

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's office at (310) 618-2780. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. [28CFR35.102-35.104 ADA Title II]

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, AUGUST 5, 2025
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: Ohno, Kraemer, Montoya, Wang, Davis, and Hileman.

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, July 31, 2025.

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 ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS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: MAY 6, 2025

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION BY HEARTFORD HOSPICE

Presentation by Khyla Inman, Vice President of Community Relations, on the differences between hospice and palliative care and hospice myths.

7B. ACCEPT AND FILE 2025 INTERNSHIP PROJECT PRESENTATION

Presentation by Linnett Azucar, City of Torrance Intern, on Renaming Senior Centers for the Next Generation.

7C. DISCUSS AND PROVIDE DIRECTION ON 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) **September 2, meeting** – Alzheimer’s Los Angeles, presentation by Natalie Rosemond, Director of Healthcare Services and Professional Training. Alzheimer’s Los Angeles collaborates with professionals and healthcare organizations to raise awareness around dementia, provide education and outreach, and offers practical strategies that help families manage care and access vital resources.
- 2) **October 7, meeting** – City of Torrance Emergency Services, Presentation by Tadashi Masumoto, Management Assistant, on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness.
- 3) **November 4, meeting** – Torrance Memorial Hospital’s Caring Companions / No One Dies Alone Program. Presentation by Mary Matson, Director of Service Excellence.

7D. RECEIVE AND DISCUSS A TORRANCE CENTENARIAN APPLICATION

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that the Commission on Aging discuss a Centenarian nominee and receive an update from staff.

- 1) Centenarian Award applicant, Mr. Billy R. Hoyt
- 2) The City Council Meeting Ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 6:30pm.

7E. RECEIVE AND APPROVE 2024/2025 COA & FOCAL POINT ANNUAL REPORT

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that the Commission on Aging receive and approve the 24/25 COA & Focal Point Annual Reports.

7F. RECEIVE AND 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 2025-2026 fiscal year.

7G. RECEIVE ORAL REPORTS ON SENIOR CITIZEN CONCERNS

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

- City Council Activities - Commissioner Hileman
- Housing & Community Programs -
- Health -
- Transportation - Commissioner Davis
- Focal Point Programs & Elder Abuse/Fraud -

7H. DISCUSS AND DETERMINE THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR FY25/26

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that the Commission on Aging nominate and elect a Chair and a Vice Chair for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

9. ADJOURNMENT

9A. Adjournment of Commission on Aging Meeting to Tuesday, September 2, 2025, 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, May 6, 2025 at 9:31 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, Grundhaus, Hileman, Montoya, Wang and Chair Mayfield

Absent: None

Also Present: Senior Recreation Supervisor Castro

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Montoya led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Hileman provided 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, May 1, 2025 by City Clerk Poirier.

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

No items.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 1, 2025 Commission on Aging

Commissioner Hileman requested that the time of adjournment be changed from 9:24 a.m. to 10:24 a.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Hileman moved to approve the minutes of April 1, 2025 of the Commission on Aging meeting, as corrected, and Commissioner Dojiri seconded. The motion passed by a 7-0 vote.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION BY THE CITY OF TORRANCE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION.

Social Services Commissioners Pryor and Furey and Staff Liaison to the Commission Allen introduced themselves to the Commission.

Commissioner Furey discussed the history and jurisdiction of the Social Services Commission and noted that the Commission made advisory recommendations to the City Council related to: Veterans, people experiencing homelessness, adults with developmental disabilities and children with special needs. She noted that the Commission received presentations from organizations within the City to determine opportunities to help existing programs as well as

recommendations for developing new programs. She noted that the Commission had compiled educational campaigns and materials to outline agencies that provided support to the Commission's populations, provided the City's non-profit agencies promotion through City resources and made recommendations to City Council for the Homeless Outreach Program and interim housing site.

Commissioner Pryor reported on the steps of the Commission's Work Plan which included: information, resources and referrals, understanding and keeping connected with the various populations, marshalling community support and raising public awareness, City's support of the Social Services and increasing housing opportunities and developing social opportunities and inclusion. She listed the four Annual Events which the Commission was involved with: Homeless Count, Toiletry Drive, TUSD Back to School Drive and Veterans Appreciation Event.

Deputy City Manager Hoang reported that the Commission had developed a partnership with an organization called TranZitions EVOLVE for those with neurodiversities, which had resulted in internships and a possible permanent job within the City. He discussed the Staff Liaison-in-Training Program and noted that the Outreach Team might be able to help with homelessness among seniors.

MOTION: Chair Mayfield moved and Commissioner Grundhaus seconded, to accept and file the presentation by the Social Services Commission. The motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.

7B. DISCUSS AND PROVIDE DIRECTION ON SPEAKERS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Chair Mayfield announced the upcoming speakers:

July 1, 2025 – City of Torrance Emergency Services, Presentation by Tadashi Masumoto, Management Assistant, on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Castro confirmed that the July 1, 2025 presentation by Heartford Hospice had been rescheduled to August 5, 2025.

Commissioner Dojiri requested a presentation from the Alzheimer's Association. She confirmed that she would provide the contact information to Senior Recreation Supervisor Castro.

Commissioner Montoya requested that an item be included in a future agenda to discuss additional speakers.

7C. RECEIVE AND DISCUSS OLDER AMERICANS AWARD CEREMONY

Senior Recreation Supervisor Castro announced that the Older Americans Award ceremony would take place on May 6, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. and noted that he would be in attendance in the front by 6:15 p.m. to direct the Commission to the VIP section. He confirmed that all six award winners had confirmed their attendance.

7D. RECEIVE AND DISCUSS A TORRANCE CENTENARIAN APPLICATION

Senior Recreation Supervisor Castro reported that an application had been received for Mrs. Ora N. Baker Parton and noted that her family had requested the Award Ceremony to be held at the City Council meeting of Tuesday, May 20, 2025. Commissioners Dojiri, Hileman, Wang and Chair Mayfield confirmed that they would attend the ceremony.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Castro noted that the Los Angeles County award ceremony would be held in person May 22, 2025 and added that the awardee had been notified of the time and date.

7E. RECEIVE AND REASSIGN THE ORAL REPORTS ON SENIOR CITIZEN CONCERNS

The Commission requested to postpone the item until the July Commission meeting, after new Commissioners had been appointed.

7F. RECEIVE ORAL REPORTS ON SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

1. City Council Activities

Commissioner Hileman announced that the City was moving forward with the Columbia Park WWII Camp Wall Incarceration Monument.

2. Housing and Community Programs

Commissioner Grundhaus announced that there would be 35 town homes developed for Crenshaw Boulevard. She noted that the libraries were hosting programs for seniors, such as *writing your memoirs* and announced that the 63rd Annual Armed Forces parade and celebration would take place on May 16-18, 2025.

3. Health

Chair Mayfield discussed new technologies to help beat lung cancer.

4. Transportation

No report

5. Focal Point Programs and Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Dojiri reported the following statistics for the month of:

April 2025:

Total number of documented calls: 16	Web Inquiries: 142
Miscellaneous calls: 54	Total number of calls received: 70

Of the documented calls there were the following requests:

Requests for transportation 6%	Requests for nutrition 37%
Requests for housing 43%	

Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Dojiri discussed problems with paying with zelle and venmo.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2 Commissioners/Staff

Senior Recreation Supervisor Castro announced that the Torrance Youth Council would host the Beat the Odds dinner on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

9A. At 10:43 a.m., Chair Mayfield moved to adjourn the meeting the regular meeting on Tuesday, July 1, 2025, 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 7-0 vote.



Commission on Aging – August 2025

The Heartford Hospice Vision

For patients and their families who need relief, comfort and peace of mind, Heartford Hospice provides premier hospice services because all people deserve quality end of life care, and an expert, knowledgeable team.

- Our mission is bringing together the clinical & service excellence that has gone missing in Senior Healthcare today!
- Helping families advocate for their loved ones when comfort is the goal!

Hospice Plan of Care

- 24/7 Dedicated concierge clinical team
 - RN Case Manager
 - Medication Management
 - Pain & Symptom Management
 - Medical Equipment
 - Hospice Medical Director
 - MSW, Chaplain and Bereavement support services
 - Certified Home Health Aide
 - Volunteer team

heartford hospice

Patient & Caregiver Support

- Grief and Loss Support Groups
- Memorial Services
- Volunteer and Respite Support

- Non-pharmaceutical alternatives for pain and symptom management!
 - Music Therapy
 - Physical Therapy
 - Pet Therapy
 - *Innovative holistic care*
 - *Healing Touch & Reiki, Essential Oils*

heartford hospice

Now Servicing Your Area



Questions?

Khyla Inman

Vice President of Community Relations

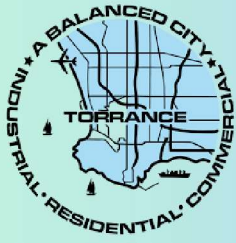
O: 949.868.3800 | **Direct: 949.471.0465**

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Kinman@heartfordhospice.com

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TORRANCE CENTENNIAL PLAZA



Renaming Senior Centers for the Next Generation

Internship Project 2025
By: Linnett Azucar

City of Torrance Senior Centers



Bartlett Senior Citizens Center
Old Town Torrance



Waleria Park Senior Citizens Program
South Torrance



Herma Tillim Senior Citizens Center
Northwest Torrance

Movement behind Renaming Senior Centers

Potentially present itself as more encouraging, inclusive, and youthful for our older adult population. The goal is to continue creating a positive environment so that our seniors prioritize their well-being, embrace aging, and feel reassured about the endless opportunities they have to enjoy life. Modernization is key to enhancing the quality of life and expanding the services we provide to our communities.



Vision And Mission



Vision


Is to drop the word “senior” and rebrand it in hopes of removing a barrier to participation and the negative stigma on how society views aging. However, this topic is debatable; will others believe “senior” should stay to continue its tradition of the community it represents.













Mission

The rebranding of the term is to reflect what people do to feel more alive within themselves, instead of what is being served. Our centers to be viewed as a support outlet for everyone, starting at 50 years and up.

Unique Center names in Recent Years



- 01 **Gorton Senior Center** ➔ **Thrive 55+ (2021)** 
- 02 **Oxford Senior Center** ➔ **Oxford Social Center (2019)** 
- 03 **Arlington Senior Center** ➔ **Arlington Community Center** 
- 04 **Senior Center of West Seattle** ➔ **The Center for Active Living (2024)** 
- 05 **Hollywood Senior Center** ➔ **The Community for Positive Aging (2024)** 
- 06 **Palm Desert's Joslyn Senior Center** ➔ **Palm Desert's Joslyn Center** 
- 07 **Senior Multi-Use Center** ➔ **Adult Activity Center (2022)** 
- 08 **GenSpace - a community for positive aging (2022)** 
- 09 **City of San Jose: All senior centers have their first name followed by "community center"** 
- 010 **City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks: 29 senior centers throughout the LA Metropolitan area, and have renamed centers like ➔ multi-purpose centers** 

City of Torrance - Senior Center Survey

GENERATION
What is your age group?
 50 - 60
 61 - 79
 80 - 97
 98+

TYPE OF LIFESTYLE
Describe your current lifestyle (Select all that apply):
 Retired
 Working part time
 Active/Social engagement
 Volunteering
 Other: _____

PARTICIPATION
On average, how often do you attend/use this current senior center?
 Daily or almost daily
 Weekly (1-2 times per week)
 Monthly (1-2 times per month)
 Occasionally 1-3 times a year

AGE
What age would you start considering someone as a senior?

SENIOR COMMUNITY
How do you feel when you are called or referred as a senior?
 Great
 Somewhat good
 Neutral/ No preference
 Bad
 Very bad
 Other: _____

IDENTITY
Do you feel that you identify with and connect to the term "senior" in our center's name? Or do you feel outdated?
 Yes, it resonates with me
 No, it feels outdated
 I do not feel anything,

COMMUNITY
Is the current name welcoming to all older adults, 50+?
 Yes
 No
 Neutral/ No Preference

SENIOR CENTER
Should the City of Torrance rename the word "senior" to something else at all our centers?
 Yes, support it (change it)
 Neutral/ No preference (keep it)
 No, oppose it (remove the term)

ENGAGEMENT
Do you think renaming the center will encourage more of our 50+ adults to participate?
 Yes, more will possibly attend
 Neutral, will stay the same
 No, exclude others

INCLUSIVE
How important is it that our centers reflect diversity in age, background, values, or interest?
 Very important
 Somewhat important
 Not important

City of Torrance - Senior Center Survey

MOVEMENT
These are popularly renamed centers around the world. Which name would you prefer to replace "senior center"?
 Community center/program
 Active center/program
 Wellness center/program
 50 + center/program
 Age-friendly center/program

TESTING
On a scale of 1-5, how likely are you to attend the center with a new name?
 1 (not attending)
 2
 3
 4
 5 (will always attend)

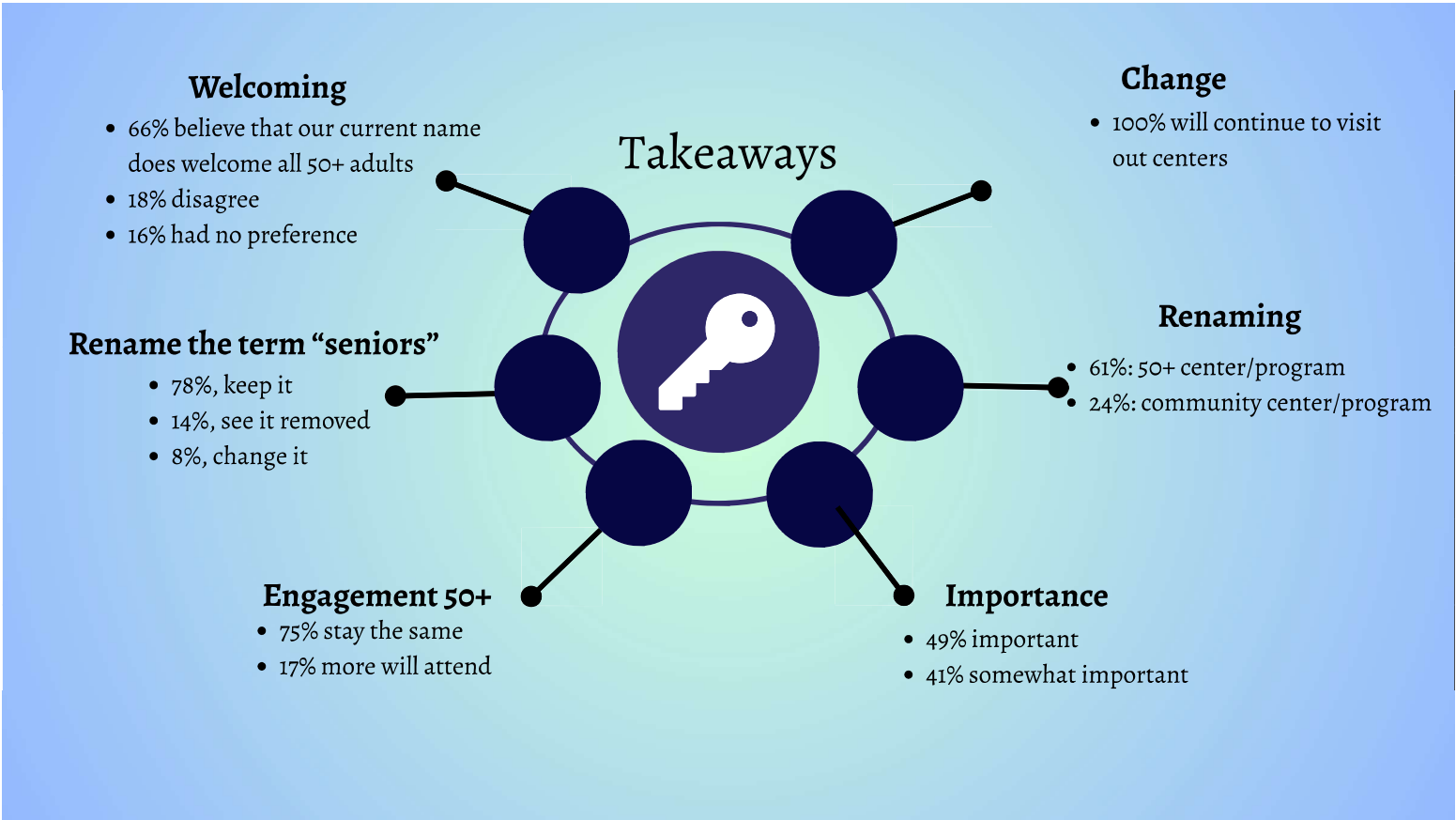
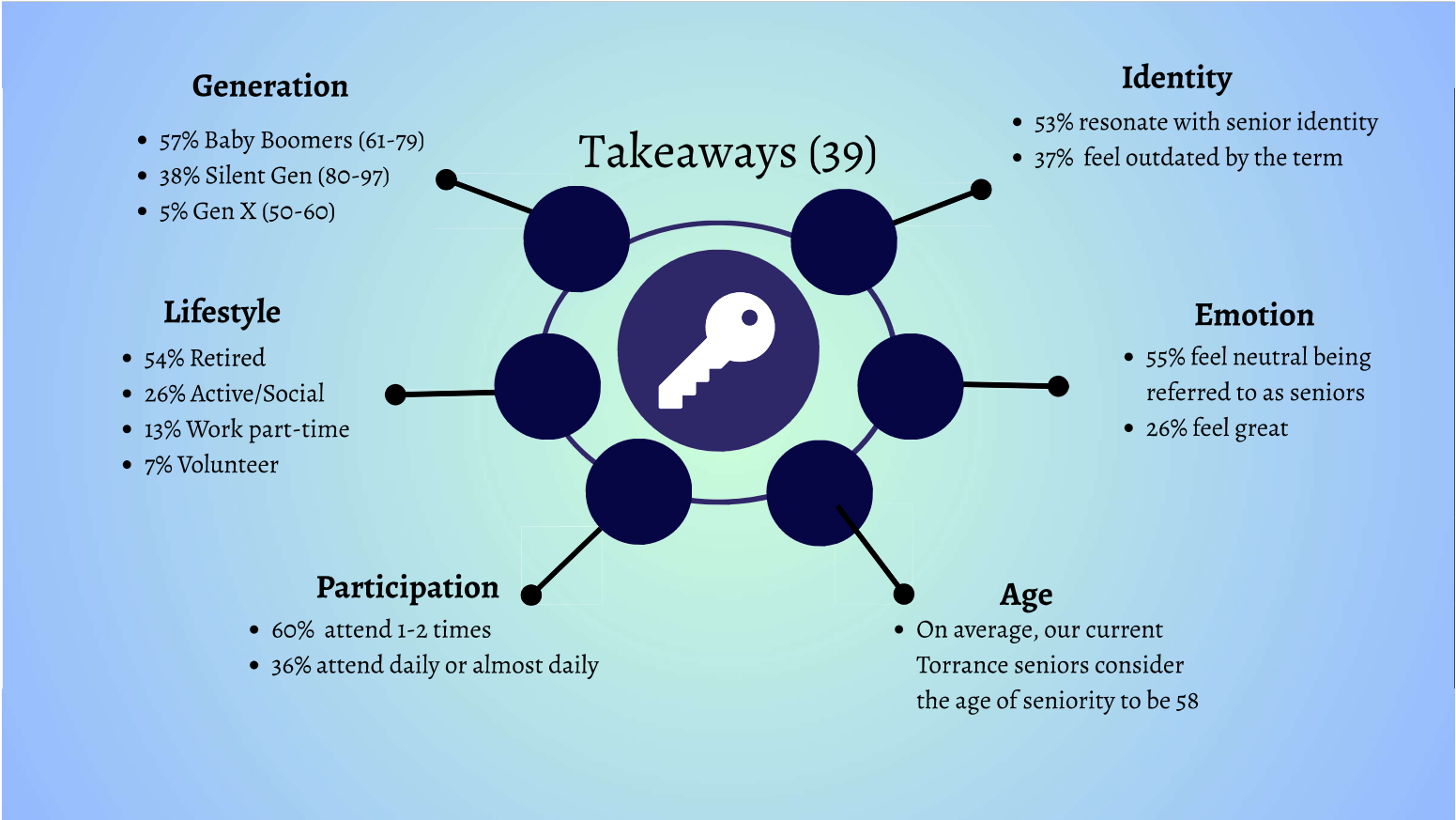
IF YOU CAN RENAME THE CENTER, WHAT WOULD YOU SUGGEST?
 OR WHAT KIND OF TERMS WOULD YOU PREFER TO REPLACE "SENIORS":

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS/SERVICES/ACTIVITIES DO YOU REGULARLY USE OR DO AT THIS SENIOR CENTER? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

<input type="checkbox"/> Lunch Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Gardening Club	<input type="checkbox"/> Themed Activities
<input type="checkbox"/> Line Dancing	<input type="checkbox"/> Ping-Pong	<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish/English Book Club
<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Group	<input type="checkbox"/> Cards and Table Games	<input type="checkbox"/> Chair Fusion
<input type="checkbox"/> Walking Club	<input type="checkbox"/> Pool Playing	<input type="checkbox"/> Lapidary
<input type="checkbox"/> Torrance Travelers	<input type="checkbox"/> Crafter WorkShops	<input type="checkbox"/> Yoga Intermediate
<input type="checkbox"/> Fitness Diffrence	<input type="checkbox"/> Fun, Fit, & Fabulous	<input type="checkbox"/> Salsa for Seniors
<input type="checkbox"/> Painting Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/> Conversational Spanish	<input type="checkbox"/> Meditation

WHAT NEW PROGRAMS/SERVICES/ACTIVITIES WOULD YOU LIKE THIS SENIOR CENTER TO OFFER OR DO DIFFERENTLY?

ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS?



Feedback and Important Points

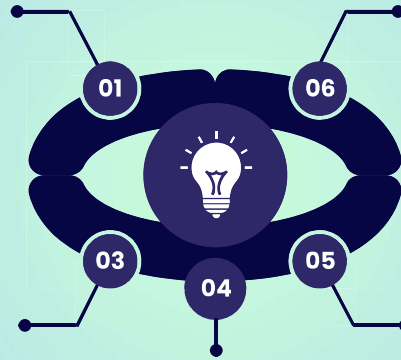
Alot of our seniors heard of our centers by peers or older relatives who brought them. Most call out centers by its first name:

Bartlett, Walteria, or Herma.

Torrance Seniors believe that it will not bring in more participation because of renaming it. It requires more work for seniors to continue to come back. Such as finding new ways to promote our services, activities, and events more by:

- Tabling
- Social Media/Internet
- Flyers in our neighborhoods

“Express how our centers are a great place to be and have fun!”
- Torrance Senior



Name suggestions were:

- 50+ center/programs
- activity center/programs

If we would younger older adults from Gen X to come participate, feel welcomed, and build a community we should consider extending our hours or weekends. Majority of them are still working full time jobs.

“Senior” needs to be embraced; it’s a good thing in any way it’s used. Senior standing in school or a senior job position. It means you’re more knowledgeable, experienced, and part of accomplishing something great within your life.

Popular Activities and Programs



Bartlett Senior Citizens Center

- Lunch Program (35+)
- Line Dancing
- Walking Club
- Torrance Travelers
- Beading



Walteria Park Senior Citizens Program

- Ping Pong (20)



Herma Tillim Senior Citizens Center

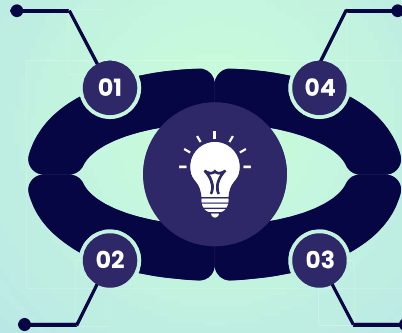
- Crafters Workshop
- Painting
- Card and Table Games

Feedback and Important Points

Consider expanding our lunch program by having more spots available. List is always maxed out and usually have about 5-10 names on the waitlist. More spots imply more food, more sitting, and more money.

Like to see:

- Bingo
- Movies
- Yoga
- Holiday Celebrations
- More fitness equipment
- Shuffleboard Table



Alot of supply/equipment needed for majority of activities are personal items or donated by them. Consider reaching out to businesses in the area for donations. If budget permit or grow it can help provided more materials.

Walteria's outdoor sign already share that it is "50 up" many believe that it is already and straightforward on what age we service.

Reconsider the term "senior" in the near future

The rebranding of the term "senior" can reflect a cultural shift from outdated to updated aging perspectives.

For now,
"Seniors are what we are and proud to be"
- anonymous Torrance senior



Thank You!

Summer Intern 2025:
Linnett Azucar





TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING

ANNUAL REPORT

2024 - 2025

PURPOSE OF COMMISSION:

The Commission on Aging consists of seven residents of Torrance who act to identify situations and problems affecting the senior population, and to serve as a liaison to the City Council.

The Commission on Aging meets the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. (except for June). The meetings are held in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room and are open to the public. Torrance residents are encouraged to attend the meetings to address the Commission on Aging matters of concern to the senior community.

2024-2025 MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION:

Rosie Mayfield	<i>Chair</i>	Kay Grundhaus	<i>Member</i>
Mary Hileman	<i>Vice Chair</i>	Keith Montoya	<i>Member</i>
Julie Dojiri	<i>Member</i>	Kim Wang	<i>Member</i>
Ghislaine Davis	<i>Member</i>		

Public Meetings and Presentations made to the Commission:

- **July 2, 2024** – Tommy Ton, Outreach Professional at El Camino College and Brook Oto, Student Services Specialist with Outreach and School Relations at El Camino College presented information on various classes, services and training available and other opportunities at El Camino College.
- **August 6, 2024** – Jill Allen, the Community Relations Director of COGIR of South Bay provided an overview of the newly opened senior living facility in Torrance, which offers resort-style living for active seniors.

The second presentation for this meeting was by the Torrance Transit Planning Manager, David Mach, who presented details on the “Connect Torrance” Microtransit Demonstration Pilot Program, which is designed to complement the Senior Taxi Program, TCTP Taxi, and existing bus services.

- **September 3, 2024** – Grace Farwell, Program Coordinator of H.E.L.P. (Helping Elders Live Productively) 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 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.

- **October 1, 2024** – President/CEO of The Volunteer Center South Bay/Harbor/Long Beach, Josh Gezahegn, reported on the mission and the history of the Volunteer Center and explained that the Center had been founded 60 years ago by the Junior League of Long Beach. The organization serves more than 40 cities across Los Angeles with over 40,000 clients, and volunteers. They provide community service peer to peer. Josh noted that the center provided local non-profits with many service hours each year through the placement of volunteer service of court-referred community members. He discussed some of the programs that the Center provided: Operation Teddy Bear, Food for Kids, Empathy in Action and Impact Makers-Building Skills for Life and discussed the Center’s sponsors and explained how volunteers could help.
- **January 7, 2025** – The Transit Planning Manager, David Mach, presented and provided information and the history on the “Connect Torrance” Microtransit Demonstration Pilot Program, and noted that the yearlong pilot Program was funded by LA County Measure N sales tax and LA Metro Visionary Seed Funds and would supplement the current Senior Taxi Program. He explained that the pilot program began on December 11, 2024, and discussed the types of vehicles and vans in the program. David also discussed the Red Car Rubber Wheel Trolley Project and noted that the hope was that the project would improve traffic congestion and the local economy and connect key hotels, cultural and entertainment destinations in Torrance. The plan is to have up to 10 trolleys with two service areas: the Beach trolley and the Torrance trolley.
- **February 4, 2025** – Helen Dennis, columnist, author and lecturer presented information on aging and discussed how to slow the aging process, the importance of friendships, social connections and the challenges and opportunities of aging. She reviewed the village movement and aging in place and services provided to support people as they transitioned from work to retirement, as well as advancements in medical technology. She provided information on technology that could assist and comfort seniors, and services that provided transportation or offered fraud protection.
- **March 4, 2025** – Crystal Seddon, MBA, General Manager at Comfort Keepers, shared that their office, located in downtown Torrance, serves all South Bay cities. Founded in 1998, Comfort Keepers provides in-home personal care and companion services, including assistance with daily tasks and transportation. Services are personalized to meet individual client needs, with a focus on emotional well-being, independence, and continuity of care. Both short- and long-term care options are available, including 24-hour care.
- **April 1, 2025** – Wendy Beltran from WELBEHEALTH provided an overview of its Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), highlighting the program’s core values, range of services, and areas served. As both an insurer and care provider, WELBEHEALTH offers comprehensive services including medical care, prescriptions, home care, social engagement, care coordination, dental, vision and hearing screenings, exercise programs, and transportation. Many services may be provided at no cost for eligible individuals.
- **May 6, 2025** – Social Services Commissioners Furey and Pryor, along with Staff Liaison Allen, presented to the Commission on Aging. Commissioner Furey provided an overview of the Social Services Commission’s history and jurisdiction, explaining that it serves in an advisory capacity to the City Council on matters related to veterans, individuals experiencing homelessness, adults with developmental disabilities, and children with special needs.

Commissioner Pryor outlined the Commission's Work Plan focuses on providing information, resources and referrals, engaging with the populations served, building community support, raising public awareness, supporting social services, and expanding housing and social inclusion opportunities. She also highlighted four annual events supported by the Commission, which include the Homeless Count, Toiletry Drive, Torrance Back to School Drive, and the Veterans Appreciation Event.

Deputy City Manager Hoang reported on a new partnership with TranZitions EVOLVE, an organization supporting individuals with neurodiversity, which has led to internship opportunities and a potential permanent position with the city. He also discussed the Staff Liaison-in-Training Program and mentioned that the City's Outreach Team may be able to assist with addressing homelessness among seniors.

- **June 2025** – The Commission goes dark.

Commission Programs:

Torrance Older Americans Award –

Each year, the commission accepts nominations for the annual Torrance Older Americans Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions by older adults in the community. This year, six nominations were received. After careful review, the commission approved five recipients for the award. One nomination was withdrawn, as the individual had previously received the honor. The 2025 recipients included Betty Colyer, Bill Colyer, Dorothy Austin, Ellen Jenkins, Russell Lefevre, and Werner Willoughby. In addition, the commission nominated one of the selected Torrance Older Americans awardees to the Los Angeles County Older Americans Award program which was Ellen Jenkins.

The Torrance Older Americans Awardees were honored by the Torrance City Council at their meeting on Tuesday, May 6, 2025. The meeting was held at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall, where along with their families the honorees were celebrated and presented with a plaque by Mayor Chen.

Torrance Centenarian Award –

Mr. Joseph H. Gerson – An application was submitted and reviewed by the commission at the July 2024 meeting for Mr. Gerson. The commission approved the application, and on Tuesday, August 8, 2024, at the Torrance City Council meeting, Mr. Gerson was honored to have reached his 100th birthday. A longtime South Bay resident, Mr. Gerson grew up during the Great Depression and served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army Signal Corps during World War II.

Mrs. Ora N. Baker Parton – Another Torrance Centenarian application was submitted and reviewed by the commission at the April 2025 commission meeting for Mrs. Parton. The commission approved the application, and at the Tuesday, May 20, 2025, City Council meeting, we were proud to honor our seventh Torrance Centenarian. Ora, joined by her family, was recognized with a proclamation presented by the mayor and a special centenarian coin from the Commission on Aging. Ora was born in 1925 in Longmont, Colorado, but later moved to Torrance, where she attended Torrance High School. During World War II, she served as a riveter, helping build airplanes in support of the war effort. She later worked for 20 years at the local Sears department store, followed by time at the Gift Corner. Ora is the proud grandmother of six grandsons and great-grandmother to twelve great-grandchildren. We are grateful for her contributions, and we were honored to celebrate this milestone with her.

Oral Reports on Senior Citizen Concerns:

At the end of each meeting, members of the commission provide updates on key focus areas. These reports include **City Council Activities** presented by Commissioner Hileman, **Housing and Community Programs** presented by Commissioner Grundhaus, **Health** by Commissioner Mayfield, **Transportation** by Commissioner Davis, **Focal Point on Aging (Report Attached)**, and **Elder Abuse/Fraud** by Commissioner Dojiri. Commissioners share relevant information and resources that support the needs and interests of the older adult community. These presentations are intended to keep the commission informed and help guide future discussions and initiatives.

Conclusion:

The Commission is indebted to the City Council and the City Staff for their support and assistance in helping the Commission on Aging members to be available to senior citizens in our community. We are especially grateful to City Staff Liaison Jesus Castro for his guidance and support, and to Ellen Seaman, Commission Recording Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,


Rosie Mayfield
2024-2025 Chairperson
Torrance Commission on Aging

Submitted by: Bea Virobik, Office Manager, **Focal Point on Aging**
Russ Nolte Annex of the Bartlett Senior Center
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**Focal Point Annual Report
June 2024 - June 2025**

The Torrance Focal Point on Aging, an all volunteer staff, has provided seniors and their families with referrals to community services for the past 28 years. Focal Point is open 5 days/week, 3 hours each morning and provides information by phone or appointment only. We encourage callers to use our web site for future issues. Many Family members call us for their parents challenges.

The percentage of affordable housing has decreased in the past year due to rent increases. Our city is proactive with working with the homeless for placing in housing.

Statistic for June 2024-June 2025

- . 269 documented calls
- . 384 miscellaneous inquiries
- . 653 total calls
- . 1778 web inquiries
- . 44% of calls for affordable senior rental housing

Goal for 2025-2026: Continue to provide quality services to our seniors and families. Pursue affordable rental and shared housing options.