

## KEVIN L. FAULCONER MAYOR

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 6, 2015

TO: Honorable Sherri Lightner, Council President Honorable Councilmembers

FROM: Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer

## SUBJECT: Appointments to the Senior Affairs Advisory Board

It is my pleasure to appoint Mr. Paul Downey and Ms. Sheryl Harris to the Senior Affairs Advisory Board.

Mr. Downey is the President and CEO of Serving Seniors, a nonprofit agency dedicated providing supportive services focused on keeping low-income seniors healthy and independent. He is a leader in the efforts to provide affordable housing for seniors and has opened two senior housing complexes with 350 housing units. Mr. Downey is the immediate past-President of the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs based in Washington, D.C., and a Steering Committee Member for the California Elder Economic Standard Initiative. He was appointed Commissioner on the California Commission on Aging by then Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez in 2012. Supervisor Dianne Jacob appointed Mr. Downey in 2013 to the County of San Diego's Social Services Advisory Board. He is past chair of the City of San Diego's Senior Affairs Advisory Board and past chair of the Dean's Advisory Committee for the College of Health and Human Services at San Diego State University.

Ms. Harris has a unique perspective of senior issues due to her experience with care giving for her father and husband at an early age. Ms. Harris' experience with mobility issues that her father faced as a bilateral amputee provided her insight into the challenges senior individuals and their families encounter. Her husband had post-polio syndrome and was diagnosed with frontal lobe dementia in his fifties which led to leaving her career to become his primary caregiver and conservator. Ms. Harris has extensive experience with securing medical care and services from various agencies that seniors must work with on a regular basis. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in psychology from the University of Illinois, Chicago, as well as a Masters of Education from at USD with emphases in special education, learning disabilities and a certificate as a resource specialist.

I am confident that Mr. Downey and Ms. Harris will bring invaluable experience and expertise to the Senior Affairs Advisory Board, and I would like to thank them for their willingness to serve in this capacity.

KLF:fb

cc: Honorable Jan Goldsmith, City Attorney Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst Liz Maland, City Clerk