



# MINUTES

## IRVINE SENIOR CITIZENS COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

**April 20, 2023**  
**Lakeview Senior Center**  
20 Lake Road  
Irvine, CA 92604

### CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Irvine Senior Citizens Council (Senior Council) was called to order at 9 a.m. on April 20, 2023, in the Homer Guimond Studio, Lakeview Senior Center, 20 Lake Road, Irvine, California; Chair Sandlin presiding.

### ROLL CALL

Present:	6	Senior Council Member	Amal Baradehi
		Senior Council Member	Greta Jacobs
		Senior Council Member	Patti Ragland
		Senior Council Member	Myung Suh
		Vice Chair	Rachel Owens
		Chair	Bill Sandlin
Absent:	1	Senior Council Member	Zainab Saadi, MD

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Senior Council Member Baradehi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### PARTICIPATION IN SENIOR COUNCIL MEETING

Athena Martinez, Recording Secretary, provided instructions on how to participate in the Senior Council meeting for those attending via Zoom or in person.

### INTRODUCTIONS

Amber Castrey, Community Services Supervisor, introduced the following new staff:

- Kristen Stevenson, Community Services Leader III-EPT, at Lakeview Senior Center
- Zoe Beltran, Community Services Leader II-PT, Facility Operations at Trabuco Center
- Jose Lazaro Velasco, Community Services Leader III-PT, Facility Operations at Lakeview Senior Center

## 1. PRESENTATION

### 1.1 Charitable Ventures OC

Hallie Stohler-Plaza presented on Charitable Ventures' role in the development of the Senior Services Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2023-24 through 2027-28, as well as outreach efforts, data collection, and analysis to date.

Discussion included: challenges faced by some using technology/QR codes to complete survey and hard-to-reach seniors such as those living in isolation.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS – NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

There were none.

## STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Castrey made the following announcements:

- The annual Senior Services Volunteer Recognition will be held on April 21 from noon to 2 p.m. at Lakeview Senior Center honoring dedicated service in 2022.
- Senior Services will host open house events at each of the three senior centers on Thursday, April 27. Attendees will have the opportunity to sample programs and learn about the many services and resources available to seniors. Event hours are staggered through the day so attendees may visit all three centers.
- Senior Services Irvine Multicultural Association will host an “Exploring Our World” event on Wednesday, May 3 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Lakeview Senior Center. This event celebrates social oneness as the countries of Indonesia and Canada are explored through food, dance, and education.
- Senior Services will launch “Spring Into Health Fitness Challenge” from May 1 through June 9. This six-week challenge provides multiple opportunities to win prizes. Weekly e-newsletters featuring fitness-related educational topics, healthy recipes, and more will also be provided. A variety of free fitness classes held throughout the Challenge will conclude with a Social on June 15. Register in-person or at [yourirvine.org](http://yourirvine.org) by May 8.

## SENIOR COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Vice Chair Owens encouraged attendees to be aware of new artificial intelligence ChatGPT-related scams and fraud attempts where calls are received under the guise of a family member in danger.

Senior Council Member Jacobs invited attendees to the Irvine Multicultural Association Exploring Our World event on Wednesday, May 3 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Lakeview Senior Center. The countries of Indonesia and Canada will be celebrated, and tickets are still available at \$7.

## 2. COMMITTEE/GROUP/AGENCY REPORTS

### 2.1 Senior Services Support/Interest Groups

**2.1.1 Ektaa Center: South Asian Senior Association (SASA)**

Preeti Singh, Chair, reported the following:

- SASA assisted with Hindi translation of survey materials for the Strategic Plan for Seniors' outreach efforts.
- Two socials were held in March and were well attended.
- There will be a Strategic Plan for Seniors community forum on April 28 presented in Hindi at Lakeview Senior Center.
- A computer class was recently offered and information about artificial intelligence ChatGPT-related scams and fraud attempts was also provided.
- Two new classes are being offered: Hand Posture Yoga at Trabuco Center and Bollywood Yoga at Lakeview Senior Center.

**2.1.2 Friends of Outreach (FOO)**

Kathleen Pfeiffer, President, reported the following:

- The February 28 restaurant fundraiser at El Pollo Loco donation was received, as well as gift cards to be used as giveaways during the Bingo program.
- The Bingo banner displayed at the corner of Alton Parkway and Lake Road will be replaced due to wear and tear. Daughter of a former bingo player will gift this expense in honor of her mother's recent passing.

**2.1.3 Irvine Adult Day Health Services, Inc. – No report.**

**2.1.4 Irvine Evergreen Chinese Senior Association (IECSA)**

Christine Chung, Director, reported there is a new teacher for the signing class.

**2.1.5 Irvine Korean Adult League (IKAL)**

Supervisor Castrey read a prepared statement on behalf of Yohan Park, President, reporting the following:

- The Friday sing-along program has been averaging 25 participants.
- IKAL Board Members are working to provide the following new classes: guitar lessons; tango/Latin dance; and oil painting.
- IKAL will be meeting with the Korean Consulate.
- IKAL was recently interviewed regarding its application submitted for the Irvine Recovery Plan-Emerging Nonprofits Grant Program; IKAL is seeking \$60,000 in program support.

**2.1.6 NEDA-Association of Iranian American Seniors – No report.**

**2.2 Orange County Senior Citizens Advisory Council-Affiliated Committees**

### **2.2.1 Orange County Senior Citizens Advisory Council (SCAC)**

Vice Chair Owens reported the April 14 SCAC meeting included a presentation on activities occurring around the cessation of the recent public health emergency, and the impact on Medi-Cal for older adults. Medi-Cal will be reviewing eligibility requirements for those receiving assistance during the pandemic to verify coverage effective July 1. Office on Aging shared its annual report on Title IIB spending for Area 13, which includes Irvine.

### **2.2.2 Wellbeing Reimagined**

Vice Chair Owens reported focus of the April 19 meeting was on development of committee goals, specifically to increase access to technology and promote its use among seniors. All county senior centers will be surveyed and information compiled to be shared at a later date.

### **2.2.3 Housing/Transportation**

Senior Council Member Ragland reported the April 13 meeting included a presentation on elder financial abuse, scam prevention, and ways to identify these. Costs for non-emergency transportation services throughout the county were also reviewed and discussed.

### **2.2.4 Senior Citizens Engagement**

Senior Council Member Suh reported the following:

- March 20 meeting included:
  - Elder Veteran Services presentation given by George Dixon from the Veterans Services Office.
  - Distribution of the Veterans Resource Book, provided by CalVET.
- April 17 meeting included:
  - Legislation updates from California Senior Legislature (CSL).
  - May 2 is Senior Rally Day and virtual participation is available.
  - A survey will be conducted in August of the 2,500 countywide iPad recipients to determine success of program.

## **2.3 Senior Citizens Council Committees**

**2.3.1 Facilities Subcommittee** – No report.

### **2.3.2 Nutrition Subcommittee**

Vice Chair Owens reported the following:

- Three holiday-themed luncheons are scheduled as follows:
  - Mother's Day, May 12, \$5 fee, two seatings available
  - Memorial Day, May 26
  - Father's Day, June 16
- Nutrition facility passed county inspection with a score of 98%.

- Average meals being served in the Rose Garden Café at 120-150 daily, approaching pre-COVID levels.
- No-shows continue to be a challenge.
- City Council approved to end vaccination requirement for in-person dining.
- Collaboration with Second Harvest Food Bank has resumed to distribute shelf-stable food boxes on the third Monday of each month.

### **2.3.3 Strategic Plan for Aging Subcommittee**

Senior Council Member Ragland reported the following:

- Strategic Plan for Seniors (Plan) community outreach online survey closed and 737 responses were received.
- Community forums for Plan development are scheduled through May 25 and will be provided in various languages.
- County's strategic plan goal area updates:
  - Elder Abuse – focus on promoting awareness of scams such as confidential marriage
  - Food and Nutrition – new CalAIM program provides meal delivery to qualified Medi-Cal participants
  - Social Engagement – updating their Friendly Visitor Tool Kit
  - Housing – Anaheim has 19 openings for its Section 8 voucher program
- Senior Services Strategic Plan goal area updates:
  - Education – technology class attendance is strong; one-on-one computer training has been well received
  - Health and Recreation – New classes provided by SASA, Bollywood Dance and Mudra Yoga, have been very popular.
  - Housing – Overall, applications are no longer being accepted for senior affordable housing due to size of wait list, currently at 2-10 years in Irvine and around Orange County.
  - Social Wellbeing – presentations on Irvine's programs and services were made at two local mobile home parks with 42 attendees
  - Transportation – research being done on how best to address TRIPS ride service after hours and weekends

## **ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

There were no additions or deletions.

## **3. COUNCIL BUSINESS**

### **3.1 MINUTES**

**ACTION: Moved by Vice Chair Owens, seconded by Senior Council Member Ragland, and unanimously carried by those members present (Senior Council Member Saadi absent) to approve the minutes of the Irvine Senior Citizens Council regular meeting held March 16, 2023.**

**3.2 SENIOR SERVICES PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEARS 2023-25**

Amber Castrey and Denise Bennett-Arabatzis, Community Services Supervisors, presented the staff report and responded to Senior Council inquiries. Linh Lopez, Senior Management Analyst, was also available to respond to inquiries.

Discussion included: value of volunteer service hours and how it equates to full time staffing; demand placed on Keen Center for Senior Resources and need for expansion; opportunities for budget adjustments mid-cycle; and need for additional information to justify proposed budget.

**ACTION: Moved by Senior Council Member Ragland, seconded by Senior Council Member Baradehi, to:**

**Recommend City Council approve, as proposed, the Senior Services Budget for Fiscal Years 2023-2025.**

**The motion carried as follows:**

AYES:	5	Senior Council Members	Baradehi, Jacobs, Owens, Ragland, Sandlin
NOES:	1	Senior Council Member	Suh
ABSENT:	1	Senior Council Member	Saadi
ABSTAIN:	0	Senior Council Member	

**END OF COUNCIL BUSINESS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Vice Chair Owens, seconded by Senior Council Member Jacobs, and unanimously carried to adjourn the regular Senior Council meeting at 11:01 a.m.**

*Bill Sandlin*

CHAIR

*Athena Martinez*  
Athena Martinez  
Recording Secretary

*May 18, 2023*  
Date Approved