# TOWN OF FAIRFAX
## STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Mayor, Members of the Town Council

**FROM:** Michael Rock, Town Manager MKR
Judy Anderson, Town Clerk

**DATE:** July 7, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Annual Report from the Fairfax Representative to the Marin Commission on Aging, Diane Bright

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**Recommendation**:

Receive and accept the report.

**Discussion:**

Diane Bright has served as our representative to the Marin Commission on Aging since her appointment in February of 2007, and has been a dedicated and effective representative to the Commission.

**Fiscal Impact**:

None.

**Attachment:**

Written copy of the report to be presented by Commissioner Bright.

AGENDA ITEM # 1

Good evening. I think when I made my last appearance before this honorable group, I gave you an outline of the committee work that is invaluable to the Commission on Aging. Now that I've settled into my position a bit on the Commission, I'd like to update each of you on one of our Committees and its continuing work. I'd also like to highlight for you the work of the Commission itself. We serve as an advisory agent to the Division of Health and Human Services.

First, the Elder Abuse Task Force. Jenifer Duane, in charge of Financial Abuse of Seniors, or FAST, annually arranges for our conference in the City. Its name is "Call to Action". It's at this conference that we are apprised of the work in the state on behalf of the financial safety of elders.

Additionally, on January 6, Tony Chicotel, staff attorney of Advocates for Nursing Home Reform, made a presentation to our group. He outlined his legal involvement in the settling of elder abuse cases, which occur in CA nursing homes.

On April 7, Roy Chernus, Superior Court Commissioner told us about the handling of cases in Marin. The number of reported cases has risen 60% during the past year. Actually, this is good news, as it means that more victims of fraud are getting their day in court.

The Task Force was able to get a half-million dollar federal grant for the training of police and ecumenical people in Marin. The acting head of Adult Protective Services obtained this grant, and our committee was part of the process.

Finally the Elder Abuse Task Force with Legal Aid of Marin signed a contract. This provided S.A.F.E. Training to several hundred people involved in vigilance with regard to Elder Financial Abuse in Marin. Incidental to this is Ted's work with Consumer Protection. He works two days a week to help people with concerns regarding consumer issues in the county. Many of his calls are from older people, who have been defrauded of large sums of money.

Now, for the Commission itself. We have been active throughout the county, of course benefiting our FX seniors in the process. The Commission

has been instrumental in the Get Ready program. My connection with this was to volunteer my spouse and myself to assemble "emergency packs" for distribution to elders throughout the county.

The Senior Mobility and Implementation Plan has been created to support transportation and improve walkways for older adults. This Plan is also of interest to Ted. He has told me that Bolinas Road is scheduled for an updating of the sidewalks through his work with the Measure K Committee. Seniors frequently have balance issues, and safe sidewalks are critical to them. The creation of a Volunteer Driver program, and Vehicle Donation project is available to FX seniors. This particular part of the Senior Mobility plan has been to give drivers credit to provide rides to volunteers. Older adults use a debit card established by the Commission to accomplish this.

The Nutrition Committee was the recipient of stimulus funds to open up new sites for the congregate meal program, including the one in San



Geronimo. This particular site is relatively close-by for our older adults, and it is thriving, much to the Committee's pleasure. The object of congregate meal provision is to provide a nutritious meal at no or low-cost to the elderly; it gives those who attend an opportunity to socialize once a week.

Finally, the Commission assisted with the set-up of our annual Healthy Aging Symposium in April, as well as the Senior Fair in October.

It has been my honor to serve on the Commission on Aging. I am exposed to many "can-do" people, who make their contributions on behalf of older adults in the county and in FX in many creative and helpful ways.

The phone number for all services available to people over the age of 60 is 457-4636. It's called the Senior Information Line.