

SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD TELECONFERENCE MEETING  
MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022  
2 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Nuell at 2:02 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember John Erickson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Members present: John Allendorfer, Esther Baum, Pat Dixon, David Eichman, Michael Hollingsworth, Nadia Sutton, Lee Walkup, and Joy Nuell.

Members absent: William McNeeley

Staff present: Katie Egan and Leslie Isenberg

Prior to Adjournment Motions, Councilmember Erickson greeted the Board and provided an update regarding the recent re-opening of West Hollywood Park.

4. ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

Boardmember Eichman requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Valentina Orellana Peralta and Brianna Kupfer.

Boardmember Allendorfer requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Betty White.

Boardmember Hollingsworth requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Bob Saget and Louie Anderson.

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Board unanimously approved the agenda.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the December 22, 2021, Senior Advisory Board meeting were approved unanimously by the Board.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Oliver spoke and introduced himself to the Board as a member of the Public Safety Commission.

Karen Eyres spoke about the January 25, 2022, meeting of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, in which the Board of Supervisors voted to extend eviction protections for many pandemic-impacted renters through the end of the year.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT PLAN FOR PETITION

*SUBJECT:* The Senior Advisory Board will receive information about the Los Angeles Community College District's plan to file a petition to diminish ADA protections for students who are blind.

**ACTION:** Direct staff to request that the City Council place this on a future agenda for consideration of formal action by the City. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

B. UPDATE TO THE SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD BY-LAWS

*SUBJECT:* The Senior Advisory Board will receive an update to the By-Laws as approved by the City Council at their December 20, 2021, meeting.

**ACTION:** Receive and file. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. ITEMS FROM SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITY PROGRAM

*SUBJECT:* The Senior Advisory Board will receive an update from Jewish Family Service regarding remote programs and classes sponsored by the West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center.

Alex Pagan-Mejia, Activities Assistant at Jewish Family Service Los Angeles (JFS), reported on recent and upcoming programming for older adults.

Boardmember Allendorfer spoke about the Seniors in Action program.

**ACTION:** Receive and file.

2. UPDATE ON THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD CANNABIS ORDINANCE

*SUBJECT:* The Senior Advisory Board will receive an update on the City's Cannabis Ordinance from the City's Economic Development Director, John Leonard.

John Leonard provided background on the City's Cannabis Ordinance.

Boardmember Allendorfer asked whether cannabis purchases are required to be cash-only. Mr. Leonard responded that most major banks will not work with

cannabis businesses due to federal drug laws, which can sometimes limit a business' ability to accept non-cash payment. He stated that this is starting to change, however, and there are a small number of credit unions that will work with cannabis businesses. This allows some businesses to allow debit or credit cards, but a number still only accept cash. Mr. Leonard reported that the City works with cannabis business to ensure that the amount of cash that they have on hand is limited to reduce the risk of robbery and crime.

Boardmember Allendorfer inquired whether there are medical marijuana discounts for seniors. Mr. Leonard stated that the City has a compassion program, which requires all medical dispensaries to offer reduced prices to low-income community members, including older adults.

Boardmember Dixon spoke in opposition to the cannabis ordinance and expressed concerns about the City's reputation as a cannabis destination and the growing number of cannabis businesses within City limits. Mr. Leonard responded that the City of West Hollywood is not marketing itself as a cannabis destination and confirmed that the total number of cannabis businesses within City limits will be less than the number of alcohol-related businesses.

Vice-Chair Walkup asked how many on-sale licenses have been awarded and are doing business selling cannabis in West Hollywood. Mr. Leonard responded that there are six currently operating in the City and around six more that have been approved, although those numbers include both dispensaries and consumption lounges. In total, there will be 10 dispensaries, some of which will contain consumption lounges, and between six and eight standalone consumption lounges.

Vice-Chair Walkup asked whether there is an ordinance against consuming weed in bars. Mr. Leonard confirmed that Prop 64, which legalized marijuana in the state of California, explicitly prohibits weed from being sold or used in the same location where alcohol is sold or used.

Boardmember Hollingsworth inquired whether someone could bring their own alcohol to a cannabis consumption lounge. Mr. Leonard responded that such an action could cause the cannabis business to lose their license.

Boardmember Hollingsworth asked whether there would be an increased law enforcement presence around cannabis businesses and sales. Mr. Leonard stated that all dispensaries are required to have their own security, which includes a minimum of two guards on site and one to patrol the neighborhood. Mr. Leonard also said that the Sheriff's Department will be doing increased patrols and the City's Code Compliance Division will be doing frequent visits to the business.

Boardmember Hollingsworth asked if the business security persons are armed. Mr. Leonard responded that they are not.

Boardmember Dixon asked how the City determines the appropriate tax revenue for cannabis businesses. Mr. Leonard responded that there is a voter-approved 7.5% tax on all cannabis sold in the City. He also stated that the business license requirements from the state require that all businesses track the amount of cannabis that comes in and out, which allows the City to calculate the amount of tax that is due.

Boardmember Eichman asked for clarification regarding enforcement mechanisms for businesses who violate the law. Mr. Leonard stated that enforcement would be handled through the Code Compliance Division. If the issue is not corrected, the business would then receive a citation. If nothing is changed after the citation is issued, it would be brought to the Business License Commission to determine if additional measures are needed or if the license needs to be revoked.

**ACTION:** Receive and discuss.

3. DESIGNATION OF A DELEGATE TO PROVIDE INPUT ON SOCIAL SERVICES PRIORITIES AT A MEETING OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION  
*SUBJECT:* The Senior Advisory Board will be asked to designate the Chair or an alternate to provide input to the Human Services Commission (HSC) on Social Services priorities at the Commission's meeting of March 8, 2022.

Leslie Isenberg, Social Services Supervisor, provided background information as outlined in the staff report dated January 26, 2022. Members of the Board responded to the following discussion questions:

What are the significant social services needs of the constituency your Board represents?

- Boardmember Allendorfer stated that a significant need of older adults in the City is affordable, low-income housing. He also mentioned that services are needed to assist older adults when they receive an eviction notice.
- Boardmember Dixon stated that a significant need for older adults is food and shelter. She also mentioned a need for more affordable housing and access to transportation.
- Boardmember Hollingsworth expressed a need for a social services center for older adults.
- Boardmember Eichman listed housing, transportation, nutrition, and activities (in-person and virtual) as significant needs for older adults in West Hollywood.

Have there been recent changes to services needs or service delivery for the constituency your Board represents?

- Vice-Chair Walkup stated that COVID-19 has caused more isolation among older adults.
- Boardmember Alldendorfer stated that more should be done to locate older adults in need of services.
- Boardmember Dixon said that she saw an increase in services due to the COVID-19 pandemic and that that level of service should continue.

What barriers might there be to your constituency accessing available services?

- Boardmember Eichman expressed concern that the inability of some to have or use technology may present a barrier to services.
- Boardmember Allendorfer agreed that access to technology was a barrier.
- Chair Nuell said that transportation to and from services could be a barrier.

**ACTIONS:** (1) Review questions and discuss. (2) Designate the Chair or an alternate to represent the Senior Advisory Board at a meeting of the Human Services Commission with the Chairs of Commissions and Advisory Boards in preparation for the 2022-25 Social Services funding process. **Motion by Boardmember Baum to nominate Boardmember Allendorfer to represent the Board, seconded by Boardmember Eichman, approved unanimously by the Board except for Boardmember Hollingsworth who left the meeting early.**

11. PUBLIC COMMENT  
None.

12. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

Boardmember Eichman spoke about the most recent Transportation Commission meeting and gave an update regarding the WeHo PickUp trolley services, which have been back operating since October 2021.

Boardmember Allendorfer inquired about COVID-19 mask distribution. Leslie Isenberg, Social Services Supervisor, stated that the City is not currently providing masks to the public.

Boardmember Sutton requested to have a legislative update on a future Senior Advisory Board meeting agenda. Vice-Chair Walkup seconded this idea.

13. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Katie Egan, Social Services Program Administrator, informed the Board that an update regarding the City's Guaranteed Income pilot for LGBTQIA+ adults will be provided in an upcoming meeting.

Leslie Isenberg, Social Services Supervisor, gave an overview of the changes to the Senior Advisory Board By-Laws as approved by the City Council at their December 20, 2021, meeting.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Senior Advisory Board adjourned at 3:31 PM to its next teleconference meeting on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, beginning at 2 PM.

DocuSigned by:

Joy Nuell

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JOY NUELLE,  
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Leslie Isenberg

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STAFF LIAISON

A copy of the audio recording of this meeting can be obtained from the City Clerk's office upon request.

*(Disclaimer: Staff records the meetings for the sole purpose of composing the official meeting minutes; therefore, the recordings are not of commercial quality.)*