

# Agenda Report

October 31, 2001

To: CITY COUNCIL

From: Senior Commission

Subject: Senior Commission Annual Report

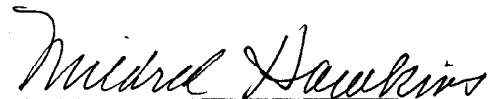
In its service in advising the City Council, advocating for improvement in the delivery of services to seniors and providing information and referrals, the Senior Commission participated in the following activities:

1. October 2000: Authorized a review and update of the 1995 Senior Master Plan; appointed a committee chaired by Commissioner Janet Yang to conduct this study and produce a 2001 Senior Master Plan.
2. October 2000: Requested and received a report from Cathi Cole, Transit Manager, on Dial-a-Ride issues and future plans to improve Dial-a-Ride. A follow-up report was requested.
3. November 2000: At the request of the Commission, Kathy Evans, Executive Director of the Convalescent Aid Society, explained the role of this agency in providing durable medical goods to people who need them on a free loan basis.
4. November 2000: Based upon Commissioner Benedict's experience at Huntington Hospital, Cecily Seabourne of Soroptomist International with her dog Angel, reported on her involvement in and the importance of the pet therapy program at the hospital.
5. December 2000: Based upon recent occurrences of elder scams, the Senior Commission requested attorney Susan House, an estate planning specialist, to present a program developed to teach seniors about fraud in the field of estate planning.

6. December 2000: The Senior Commission celebrated its fifth anniversary and its record of meeting its quorum requirements 60 consecutive months. All former commissioners, members of City Council and friends of the Commission were invited to celebrate this milestone.
  7. January 2001: The Commission studied the issues and voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council support the Heritage Square Housing Project.
  8. February 2001: The Commission studied and passed a resolution supporting Councilman Haderlein's proposal to establish a regularly scheduled shuffle between Victory Park and the Pasadena Senior Center to alleviate parking problems at the Center.
  9. March 2001: In response to heavier use of popular corridors and the residential building occurring along these corridors, the Commission requested Ken Johnson from Public Works and Transportation Department to discuss solutions to traffic bottlenecks such as Walnut Street at Lake Avenue. The Commission also pointed out some hazards to seniors as they exit ARTS buses and as they walk across wide intersections and made suggestions to improve these situations.
  10. April 2001: Representatives of the Planning and Permitting Department MASH Program informed the commissioners about the free home maintenance MASH provides to qualified Senior homeowners.
  11. May 2001: Commissioner Isenberg, Housing Director for Pasadena Senior Center, presented an overview of subsidized senior housing in Pasadena and a net loss of units in Pasadena despite the opening of Silvercrest and Telacu. She also provided an overview of proposed projects that have not been approved for groundbreaking and current difficulties seniors are facing in using Section 8 vouchers.
  12. June 2001: In response to the energy crisis, the Commission invited and received a report from representatives of the Water And Power Department concerning the current energy crisis, rates and potential blackouts.
  13. July 2001: Marge Martinez, Executive Director, of the C.H.A.P. clinic, at the request of the Commission, made a presentation regarding the many services available to seniors and the soon to be open dental program.
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14. August 2000: The Senior Commission invited Dr. Helen Kirschner, Executive Director of the Beverly Foundation, to make a presentation regarding the pilot study they are conducting to improve transportation for elderly seniors. The program depends upon volunteer drivers who can provide transportation according to the senior's needs not means.
15. September 2001: The Senior Commission FY-2002 Workplan was approved unanimously for submission to the City Council.
16. September 2001: The Senior Commission completed another successful year with a quorum at all meetings and no unexcused absences.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mildred Hawkins".

Mildred Hawkins, Chair  
Senior Commission

**SENIOR COMMISSION**

**ATTENDANCE RECORD  
OCTOBER 2000 -- SEPTEMBER 2001**

|                                 | OCT.<br>00 | NOV.<br>00 | DEC.<br>00 | JAN.<br>01 | FEB.<br>01 | MAR.<br>01 | APR.<br>01 | MAY<br>01 | JUN.<br>01 | JUL.<br>01 | AUG.<br>01 | SEP.<br>01 |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Cliff Benedict<br>Mayor's Appt. | P          | P          | P          | P          | P          | P          | P          | P         | P          | P          | P          | E          |
| Adria Emberson<br>Agency Rep.   | P          | E          | P          | P          | P          | P          | P          | P         | P          | P          | P          | E          |
| Mildred Hawkins<br>District 3   | P          | P          | P          | P          | P          | P          | P          | P         | P          | P          | P          | P          |
| Maria Eisenberg<br>District 1   | P          | E          | P          | P          | P          | E          | P          | P         | P          | P          | P          | P          |
| Marge Leighton<br>At Large      | VA         | VA         | VA         | P          | P          | E          | P          | P         | P          | E          | P          | P          |
| Nora Mitsumori<br>District 6    | P          | P          | P          | E          | P          | P          | P          | P         | P          | P          | E          | P          |
| Luther Renfroe<br>District 5    | P          | P          | P          | P          | E          | P          | P          | P         | P          | P          | P          | P          |
| David Robinson<br>District 6    | P          | P          | P          | P          | P          | P          | P          | P         | E          | P          | P          | P          |
| Edwin Scheuerman<br>District 2  | P          | P          | P          | P          | P          | P          | E          | P         | P          | E          | P          | E          |
| Natalie Shutman<br>District 4   | P          | P          | P          | P          | P          | P          | P          | P         | E          | P          | P          | P          |
| Janet Yang<br>Agency Rep.       | P          | P          | P          | P          | P          | P          | E          | P         | P          | P          | P          | P          |

**WORKPLAN FOR FY-2002**

**GOAL ONE:** Senior policy & implementation strategies (SMP – pg. 143)

**Program Description:**

1. Review Senior Master Plan
2. Develop proposed senior policy & implementation strategies for City Council
3. Maintain liaisons with other commissions re senior issues
4. Communicate with city officials on senior issues
5. Testify regarding seniors at public hearings

**Product/Outcomes:**

- a) An official senior policy
- b) Adopted action plan
- c) City actions which support seniors & their needs

**Primary Responsibility:** Commissioners Emberson, Mitsumori, Robinson & **Yang\***

**GOAL TWO:**

**A.** Access to appropriate transportation for seniors (SMP – pg. 115 & 131)

**Program Description:**

1. Inform transportation staff when issues &/or problems are identified
2. Support ARTS bus serving Pasadena Senior Center (PSC)
3. Monitor taxi voucher program & report documented mistreatment of passengers
4. Monitor Dial-a-Ride service with new contract
5. Advocate for proposed shuttle service from Victory Park to Pasadena Senior Center

**Product/Outcome:** Transportation services for seniors

**Primary Responsibility:** Commissioners Emberson, **Hawkins**, Leighton & **Shutman**

**B.** Adequate free parking for Senior Center clients, volunteers & staff (SMP – p. 106)

**Program Description:**

1. Encourage car-pooling
2. Promote the use of public transportation including ARTS buses
3. Sponsor forums on public transportation such as "Free to Go"
4. Explore & support satellite parking facilities
5. Work with Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC)

**Product/Outcome:** Free parking close to PSC for all that use PSC & drive

**Primary Responsibility:** Commissioners **Benedict**, Hawkins & Leighton

**GOAL THREE:** Community Health Alliance Partnership Clinic (CHAP) serving seniors (SMP – p. 73)

**Program Description:** Encourage seniors' use of CHAP Clinic

**Product/Outcome:** Healthier seniors due to accessible health & dental services

**Primary Responsibility:** Commissioners **Benedict** & **Emberson**

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\* The commissioner name in boldface type indicates the leader of the goal project.

**GOAL FOUR:** Distribution of Human Services grants for one or more senior services (SMP – p. 41)

**Program Description:**

1. Strengthen liaison with Human Services Commission (HSC)
2. Co-sponsor with HSC a public hearing to identify senior needs

**Product/Outcomes:** Senior Commission input regarding distribution of Human Service Endowment Fund & Community Development Block Grants as it affects seniors

**Primary Responsibility:** Commissioners Isenberg & Robinson

**GOAL FIVE:** Safe & affordable housing for all seniors (SMP – p. 81)

**Program Description:** Advocate for more senior housing, including transitional housing for victims of violence & homelessness

**Product/Outcomes:**

1. Increased housing resources
2. Information on ways to create housing for all economic groups of seniors, especially moderate to low income seniors
3. Identification of new & converted housing designated for seniors
4. Home modifications & safety information

**Primary Responsibility:** Commissioners **Isenberg**, Benedict & Robinson

**GOAL SIX:** Fair employment practices by the city for older workers & applicants (SMP – p. 53)

**Program Description:** Monitor city retention, promotion & layoff practices relevant to older workers & applicants

**Product/Outcome:** Lawful treatment of older workers & applicants

**Primary Responsibility:** Commissioners **Renfroe** & Robinson

**GOAL SEVEN:** Seniors feeling & being safe in Pasadena (SMP – pg. 123, 111 & 114)

**Program Description:**

1. Provide safety information
2. Encourage development of emergency plans through neighborhood associations
3. Monitor "Postal Alert" to provide training for letter carriers & information for seniors
4. Advocate continued city funding for senior victims of crime.
5. Establish a Neighborhood Watch at Pilgrim Towers East & North

**Products/Outcomes:**

- a. Decreased number of crimes against seniors
- b. An emergency response plan
- c. An additional tool with which to monitor frail seniors
- d. Mental health services for senior victims of crime
- e. Empowered seniors to observe & report suspicious behaviors

**Primary Responsibility:** Commissioners Hawkins, **Scheuerman** & **Yang**

**GOAL EIGHT:** Joint committee with Commission on the Status of Women on older women's issues (SMP – pp. 117-119)

**Program Description:**

1. Co-sponsor a public hearing on issues affecting older women
2. Co-sponsor a planning committee to provide workshops for older women

**Product/Outcomes:** At least two workshops targeted to mature women

**Primary Responsibility:** Commissioners Emberson & **Leighton**

**GOAL NINE:** Collaboration among senior-serving programs to provide a continuum of services (SMP – pp. 49-50)

**Program Description:** Support the collaboration groups such as mental health providers & Pasadena Executive Directors in their effort to improve service delivery

**Products/Outcomes:**

1. Increased communication among agencies serving seniors
2. Assessment of existing services
3. Plans for filling identified gaps in service

**Primary Responsibility:** Commissioners **Emberson & Yang**

**GOAL TEN:** Adequate access to services for non-English speaking elderly who request/need city & community services – emergency, medical, transportation & social

**Program Description:**

1. Encourage city to add Asian languages to list of certified bilingual employees available to assist staff serving elderly
2. Explore means to establish a “language resource center” for agencies & city to use
3. Expand city-funded services to include access to Asian elderly who are non-English speaking
4. Encourage PCC to provide more ESL classes for seniors

**Product/Outcome:** Improved service delivery for non-English-speaking elderly at City Hall & in the community

**Primary Responsibility:** Commissioners Hawkins

**GOAL ELEVEN:** Empower seniors with information that promotes their independence & lifestyle

**A. Program Description:** Host a multi-issue conference for seniors & people who work with them

**Products/Outcomes:**

1. Seniors with an enhanced ability to access the services & providers they need
2. Seniors with practical knowledge
3. Seniors with new contacts to address specific needs

**Primary Responsibility:** Commissioners **Emberson, Mitsumori**

**B. Program Description:** Compile information, print & distribute “Senior Pocket Information Cards” to seniors & senior-serving agencies

**Products/Outcomes:**

1. Seniors with information to identify needed services
2. Professionals serving seniors with a brief directory for use in their work
3. Better use of existing resources

**Primary Responsibility:** Commissioners Leighton & **Mitsumori**