



SENIOR AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

WEDNESDAY, July 15, 2026

In Person Meeting: 10:00 AM

Location: **Park de la Cruz**

3901 Landis Street, San Diego, CA 92105

Item 1: Call to Order

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

Item 2: Roll Call

Antoinette Alioto, Marissa Feliciano, Gwenmarie Hilleary, Jacqueline Jackson, Michelle Matter, Bob Prath, and William Peetoom present.

Item 3: Presentation: Council District 1 Proposed Ordinance Establishing a Warning Requirement for Cryptocurrency ATMs in San Diego

Gwenmarie Hilleary introduced the agenda item and welcomed presenters Emily Lynch, Director of Community Engagement, and Joaquin Quintero, Community Representative, from the Office of Council President Joe LaCava. The presenters provided an overview of the proposed ordinance requiring warning labels on cryptocurrency ATMs to help prevent fraud and educate consumers. They explained that there are approximately 110 cryptocurrency ATMs located throughout the City of San Diego and noted that cryptocurrency scams continue to increase, although the financial losses are likely underreported.

The proposed ordinance is modeled after an ordinance adopted in Omaha, Nebraska, and would require warning labels on cryptocurrency ATMs to educate consumers, encourage businesses to help inform customers, increase scam awareness and reporting, and provide information on how to report suspected fraud. The presenters shared that they consulted with community leaders in Nebraska during the development of the proposal and described stakeholder outreach conducted with organizations including Serving Seniors, the Elder Justice Task Force, AARP, the Neighborhood Market Association, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, County of San Diego Aging & Independence Services, Elder Law, and the Better Business Bureau. They noted that the proposal is expected to be considered by the City Council Rules Committee in

September 2026 and, if approved, could take effect on January 1, 2027, accompanied by a public education campaign and distribution of educational materials.

Bob Prath asked how SAAB members could support the ordinance, and the presenters suggested providing testimony at the September 16 Rules Committee meeting, participating in a press conference, and assisting with the distribution of educational materials and warning labels to businesses. Joaquin Quintero indicated he would follow up with additional information and a proposed plan of action. Antoinette Alioto offered to share the educational materials with Aging & Independence Services (AIS).

Item 4: Approval of the June 17, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Gwenmarie Hilleary introduced the item. Marissa Feliciano made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Bob Prath. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 5: Information – Chair Report

Gwenmarie Hilleary shared enthusiasm for the proposed cryptocurrency ATM ordinance and the opportunity for SAAB to support efforts to prevent scams targeting older adults. Gwenmarie also announced the reappointments of Antoinette Alioto, William Peetoom, and Jacqueline Jackson to the Board. Members were informed that the Board's bylaws clarify the process for the election of officers, with officer elections scheduled for the September meeting. She also reported that discussions had taken place with Chida Warren regarding filling current Board vacancies, with additional appointments anticipated by September or October. Several applications have been received, and members were encouraged to continue sharing the recruitment opportunity. It was noted that Chida will be on vacation until August 20 and that JB Robinson and Rosemary White Pope will continue serving on the Board until their successors are appointed.

Item 6: Information – Legislative Report

In JB Robinson's absence, Bob Prath reported the recent City Council approval of the creation of a \$8.5 million Affordable Housing Preservation Fund, which will be administered by the San Diego Housing Commission to preserve existing affordable rental housing and prevent units from converting to market-rate housing.

Bob also reported that the City Council is currently in recess until September and that the proposed cryptocurrency ATM warning ordinance is expected to be among the first items considered by the Rules Committee when the Council returns.

Item 7: Staff Liaison Report – Kristi Fenick

Kristi Fenick reported that the letter approved by SAAB in June has been provided to Chida Warren for distribution to the Mayor's Office and City Council representatives. Because Chida is on vacation until August 20, distribution may be delayed; however, the letter has been posted on the SAAB website. Kristi will confirm once the letter has been distributed.

Members were encouraged to continue identifying and contacting potential speakers for future meetings. Kristi reported that outreach to the You Are Not Alone (YANA) program is ongoing.

Kristi also shared a question received through the SAAB website regarding a legal matter involving financial exploitation of an older adult in another state. Members shared potential referral resources, including Justice in Aging, Legal Aid, and the Elder Justice Task Force.

Item 8: Update – County of San Diego Aging and Independence Services

Antoinette Alioto highlighted upcoming countywide fall prevention events led by the San Diego Senior Center Foundation, including the *Saving Claire* campaign, which focuses on fall prevention education, screenings, and reducing the stigma and fear associated with falls. She also noted that the City's Feeling Fit program will support fall prevention efforts by offering screenings at locations throughout the city.

Antoinette also reported that the County has adopted its budget, which includes additional resources for the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program. She noted that the budget provides opportunities for increased service hours for eligible recipients and includes a \$2 per hour wage increase for IHSS providers.

She also shared highlights from a recent Adult Protective Services (APS) presentation, which reviewed fiscal year data on various forms of elder abuse, including abandonment, financial exploitation, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and self-neglect. The presentation also highlighted specialized initiatives such as the Alzheimer's Response Team (ART), the Home Safe program, and the Medical Examiner Review Team (MERT), which examines cases involving isolated deaths. Antoinette reported that the Elder Justice Task Force, established in 2020, has screened more than 4,600 cases and documented approximately \$325 million in losses related to elder abuse and financial exploitation.

Antoinette distributed a handout outlining the Aging & Independence Services Strategic Plan goals for 2026–2029.

Item 9: Discussion: Nomination Slate for September 2026 Elections

As this item was discussed earlier in the meeting, no additional report was provided regarding the upcoming September SAAB officer elections.

Item 10: Discussion: Board Member/Officer Discussion (Topics for Future SAAB Meetings)

Board members discussed priorities for future meetings and opportunities to strengthen SAAB's impact. Michelle Matter suggested using the Aging & Independence Services (AIS) Advisory Council goals as a model for developing a future SAAB roadmap, with an emphasis on increasing community awareness of SAAB, expanding partnerships with community organizations, and avoiding duplication of existing efforts.

William Peetoom reflected on a previous conversation with Councilmember Campillo and shared examples of successful volunteer initiatives in other communities that bring together youth and older adults. He suggested exploring opportunities to activate community spaces, such as public libraries, to support intergenerational programming with minimal funding.

Bob Prath discussed opportunities to increase social participation and inclusion through the County's aging planning efforts, noting that community members are welcome to participate in the committee, which meets every other month. Antoinette Alioto also highlighted Senior Planet as a nonprofit organization that provides technology education and resources for older adults.

Members agreed that engagement with City Council offices should continue beyond the current cryptocurrency ordinance and expand to other aging-related policy issues. Strategic planning for SAAB's 2027–2029 priorities will be scheduled as an agenda item at a future meeting.

Because the September 16 SAAB meeting coincides with the City Council Rules Committee's consideration of the cryptocurrency ATM warning ordinance, members discussed attending the Rules Committee meeting in lieu of the regular SAAB meeting to provide testimony in support of the ordinance. Members also agreed to hold an ad hoc Cryptocurrency Committee meeting on September 8 at 10:00 a.m. to prepare for the Rules Committee hearing. Kristi Fenick will post the meeting notice.

Bob also informed the Board that Councilmember Elo-Rivera may request SAAB's support for a proposed ordinance addressing rental nuisance fees, including pet fees, utility fees, and other associated rental charges.

Antoinette requested that the Board consider whether the 10:00 a.m. meeting time continues to meet members' needs and suggested distributing a survey to assess availability. The topic will be revisited at a future meeting.

Item 11: Non-Agenda Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Michelle Matter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Antoinette Alioto seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.