



COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025, 4:00 P.M.
PUBLIC COMMENT IN PERSON/TELEPHONE
ART PICK COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL
3900 MAIN STREET, RIVERSIDE, CA 92522

PRESENT: Chair Carmen Roberts, Vice Chair Diane Kwasman, Commissioners Jane DuBois, Joyce Clarke, Pamela Bash, Victoria Dove, Lori Pendergraft

ABSENT: Commissioners Nora Moti, Deborah Kelley, Don Coon

STAFF PRESENT: Pamela Galera, Noemi Lopez, Jessica Ochoa, Summer Cremo, Marnie Smith, Veronica Cortez, Janet Palacio, Sandra Campbell

CITY STAFF: Socorro Gomez, Jazmin Garcia

Chair Roberts called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Five individuals addressed the Commission on Aging (COA):

- Cat Ferguson, Director of TRIP, shared information about the Independent Living Partnership program.
- Pete Benavidez, President and CEO of Blindness Support Services, invited Commissioners to attend the City Council meeting on October 21, 2025, where October will be proclaimed Blind Awareness Month.
- Carmina Pineda, Program Manager at Blindness Support Services, shared available resources that support independent living skills.
- Janet Palacio, Recreation Services Coordinator, shared senior programs all the department's senior centers provide.
- David Reynolds, representing the Deaf Community of Riverside, discussed needs within the local deaf community, including:
 - Establishment of a Deaf Cultural Community Center
 - Housing options for aging members of the deaf community.

PRESENTATION

SERVICES TO UNHOUSED POPULATION

Socorro Gomez and Jazmin Garcia from the Department of Housing and Human Services provided information on the outreach services the City offers to the unhoused population.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following matter(s), presented to the Commission on Aging on the consent calendar for consideration, were approved by one motion affirming the action appropriate to the item(s):

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on September 15, 2025, were approved as presented.

DISCUSSION CALENDAR

BUDGET REVIEW

Vice Chair Kwasman inquired about the current budget balance and remaining funds, as well as what expenditures are anticipated. The Commission determined that \$350 be allocated for holiday cards, with the remaining funds to be used for brochure stands and items needed for presentation tables.

Following discussion, a motion was made to approve the expenditure for the holiday cards and to bring back the allocation of the remaining budget for consideration at a future meeting.

Motion: Kwasman
Second: Pendergraft
Abstain: None
Ayes: DuBois, Clarke, Bash, Kwasman, Roberts, Dove, Pendergraft
Absent: Moti, Kelley, Coon

ATTENDANCE

Following discussion, it was motioned to record the absence of Commissioner Coon from the September 15, 2025, meeting as excused.

Motion: Bash
Second: Dove
Abstain: None
Ayes: DuBois, Clarke, Bash, Kwasman, Roberts, Dove, Pendergraft
Absent: Moti, Kelley, Coon

COMMUNICATIONS

AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATES

- I. Housing – Held meeting on October 6, 2025, at Panera Bread to discuss housing issues affecting seniors.
- II. Senior Health – No report.
- III. Events – Held a meeting at Panera Bread to discuss upcoming events.
- IV. Environment – No report.
- V. Mobility – Vice Chair Kwasman reported no events under Mobility but noted that during health fairs attended, she highlights activities from the Parks and Recreation Activity Guide and encourages participation in exercise programs.

UPDATES OF EVENTS OR MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioners DuBois attended:
 - September 26, 29 and 30, 2025, accompanied housing navigators from Path of Life Ministries to three homes of seniors to provide support of care.
 - October 6, Housing Ad Hoc Committee meeting.
 - October 11, Book Fair at the Main Library.
 - October 18, No Kings Event.
 - October 19, Overflow Farms, to harvest food to feed the hungry.
- Commissioner Clarke attended:

- October 14, Mayor's Senior Forum from 10-11 a.m. at Arlanza Community Center.
- October 15, Fifty & Better Health Fair from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. at the Janet Goeske Center.
- Commissioner Bash attended:
 - October 11, Local Vibes: Fall Festival (Ward 5) Event from 4-8 p.m. at Villegas Park.
 - October 15, Fifty & Better Health Fair from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. at the Janet Goeske Center.
 - Riverside County Club Mobile Home Park meeting for Seniors only. Invited by Tom McClery.
- Vice Chair Kwasman attended:
 - September 19, Hispanic Heritage Celebration at the Janet Goeske Center.
 - September 20, Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful Meeting at the Janet Goeske Center.
 - Casa Blanca Tool Library Opening.
 - October 7, National Night Out from 10 a.m.- Noon at Bordwell Park.
 - October 9, Janet Goeske Board meeting.
 - October 11, Barktoberfest from 1-4 p.m. at White Park.
 - October 15, Fifty & Better Health Fair from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. at the Janet Goeske Center.
- Chair Roberts attended:
 - September 24, Bordwell Park Advisory Board Meeting.
 - October 4, The State of the Black I.E.
 - October 6, Housing Ad Hoc Committee meeting.
- Commissioner Dove attended:
 - September 17, SoCal Gas virtual meeting on Being Water Wise.
 - September 17, Food Taste Local Farmers Grocery Event.
 - October 11, Book Fair at the Main Library.
- Commissioner Pendergraft attended:
 - October 5, Local History Book Fair.
 - October 7, National Night Out from 10 a.m.- Noon at Bordwell Park.
 - October 15, Fifty & Better Health Fair from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. at the Janet Goeske Center.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Vice Chair Kwasman requested to discuss the allocation of the remaining budget.
- Commissioner DuBois requested an update on the issues that were brought up at the Mayor's Senior Forum meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Recreation Supervisor Summer Cremo announced:
 - Next phase for the Senior Strategic Plan will be Community Engagement Phase and there will be Open Forums
 - Mid to late summer 2026 will be the Assessment and Evaluation Phase, input will be needed.
 - More specific dates and timelines will be provided in upcoming meetings.
- Commissioner Clarke announced:
 - October 23, Ward 3, Councilmember Mill will be at the Goeske Center.
 - Alpha Care Medical will have Senior Socials for the Holiday Season coming up.
 - November, Wills and Living Trust Services for 60 and over provided by LSC

Americas Partners for Equal Justice.

- November 5, Medicare Expo from 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. at the Janet Goeske Center.
- Commissioner Pendergraft announced:
 - October 25, Aquamotion Aquathon 9 a.m.- Noon at Shamel Park Pool.
- Vice Chair Kwasman announced:
 - October 30, Senior Resource Fair at the Riverside Convention Center.
 - November 9, Purple Boat Float from 3-6 p.m. at Sunrise Senior Center.
 - December 10, Mayor's Senior Forum at the Janet Goeske Center.

The next meeting is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. Monday, November 17, 2025.

Chair Roberts adjourned the meeting at 5:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

SANDRA D. CAMPBELL
Sr. Administrative Assistant