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**SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

Monday, June 15, 2015 12:00 p.m.  
 Dallas City Hall – 1500 Marilla, Rm. L1EN

CITY SECRETARY  
 DALLAS, TEXAS

**MINUTES****MEMBERS PRESENT**

Trini Garza, Chair  
 John Johnson, (Dist. 3) Co- Chair  
 Carmen Arana, (Dist. 1)  
 Lydia Simpson (Dist. 2)  
 Dorothy Willis (Dist. 4)  
 Felix Lozada (Dist. 6)  
 Betty Hooey (Dist. 7)  
 Irwin Gart (Dist. 11)  
 Marlene Cohen (Dist. 12)  
 Sylvia L. Benenson (Dist. 13)  
 Sara Wick (Dist. 14)

**GUESTS**

Armand Christopher

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Manuelita Tafalla (Dist. 5)  
 Julie Schaar (Dist. 9)

**COD STAFF**

Lilia Gonzalez  
 Myckyle Hart

**VACANCIES**

District 8  
 District 10

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Trini Garza, Chair, called the Senior Affairs Commission (SAC) meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the May 18, 2015 SAC meeting were reviewed. The following corrections were made: Mrs. Cohen indicated that there were three (3) honorees and not two (2) at MayFair: Jerome & Hazel Byers, Caroline Hunt, and Trini Garza. Ms. Wick suggested that all SAC members should have a profile along with their photograph on the senior newsletter for more visibility. With the above mentioned corrections, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Wick. The meeting notes were approved unanimously by the Commissioners present.



## **PRESENTATION**

Beverly Davis, Assistant Director, Office of Fair Housing provided an overview of the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice. The finding of impediments for 2015 are as follows: 1) Lack of accessible and affordable housing for Dallas residents; 2) Housing rehabilitation resources limited to homeowner households; 3) Lack of awareness of reasonable accommodation procedures for persons with disabilities; 4) Historic pattern of concentration of racial/ethnic and low income populations; 5) Lending practices may be disproportionately impacting minority populations; 6) Increase in the potential for persons with mental disabilities to be housing restricted; 7) Inadequate fair housing education and awareness for underrepresented and minority populations with Limited English Proficiency (LEP); 8) Inadequate public transportation for special needs populations; and 9) "Not in My Backyard" sentiment. A copy of Mrs. Davis presentation was provided to the SAC members.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Budget Committee – Syl Benenson**

Ms. Benenson reported on the City of Dallas Budget Committee. The committee will recommend an increase in the Senior Services Program budget for an additional caseworker, while maintaining the current budget. The Committee will finalize the 2015-16 budget recommendations on July 6<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. The committee will be recommending the following:

- Additional funding for Emergency Home Repair to provide assistance with tree removal and staff to administer the additional funds;

- Additional money for Senior Dental Services (\$100,000) which was not added to the budget from last year;

- Increase funding to medical transportation to facilitate coordination with Dallas Fire & Rescue's Medical mobility team and Senior Services;

- New funding for dedicated staff in Park & Recreation for senior service programming (manager and 3 activities workers).

Mrs. Benenson mentioned that Light-Up Texas is funded until 2017 at this time. Mrs. Benenson requested staff provide the City of Dallas Budget Schedule for 2016 to all SAC members. Aside from the committee meeting, the SAC Budget Committee will meet with the City Manager on July 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss the recommendations.

**Health Committee – Lydia Simpson, co-chair Age Well Live Well Coalition**

The committee continues to discuss what direction they will take to pursue the vision and mission statement to improve the health and well-being of the Dallas community. The next meeting will be 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at The Senior Source on Harry Hines.

**Housing Committee – Bill Gart**

Mr. Gart reported on an affordable housing tour his committee is planning with staff confirming the facilities. The date for the tour is July 20<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Hart, Senior Sources Staff, will give more details on the tour. Mr. Garth continues to request budget reports from the Emergency Housing Program on funds spent and client's served. Staff will facilitate acquisition of monthly reports. The next Housing meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 6BN, City Hall.

**Victimization Committee – John Johnson**

The committee met with Curtis Brunley, Dallas-Fire Rescue, regarding the "Mobile Community Health Program". The program's goal is to improve the quality of life for identified high-risk patient populations. They are concerned with individuals who call 911 often in lieu of obtaining consistent medical care. They have partnered with Parkland Hospital and other health providers. By linking with the appropriate community-based resources, the program will reduce the financial burden on taxpayer's related to inappropriate 911 utilization. Mr. Burnley stated individuals are enrolled in the program for 90 days. The hours of operation are Monday-Friday 8am-5pm, but they are trying to get funding and staff to operate 24 hours a day. The next committee meeting will be Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. at City Hall, L1EN. **No meeting in July.**

**AD-HOC COMMITTEES:****Age-Friendly Communities – Susan Williams**

Ms. Wick stated she has not done anything new with Age Friendly Communities.

**Communications/Technology- Betty Hooey**

Ms. Hooey shared the "4Ds to fight the West Nile virus and the Chikungunya virus" flyer to all SAC members.

**Older American Month Committee- Marlene Cohen**



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Ms. Cohen reported MayFair 2015 was a successful event. There were 995 older adults and 65 sponsors present. She informed the commission that all expenses were met. The cost of the event was \$55,000 and all expenses covered. There is a refund of pending from the Hyatt Regency Hotel Dallas for sales taxes of \$2,200 dollars. Mrs. Cohen thanked staff and the committee for their help.

**Transportation Committee - Trini Garza**

No report.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

No citizen comments.

**SENIOR SERVICES REPORT**

Mr. Hart informed the commission that the Housing Tour is scheduled for Tuesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 a.m. at Dallas City Hall and drop off at 3:00 p.m. at Dallas City Hall. The properties scheduled to visit is Juliette Fowler Communities, The Meridian at Kessler Park and Cliff Manor. He also informed the SAC of the Juneteenth Celebration at MLK, Community Center on June 19<sup>th</sup> from 12 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Gonzalez informed the commission that Senior Services Program is partnering with SNAP to help fill out applications for older adults. She informed them that all staff will soon be in training. Also, Ms. Gonzalez stated that staff will continue to attend benefits counseling training and once the test is passed, they will become certified benefits counselors.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 p.m. It was seconded by Ms. Wick.

Approval Trini Garza

Date 8-18-15