

## **Speech for Riverside City Council Meeting February 28, 2017**

Submitted by Sandra Tarmo - Chair Mayor's Commission on Aging

Thank you for this opportunity to speak before the council.

Before I tell you of our accomplishments I want to take this opportunity to introduce the members of the commission. Julie Brown-Tartaglino (Ward 4), Michelle Hesse (Ward 7), Krista Dixon (Ward 1/citywide), Bud Fish (Ward 3/city wide), Shari Fleishman (Ward 2), Frank Whatley (Ward 1), Vicki L. Broach (Ward 3), Cheryl Tavaglione (Ward 5), Donna Mitas (Ward 6), Wilma VanGundy (Ward 4/citywide) and I represent Ward 5.

### **A short review of our mission statement.**

The mission of the Mayor's Commission on Aging is to enhance the quality of life for seniors in our community. We study local senior issues to learn about current programs, define future needs and reference best practices. We then make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council in ways we think the City of Riverside can maintain and improve its status as a Senior Friendly community.

To enhance the quality of life for senior living in the city of Riverside and to provide opportunities to continue to enhance Riverside's reputation as a senior friendly city. We continue to support the following activities:

1. We continue to support the senior Corp project known as RSVP housed at the Janet Goeske center. Don Coon has volunteer projects that we support and encourage people to help with. Currently he oversees a reading program at Mountain View

Elementary School where volunteers in the community help children with their reading. We sit on the Purple City Alliance and work with the people on this committee to see how we can better serve the city in getting the word out about Alzheimer and Dementia. This committee meets once a month.

2. We continue to partner with the Riverside Police Department and the Janet Goeske Center to present the Annual Senior health fair and Conference. There are quite a few vendors that come to this event. A lot of good information is here on caregiving, senior living facilities, legal information, and many more topics. I do not know the date for the fair this year but we will let you know.
3. We continue to support the Senior Resource Guide published at no cost to the city. The guide is produced by Bill and Grace Abboud and is designed to provide an expansive amount of information on senior resources in a variety of categories to Riverside seniors and their families/caretakers. The Abboud's distribute over 10,000 copies of the guide quarterly. Hopefully all of you have a copy of this guide. Bill is also on the radio AM590 on Sunday mornings. If any of you would like to submit an article in the guide please see Bill or Grace.
4. The Commission sponsored two events this year. One event was Senior Day held at Villegas Community center. We honored Senior Citizens in each ward for their volunteer work in the city. This year we played games, including chocolate bingo and were entertained by members of the Riverside Master Chorale, The Riverside Mission Belles, Steppin with Suzi and the Folklorico Dance troop at the center. Our Senior Day this year will be held on August 21<sup>st</sup> in the Mayor's Ceremonial Room. Each of you will receive a letter

and a nomination form for you to nominate one or more seniors that you feel meets the criteria. You can copy the form as many times as you wish. All of the information will be sent to you in plenty of time. Please write this date down on your calendar. More information will follow. Our second event was the Purple Boat Float held at Fairmont Park. This is the second time that we have held this event. The main focus of this event is to educate the public on Dementia and Alzheimer diseases. Commissioner Fleischman was the chair of this event. I hope all of you saw the beautiful pictures in the Press Enterprise. What a beautiful sight to see all of those purple boats floating in the lake at sunset. The Riverside Art Museum made the boats. There were vendors there with lots of good information. Look for this event to happen again in November.

5. In order to reach all parts of the city our meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at various locations around the city. Our meeting in January was held at Victoria Springs Senior living, and our meeting in February was held at the La Sierra Senior Center. The time for the meetings is 4:00 p.m. Please check the Mayor's Page (Office of the Mayor – Community Advisory Boards) for meeting locations.
6. One of the ways the city council can help us is by getting the word out about our meetings, and secondly helping us to advertise future events. The more publicity the more people come. We want to make 2017 more successful than 2016. I do have a couple of questions for all of you. How do you view the needs of our senior community? Secondly: Transportation seems to be an ongoing problem for our senior citizens. What suggestions do you have for solving this problem? We want to know how we can

better serve the senior community. If any of you would like to speak at our meetings please consider yourselves invited.

You are always welcome!

Thank you,

Sandra Tarmo  
(Chair - Mayor's Commission on Aging)