



## **SENIOR AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Meeting Minutes**

WEDNESDAY, February 18, 2026

In Person Meeting: 12:00 Noon

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

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

Chair Gwenmarie Hilleary called the Senior Affairs Advisory Board meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

#### **Item 2: Roll Call**

Antoinette Alioto, Kasey Cheal, Marissa Feliciano, Gwenmarie Hilleary, Jacqueline Jackson, Michelle Matter, Bob Prath, and JB Robinson present.

William Peetoom, Mary Scott Knoll, and Rosemary White Pope absent.

#### **Item 3: Approval of the November 19 Meeting Minutes**

Gwenmarie Hilleary introduced the item. Antoinette Alioto made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Jacqueline Jackson. The motion passed unanimously, with JB Robinson abstaining.

#### **Item 4: Action: Cryptocurrency as a Policy Recommendation**

Bob Prath and Michelle Matter shared a letter they drafted behalf of the Board addressing cryptocurrency ATM fraud and its disproportionate impact on older adults.

Bob shared testimony from other states where legislation has been adopted at the state level. He noted that cryptocurrency ATM operators reportedly earn approximately 16% per transaction and, according to testimony from vendors such as CoinFlip, operators are generally not opposed to reasonable regulation. He clarified that their primary concern relates to fraud committed by third-party bad actors rather than regulation of the machines themselves. Kristi Fenick will share the referenced testimony electronically with Board members.

Bob reported that nationally, approximately \$246 million per year is lost by older adults through cryptocurrency-related scams. In the San Diego region, there are currently 311 cryptocurrency ATMs. He noted that most of these machines are in low-income or bilingual communities. For example, Rancho Bernardo has two machines, while Chula Vista has fifteen. It was also noted that adults aged 60 and older account for approximately 80% of cryptocurrency scam losses in the San Diego region, totaling approximately \$90 million in reported losses.

JB Robinson referenced South Dakota SB 98 and inquired whether additional states have enacted similar legislation. Michelle identified Nebraska as another example of state-level cryptocurrency kiosk regulation and stated she will revise the letter to incorporate specific state examples.

Bob provided an overview of how the machines operate, including the process of creating a digital wallet and completing a transaction, and explained how scammers instruct victims to withdraw cash and deposit funds into cryptocurrency ATMs, making transactions irreversible. He also recommended that the finalized letter be sent not only to City Councilmembers but also to the District Attorney's Office.

Marissa made a motion to approve the letter with the addition of updated local data and specific legislative references prior to formal submission. Antoinette seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Bob shared that he would provide a copy of the finalized letter to AARP and Antoinette Alioto will share information at the next AIS meeting.

### **Item 5: Information – Chair Report**

Gwenmarie Hilleary reported that she, along with Marissa Feliciano and William Peetoom, attended a meeting with Ryan Darsey from the Office of Councilmember Stephen Whitburn (District 3). The meeting was described as productive and collaborative.

District 3 identified transportation and housing as priority issues, particularly as neighborhood changes and land use decisions continue to affect older adults. Discussion included Balboa Park parking, broader land use considerations, and how planning decisions can either support or unintentionally create barriers for aging residents. Information regarding cryptocurrency fraud was also shared. Mr. Darsey expressed strong interest in the issue and indicated openness to continued dialogue. The group discussed opportunities to keep District 3 informed as the letter is finalized and to explore ways the Council Office could support awareness, policy discussion, or collaboration on consumer protection efforts affecting older adults.

Marissa emphasized that NIMBYism continues to be a significant factor in housing discussions and highlighted the importance of ensuring older adult perspectives are included in those conversations. Bob agreed that housing continues to be a central topic for the City Council. He shared that he plans to meet with Ricardo Flores at LISC in May to discuss housing and density issues. Bob explained that increasing housing density can lead to increased property values and tax revenue. He referenced a LISC survey indicating that approximately 250,000 lots are currently limited to 500 square feet housing and discussed the potential tax value increases

associated with lot splits and expanded housing development. He indicated that housing-related policy discussions are likely to arise in June and suggested that the Board remain informed on the issue.

To advance the goal of meeting with all City Councilmembers or their staff, Kristi Fenick will schedule a meeting with Council District 5 in March. Kasey Cheal, Michelle Matter, and Antoinette Alioto expressed interest in attending.

Gwenmarie raised the idea of sending birthday cards to Councilmembers. Antoinette Alioto expressed concern that this approach may be cumbersome. Holiday cards were discussed as a possible alternative. Marissa Feliciano and Michelle Matter suggested that providing Councilmembers with information and ideas to recognize Older Americans Month in partnership with their constituents would be more appropriate than birthday acknowledgments. Gwenmarie will take responsibility for coordinating this initiative.

Gwenmarie also discussed a potential change to the Board's meeting time, noting that the current time conflicts with senior lunch at the center. Wednesday remains an acceptable meeting day, however, a revised start time of 9:00 a.m. or 9:30 a.m. was discussed. This will be placed as an action item on the March agenda.

#### **Item 6: Information – Legislative Report**

JB Robinson followed up on a request from William Peetoom regarding Measure C due to concerns about the potential impact on tax revenue and how changes could affect funding for services benefiting older adults. JB noted that the decision was upheld in District Court.

JB also shared information regarding California Assembly Bill 561, signed into law on October 3, 2025. The legislation enhances access to protective orders for domestic violence, civil harassment, and elder abuse including free electronic filing of petitions and permits remote appearances. Board members discussed this as an opportunity to promote education and communication efforts with Adult Protective Services (APS) and local facilities.

Resources were shared including the [County of San Diego Aging Dashboard](#) and the [Master Plan for Aging Data Dashboard](#).

#### **Item 7: Discussion by William Peetoom – You Are Not Alone**

This item was tabled for a future meeting.

#### **Item 8: Staff Liaison Report**

Kristi Fenick provided an update from the Planning Department regarding the “Neighborhood Homes for All of Us” initiative. She noted that outreach efforts have encountered challenges in reaching older adults and engaging them in the planning process. A presentation on the initiative has been requested for an upcoming SAAB meeting.

Kristi also shared that small focus groups will be conducted to gather input from older adults. One session is scheduled for March 6 from 9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at Park de la Cruz, and another will take place on March 3 at 12:10 p.m. at the Memorial Senior Center. The focus groups will include individuals living in multigenerational households, those interested in downsizing from single-family homes, and older adults with accessibility needs.

Kristi also shared the Spring newsletter for Age-Well Services.

### **Item 9: Old Business – Intern for SAAB**

Kristi Fenick confirmed that Age-Well interns may be assigned to support specific projects, including work for the SAAB Board. She noted that if the Board identifies a defined project or scope of work, she can facilitate placement of an intern to assist with those efforts.

Kristi also reported attending the SDSU internship fair. The Board discussed potential internship pathways, including partnering with a City of San Diego intern or utilizing an Age-Well intern.

Michelle Matter suggested that utilizing an Age-Well intern may be the most effective option, and Antoinette Alioto agreed. It was noted that City-sponsored internships are paid positions and offer flexible scheduling without the requirement of earning school credit.

### **Item 10: Update – County of San Diego Aging and Independence Services**

Antoinette Alioto provided an update from a recent County meeting with Aging & Independence Services (AIS). She reported that during public comment, concerns were raised regarding the absence of funding for caregiver handbooks in the new budget. Commenters emphasized that these handbooks are considered a vital resource for caregivers.

She also shared that concerns continued to be raised regarding polypharmacy and its intersection with fall prevention, access to health screenings, and the added complexity of cannabis use in combination with multiple medications in home settings.

An update was provided regarding the Brown Act and reasonable accommodations for meetings, as discussed by the AIS Council. Kristi provided additional clarification on how those updates relate to SAAB procedures. This topic had been referenced in prior meeting minutes.

Antoinette also shared information from a presentation on In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS). It was reported that there are currently 26,289 individuals enrolled in IHSS locally, representing approximately half of overall IHSS recipients. Approximately 800 new applications are received per month, with an average of 128.4 authorized service hours per month per recipient. A brief overview of IHSS services was provided, and it was suggested that a short informational presentation on IHSS may be beneficial at senior centers.

An update was also shared from the Nutrition Subcommittee, which distributed 700 laminated placemats to congregate meal sites, including Salvation Army locations.

Gwenmarie Hilleary asked if there was any mention of legislation related to grandparents serving as primary caregivers for grandchildren and recommended flagging the issue for future Board discussion.

**Item 11: Discussion: Board Member/Officer Discussion (topics for future SAAB meetings)**

Marissa inquired about SAAB's plan for synthesizing data and recommendations after completing meetings with all Council Districts. Gwenmarie Hilleary recommended analyzing common priorities and unique concerns across districts and developing a strategy to align the Board's work in a way that adds value to existing City initiatives.

**Item 12: Non-Agenda Public Comment**

During public comment, a speaker encouraged the Board to actively leverage its role to elevate important information gathered from Council District meetings. The speaker emphasized the importance of communicating directly with Council staff and using the Board as a platform to share district-level concerns. It was suggested that the Board be assertive in advancing issues and requesting dedicated time for discussion. The speaker recommended recurring five-minute presentations to the Board focused on topics such as cryptocurrency-related fraud and mental health among older adults for continued attention.

Antoinette Alioto suggested hosting a listening session to hear directly from community members and gather input from older adults. Kristi indicated that this item would be added to New Business for future discussion.

Bob Prath noted that the recent Age Well Services Senior Resource Fair was well attended, with participants coming from across the region.

**Adjournment**

Michelle Matter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marissa Feliciano seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.