from Mayor's Commission on Aging. Department of Human Services staff and a representative from the Mayor's Commission on Aging will be available to answer questions.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrea Youngdahl
Director, Department of Human Services

Attachments

FORWARDED TO THE
LIFE ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE:



Office of the City Administrator

Item: _____
Life Enrichment Committee
May 27, 2008

May 27, 2008

LIFE ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE
Oakland City Council

RE: Annual Update From the Mayor's Commission on Aging

Chairperson Chang and Members of the Committee:

SUMMARY

This report provides the city Council with information about the activities of the Mayor's Commission on Aging during the fiscal year 2007-08.

FISCAL IMPACT

This is an informational report with no fiscal impact at this time.

BACKGROUND

The Mayor's Commission on Aging was established in 1980 by Ordinance No. 9921 C.M.S. The primary role of the Commission on Aging is to identify issues of importance to Oakland's senior residents and support programs in the Oakland Department of Human Services. Ordinance 11982 C.M.S. establishes the Commission's authority to provide policy guidance to the City's four Multipurpose Senior Centers.

The Commission on Aging works in partnership with the Department of Human Services to plan for, advocate, and develop senior resources to address the needs of the City's senior citizens. One of the primary tools the Commission on Aging uses to address the needs of Oakland seniors is to target funding generated by the \$2 Parking Ticket Set-Aside program to local senior service providers.

Commission on Aging Membership: The Commission on Aging is chartered for 11 members, appointed by the Mayor to a maximum of two three-year terms, subject to Council approval. The current Commission membership represents the diverse communities in the City of Oakland. In the past 6 months; five Commissioners have been appointed - Dr. Wade Sherwood, Antoinette Warren-Williams, Ernest Hardmon III, Donna Griggs-Murphy, and Robert Chatmon. Commissioners Bobbie Bond and Chairperson Brenda Crawford have completed two terms of service and stepped down after the May 7, 2008 meeting. As of June 1, 2008 the Commission on Aging will have ten members and two vacancies.

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Commission on Aging Current Members:

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Term Begin</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>2nd term</u>
Bobbie	Bond	9/3/2004	9/2/2007	✓
Brenda J.	Crawford	9/2/2004	9/2/2007	✓
Samuel	Miller	9/2/2006	9/2/2009	✓
Annie	McCoy	11/24/2007	11/23/2010	✓
Alphonso	Galloway	9/2/2007	9/3/2010	✓
Trung Duy	Nguyen	9/2/2007	9/1/2010	✓
Eileen	Abrams	9/2/2006	9/1/2009	
Antoinette	Warren Williams	9/2/2007	9/2/2008	
Ernest	Hardmon	9/3/2006	9/2/2009	
Donna	Griggs-Murphy	9/2/2006	9/2/2009	
Wade	Sherwood	9/3/2007	9/3/2010	
Robert	Chatman	9/2/2006	9/1/2009	

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

The Commission has actively maintained an interest in issues affecting the lives of Oakland senior citizens during the past year. Three standing committees and a Steering Committee have distributed City grants, advocated for public funding, worked closely with the Senior Centers and supported various senior-related activities in the community.

In 2007 the Commission on Aging continued to work with local agencies to address disaster planning for senior and disabled residents as a priority for the City of Oakland. Working with DHS and the Office of Emergency Services, the Commission identified disaster planning and access as key issues for these populations in the event of an emergency or disaster. The Senior Services Set-Aside application requires submission of information about local providers' disaster planning and responsiveness.

The oversight of the Senior Services Set-Aside grants has been a key activity of the Commission Community Support Committee. In 2007 and 2008, Committee members developed a monitoring tool and visited each of the grantees to identify issues and assess how the grant funds were being utilized. Information from the monitoring tool was made available to the Commissioner Set-Aside Review Committee, to better inform decision-making for the 2008-09 review.

The Community Support Committee continues to participate in the Senior Center programs and activities, and to oversee Advisory Council elections at each Center site. Each month the Commission hears from the staff of the Oakland multipurpose senior centers and the centers that receive funding from the city to provide site-based services to Oakland senior residents. Those contractors include the Fruitvale San Antonio Senior Center, which has engaged the Commission on Aging in support of the Fruitvale-Diamond Senior Access project.

The Community Support Committee also works with many senior residences and service providers in the community to identify gaps in service and advise DHS staff about program and policy issues. The Access Committee members identify barriers to, and increase availability of services and programs for Oakland's senior residents. The Access Committee focuses on underserved or under-recognized communities including lesbian/gay/bisexual/ transgender and ethnic populations, frail seniors, and seniors with disabilities. In 2007 the Access Committee monitored a Set-Aside project at the East Oakland Senior Center which addressed cultural competency at the East Oakland Senior Center through the establishment of services designed to engage previously unserved Latino seniors living nearby.

Issues and Concerns: Governor Schwarzenegger's 2008 budget proposal has been identified as a priority issue for the Mayor's Commission on Aging. The budget cuts will disproportionately affect low income and frail seniors in Oakland, reducing their access to nutrition, in home support, and MediCal health services.

At the April 2008 Commission meeting a Resolution was passed (Attachment A) expressing the Commission's concerns about the budget cuts and support for state funding of programs for seniors and disabled residents.

The Commission on Aging recognizes the increasing diversity of Oakland's senior residents, and is committed to ensuring that the Oakland Multipurpose Senior Centers are welcoming places for all seniors – regardless of ethnicity, sexual orientation, or economic status. Towards that end the Commission on Aging has been discussing how best to facilitate "cultural competency" among the staff and the members of the City's senior centers.

Finally, financial abuse of vulnerable seniors is an issue that the Commission has been concerned with over the past year. Following a series of editorials in the Oakland Tribune, the Commission heard a presentation about the law as it related to financial abuse from the Tribune reporter Tammerlin Drummond, and from the Alameda County District Attorney Senior Advocate Dena Aindow.

Future Objectives: The Commission on Aging will continue to serve as a public advocate for the City of Oakland's senior population through public hearings, complaint resolution, and identification of emerging senior issues. In order to fulfill the Commission's mandate it is important to have a reliable quorum and a full board, therefore the Commission will be proactive in the recruitment of new members to broaden the knowledge base.

The Commission on Aging will continue to work closely with DHS to expand services and advocate for full state and federal funding of critical safety net services for seniors.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Crawford

BRENDA CRAWFORD

Chair, Mayor's Commission on Aging

Prepared by:
Tracy Jensen, Senior Services Administrator

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Commission on Aging Resolution Calling on the Governor and the Legislature To Support and Fund Programs that Meet the Needs of Older Adults, Especially Oakland's Frail and Low Income Senior Residents

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ATTACHMENT A

MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON AGING

Department of Human Services

Lionel J. Wilson Building
150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 4340
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 238.3121/ (510) 238.7207 (fax)

Whereas, in February 2008 Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger introduced a budget proposal which severely reduces the services and programs for senior residents of California; and,

Whereas, on February 15, 2008 the California Legislature agreed to current year budget cuts that restrict Oakland seniors' access to critical programs by reducing reimbursement to MediCal, Adult Day Health Care, and Multi-Purpose Senior Services Program (MSSP) providers; and

Whereas, the Legislature will be addressing 2008-09 Budget proposals which include substantial reductions to programs that help seniors to remain independent and safe in the community, including In Home Supportive Services, Adult Protective Services, Nutrition programs, and Ombudsman programs; and,

Whereas, these cuts will disproportionately impact frail and low income Oakland senior residents by reducing their access to services and increasing the out of pocket costs for services;

Therefore, be it Resolved that on April 2, 2008 The Oakland Mayor's Commission on Aging calls on the Governor and the Legislature to support and fund programs that meet the needs of older adults, especially Oakland's frail and low income senior residents.

Further, the Commission condemns the Governor's proposed budget cuts that would reduce essential services to Oakland's senior residents. We call on the Governor and the Legislature to pursue a balanced approach to solving California's budget crisis.

Brenda Crawford, Chairperson