

Agenda Report

March 4, 2002

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Senior Commission

SUBJECT: Proposed Senior Policy to promote the well being of Pasadena's senior residents and Status Report with Recommendations on 1995 Senior Master Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

The Senior Commission recommends that the City Council:

- 1) Review this summary of progress achieved on the issues included in the *1995 Senior Master Plan* and existent needs (Attachment A);
- 2) Work towards enacting the specific recommendations (Attachment A); and
- 3) Adopt the following policy statement:

The City of Pasadena recognizes that there are over 16,000 senior citizens (age 65+) living in Pasadena and that the needs of these seniors are of critical importance. The City of Pasadena affirms the right of its seniors to the conditions of a humane quality of life, including: affordable housing, appropriate health care, accessible transportation, safety within and outside the home, access to information regardless of language, employment opportunities, and opportunities for enrichment.

Furthermore, the City affirms that every city department considers seniors' needs when planning and recommending action. The City will look to the Senior Commission to study, suggest and recommend actions to be taken to improve service to seniors.

BACKGROUND

In fall, 2000, the Senior Commission appointed a committee to update the *1995 Senior Master Plan (SMP)*. The SMP was the work of 44 individuals, both seniors and

professionals. Its 23 chapters summarized the needs and the status of services in subject areas ranging from advocacy to volunteer opportunities. For each subject there was also a set of recommendations. A review of these recommendations was the first step in preparing an update with recommendations for future action.

The SMP Update Committee consisted of one past and five current members of the Senior Commission, Pasadena Senior Center Executive Director, a Senior Advocacy Council member and the staff person assigned to the Senior Commission. Each of these people reviewed the SMP and documented progress made since the original report was published; they also created a list of the gaps in services for seniors. The committee requested professionals working with seniors in a variety of agencies to review the SMP and provide similar input. Fifteen individuals from seven agencies provided feedback.

For its last step in information gathering, the committee held 4 public hearings, eliciting feedback from approximately 103 community members, primarily seniors themselves. In these four meetings participants commented on accomplishments and needs still existing in each of the 7 categories selected for review: Case Management and Home-based services, Food and Nutrition, Health Care and Mental Health Care, Housing, Services to Ethnic Minorities and Language Services, Transportation, and Other.

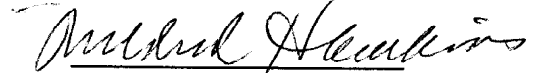
The information from the public forums and the questionnaires circulated to the agencies is summarized in Attachment A of this report. Attachment A also contains recommendations for action.

In summary, significant progress has been achieved with regard to seniors' needs since the production of the *1995 Pasadena Senior Master Plan*. Of note, too, is that a number of significant needs, as detailed in the report, continue to exist. The committee highlights the following recommendations to the City Council; these are designed to address the most pressing needs:

- 1) The City aggressively pursue development of low and very low income **housing** for seniors;
- 2) The City to investigate the feasibility of developing a **transportation** project which would assist frail seniors who cannot wait at the curb for para-transit, but require additional personal assistance with transportation;
- 3) The City to put a priority on hiring personnel who can provide services in a broader array of **languages**, particularly Spanish, Armenian, Mandarin, Korean and Tagalog, and with greater cultural sensitivity; and

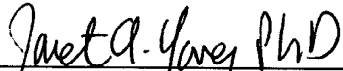
- 4) The City to support programs to monitor and decrease **elder abuse** in residential facilities in partnership with the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

Respectfully Submitted by:



Mildred Hawkins, Chair

Prepared by:



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Chair, Senior Master Plan Update Committee