



## **SENIOR AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Special Meeting Minutes**

MONDAY, August 4, 2025

In Person Meeting: 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: **Park de la Cruz Community Center**  
**3901 Landis Street, San Diego, 92105**

### **Agenda**

#### **Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Gwenmarie Hilleary called the Senior Affairs Advisory Board meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

Antoinette Alioto, Marissa Feliciano, Gwenmarie Hilleary, Jacqueline Jackson, Michelle Matter, William Peetoom, Bob Prath, JB Robinson, and Rosemary White Pope present.

Mary Scott Knolls and Juan Sotelo absent.

#### **Item 2: Non-Agenda Public Comment**

None

#### **Item 3: Councilmember Meetings with SAAB Members**

The Board met to discuss preparations for upcoming meetings with City Councilmembers. These meetings are intended to introduce the board, share the purpose and priorities of the Aging Action Plan, and strengthen relationships with Council offices.

Gwenmarie Hilleary presented data on the percentage of older adults across the City of San Diego. While the citywide average is approximately 11%, some areas such as Downtown, La Jolla, and Rancho Bernardo have significantly higher concentrations of older adults, while neighborhoods like Little Italy have notably fewer. The board also discussed the distribution of senior resources, including where senior centers are located and where there may be gaps. A key question raised was how to better understand where older adults are going, what services they're using, and what additional information might be helpful for informing future policy recommendations.

Specific district observations were shared, including a discussion about terminology and community identity in District 4. Rosemary White Pope noted that longtime community leader and former Councilmember Reverend George Stevens discouraged the use of the term “Southeast,” instead advocating for “Southeastern” to describe neighborhoods such as Skyline, Lincoln Park, and Oak Park, reflecting the way residents identify their communities. She also highlighted that the George Stevens Senior Center serves older adults from across the city, not solely those residing in District 4. The center has historically received grant funding from multiple council districts, including Council District 1 under Councilmember Faulconer and Council District 3 under Councilmember Atkins, illustrating the importance and impact of cross-district collaboration.

The group discussed logistics for organizing councilmember meetings. Gwenmarie Hilleary asked how best to assign attendees, and JB Robinson suggested members focus on districts they are familiar with. Kristi Fenick emphasized the need to be flexible with scheduling, as Councilmember availability may vary, and recommended having at least two representatives at each meeting.

To help facilitate outreach, the board identified preliminary district assignments for councilmember meetings, based on members’ familiarity with the communities and existing relationships. While these assignments represent priority areas, members expressed a willingness to meet with other council districts as needed, depending on scheduling and availability. The preliminary assignments are as follows: Antoinette Alioto – Districts 5, 6, and 7; Marissa Feliciano – Districts 1, 2, and 3; Gwenmarie Hilleary – Districts 2 and 5; Jacqueline Jackson – Districts 4 and 9; Michelle Matter – Districts 3 and 8; William Peetoom – Districts 7 and 8; Bob Prath – District 1; JB Robinson – Districts 6 and 9; and Rosemary White Pope – Districts 3, 4, and 8.

To guide the meetings, Gwenmarie drafted three questions: (1) Have you been visited by other senior advocacy groups in your district? (2) What are your current priorities or action plans related to older adults? (3) How do you gather feedback from older adults in your district? Bob suggested softening the third question to focus on successes, such as “Are there any successful ways you’ve communicated with older adults in your district?” Marissa asked the group to clarify their goals for these meetings, encouraging members to think about the intended outcomes and messaging. JB pointed out that many Board Members may not have existing relationships with councilmembers and raised the importance of asking how Council offices prefer to receive guidance or input from the board. There was agreement that the advisory board should provide background on its work and share key aging demographics.

Bob also shared insights from the Age-Friendly Community survey results, which highlighted housing, health, transportation, and home modifications as top priorities. He referenced a conversation with former Councilmember Toni Atkins, who shared that after a hospital discharge, she would not have been able to safely enter her own home, underscoring the need for accessibility standards in new construction. He also proposed discussing the potential for shallow rent subsidies. Michelle emphasized the value of open conversation in meetings rather than strictly following structured questions.

Marissa added that the board should be clear about its offer to support Councilmembers and suggested framing the conversation around how the board can work alongside them over the next year to 18 months. There was consensus that the [Age Friendly Action Plan](#) should be sent in advance to Councilmembers.

Marissa also shared updated demographic information, noting that the City of San Diego has approximately 1.4 million residents, with the older adult population expected to surpass 1 million by 2030. Michelle shared a draft meeting structure and will work with JB and Marissa to finalize key messaging for the Councilmember meetings.

#### **Item 4: Announcements**

Bob Prath shared highlights from a recent town hall on San Diego's grocery store ordinance, which goes into effect on October 1. The ordinance requires grocery stores in the City of San Diego to provide alternatives to digital coupons to ensure all shoppers, including older adults and those without smartphones, have equal access to store discounts. Bob participated in a panel alongside Councilmembers Marni von Wilpert and Sean Elo-Rivera and noted that the ordinance serves as a potential model for other cities. Bob described the event as strong and solution-focused, and he was introduced as a member of the Senior Affairs Advisory Board, an acknowledgment that highlights the board's ongoing engagement in policy discussions affecting older adults.

#### **Item 5: Adjournment**

William Peetoom made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rosemary White Pope seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.