



CITY OF OAKLAND

MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON AGING

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Oakland City Hall, Hearing Room 1 - One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza

IN-PERSON MEETING

Members of the public participating in the meeting must attend in-person.

PUBLIC WEBCASTING

The public may observe this meeting remotely.

To view the meeting live on KTOP or on the city website:

<https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/ktop-tv-10>

To observe the meeting by video conference, join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

<https://oaklandca.zoom.us/j/81499453147>

To listen to the meeting by phone, dial:

+1 669 444 9171 US ZOOM ID: 814 9945 3147

PUBLIC COMMENT

Join Us in Person, submit a separate speaker card for each item on the agenda to the commission clerk before the item is called.

Email Written Comments to MCOA@Oaklandca.gov. Written comments must be submitted at least 24 hours prior to the meeting time to be delivered to the commissioners.

Questions, please email the Mayor's Commission on Aging at: mcoa@oaklandca.gov

This meeting location is wheelchair accessible. To request disability-related accommodations or to request an ASL, Cantonese, Mandarin, or Spanish interpreter, please email MCOA@oaklandca.gov or call TDD/TTY (510) 238-3254 at least five working days before the meeting.

Commissioners: Robert “Bob” Scott (Chair), Blake Spears (Vice-Chair), Suzi Kalmus, Jacqueline Johnson, Brandon Hemphill, Leslie Smith, Car-Lette Garrett, Sharawn Tipton, Kevin Beachem, Gwendolyn Thomas-Knight, Rhonda Ramirez

Human Services Department (HSD) Commission Staff: Ana Bagtas, Aging and Adult Services Manager; **Marshay Boyd**, Commission Clerk

MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON AGING

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

Oakland City Hall, Hearing Room 1 - One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza

AGENDA

1. Call To Order
2. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum
3. Adoption of Agenda
ACTION ITEM:
4. Approval of May 6, 2026, and June 3, 2026, Meeting Minutes
ACTION ITEM:
5. Public Comment (Specific Agenda Items, limit of two minutes)
6. Vice-Chair’s Announcements/Reports – *Blake Spears, MCOA Vice-Chairperson*
 - Nomination of MCOA Chair
ACTION ITEM:
7. Discussion Items:
 - MCOA By-Laws Revision
 - Code of Conduct
 - Staff involvement in Agenda Planning
 - Solicitation of input on presentation topics
8. MCOA Member Report Outs – Senior Center Advisory Council Meetings
9. Advocacy Updates – *Blake Spears, MCOA Vice-Chairperson*
10. Human Services Department/Aging & Adult Services Report – *Ana Bagtas, Aging and Adult Services Manager, HSD*
11. Open Forum (Limit of two minutes)
12. Closing Remarks & Adjournment - ACTION ITEM:

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Commissioners: Robert “Bob” Scott (Chair) — **PRESENT**; Blake Spears (Vice-Chair) — **PRESENT**; Suzi Kalmus — **EXCUSED ABSENT**; Jacqueline Johnson — **PRESENT**; Brandon Hemphill — **ABSENT**; Leslie Smith — **PRESENT**; Car-Lette Garrett — **PRESENT**; Sharawn Tipton — **PRESENT**; Kevin Beachem — **PRESENT**; Gwendolyn Thomas-Knight — **PRESENT**; Rhonda Ramirez — **PRESENT**

Human Services Department (HSD) Commission Staff: Ana Bagtas, Aging and Adult Services Manager; Jessi Cutter, Outreach Developer; Marshay Boyd, Commission Clerk

MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON AGING

SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

North Oakland Senior Center (NOSC) - 5714 Martin Luther King Jr Way, Oakland, CA 94609

***This meeting was noticed as a Special Meeting due to a change in regular location/time and was followed by the Older Americans Month kickoff luncheon.*

Meeting Minutes

1. Call To Order

Chair Robert “Bob” Scott called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m., noted the meeting was being recorded, and reviewed public-comment protocols: speaker cards; public speaks first after each item/presentation; Open Forum at Item 10.

Discussion: Seating was theater-style in the community room; Chair asked commissioners to raise hands before speaking and reminded the public to submit speaker cards at the green table.

2. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum

Present at roll call: Chair Robert “Bob” Scott; Vice-Chair Blake Spears; Jacqueline Johnson; Leslie Smith; Car-Lette Garrett; Sharawn Tipton; Kevin Beachem; Gwendolyn Thomas-Knight; Rhonda Ramirez.

Absent: Suzi Kalmus (excused); Brandon Hemphill.

Quorum: Established, nine commissioners present at roll call.

3. Adoption of Agenda

ACTION ITEM: Leslie Smith / Blake Spears / Moved — Approved.

Discussion: Chair noted the meeting’s abbreviated format to accommodate the Older Americans Month program.

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4. Approval of April 1, 2026, Meeting Minutes

ACTION ITEM: Blake Spears / Rhonda Ramirez / Moved — Approved (with corrections).

Discussion & Corrections to record: Commissioner Thomas-Knight submitted the following corrections:

- Commissioner’s name signage:
Please revise to read:
“Commissioner Gwendolyn Thomas Knight prefers to be recorded as Gwendolyn, not Gwen. Future minutes will reflect this.”
- Custodial overtime clarification:
Please revise to read:
“Discussion of West Oakland Senior Center operations referencing contractors working weekends should be corrected to reflect that part-time custodial staff, not contractors, performed the work on weekends.”

Parliamentary point (minutes accuracy): Commissioner Car-Lette Garrett noted minutes should reflect what was actually said at the prior meeting; future clarifications may be added separately.

Associated motions captured:

- Motion to amend March 2026 meeting minutes reference (center name corrected to “Palo Vista”) — Leslie Smith / Jacqueline Johnson / Moved — Approved.
- Motion to accept minutes as amended and changed — Blake Spears / Rhonda Ramirez / Moved — Approved.

5. Public Comment (Specific Agenda Items, limit of two minutes)

- Philip (Public Member): Raised concerns about the Group Trip (JTP) policy that restricts commissioners/participants from physically assisting seniors on and off buses due to City liability; urged a re-review of the policy with City Attorney and Risk Management. He cited California’s Good Samaritan law and ADA Title II obligations (even for locally funded trips) and shared a building-evacuation example to underscore safety needs—asking that Oakland’s Age-Friendly commitments guide a balance between risk and basic care. (Comment pertained to Item 9.)

6. Chair’s Announcements/Reports – Robert Scott, MCOA Chairperson

Main points:

- Commission fully seated; strategic plan moving to action. Commissioners are aligned to subject teams and senior-center advisory councils; the plan developed over the last year is entering implementation.
- Advocacy context and need. Oakland has 60,000 residents age 65+; 30% live under 200% FPL; 12,000 older Oaklanders face nutrition insecurity; 19% of Oakland’s homeless are 60+—underscoring the urgency of reopening centers to pre-COVID hours.

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Discussion: Chair affirmed commissioners' advisory-council liaison role and the intent to carry center-level issues back to the Commission for one community voice.

7. Advocacy Updates – Blake Spears, MCOA Vice-Chairperson

Main points:

- Seniors' voting power: Seniors are 20% of Oakland's population and 25% of the voting-age population—urged attendees to contact their councilmembers (as allies) and press for restoring senior-center hours to pre-COVID levels.
- Commissioner engagement: Ongoing meetings with advisory councils; emphasis on respectful, relationship-building advocacy and coordinated talking points.

Discussion: Commissioners and public affirmed outreach to district offices and requested advance materials for any future presentations to allow thoughtful feedback.

8. MCOA Member Report Outs – on Senior Center Advisory Council Meetings

Downtown Oakland Senior Center (DOSCC) – Commissioner Rhonda Ramirez

• Advocacy group forming with partners (Senior Services Coalition; Meals on Wheels; Mercy Brown Bag); council meets third Friday; purpose is to organize seniors' voices during budget season.

North Oakland Senior Center (NOSC) – Commissioner Leslie Smith

• Bathroom railings installed following March report; advisory board has vacancies; public invited to attend third-Thursday meetings and consider serving.

East Oakland Senior Center (EOSC) – Commissioner Car-Lette Garrett

• Council is fully staffed and active; priorities: restore hours, janitorial staffing, resume rentals (including Saturdays), and re-establish onsite notary/legal services. Commissioner exploring a dedicated local notary (pending confirmation of scope).

9. Human Services Department/Aging & Adult Services Report – Ana Bagtas, Aging and Adult Services Manager, HSD

Main points:

- West Oakland Senior Center (WOSC) status: Center remains closed pending rekeying (keys stolen during a break-in), alarm system replacement (contractor responsibility), and furniture return/procurement (storage-access dispute; adult-furniture bidders being re-solicited). Soft launch planned when these three are resolved; ribbon-cutting will be scheduled through Public Works and the Mayor's Office.
- Subcommittees & data: USF public-health students are conducting equity analysis by zip code; subcommittees (Transportation, Safety & Violence Prevention, Health & Nutrition) will be working committees with quarterly/mid-year reporting on measurable projects.
- CalAIM & integrated supports: HSD described movement toward an integrated health & human services model for vulnerable residents; long-term goal to contract with Kaiser and Alameda Alliance following the City's CalAIM work.

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Discussion: Questions on security cameras, vendor liability, and procurement practices were taken; staff committed to follow-up with Public Works and City Attorney/Risk Management

10. Open Forum (Limit of two minutes)

Public Comments (selected):

- Scott Means (East Bay Foundation on Aging): Announced the foundation will be independent as of July 1, focused on Oakland seniors (expanding from food programs into mental health, case management, and adult day care). Urged full restoration of senior-center hours/days and faster capital projects.
- Melvin (Public Member, NOSC): Requested better meeting organization and advance copies for large community meetings; encouraged continued advocacy for seniors.
- Barbara (Public Member, DOSC): Shared personal experience of homelessness and the essential role of senior centers (five-day access, social workers, craft fairs) in stabilization; urged expanded hours and more center activities/fundraising.
- Sue (Public Member): Called for extended days/times and affirmed senior centers' role in combating isolation; noted positive experiences with MACRO response.
- Mary (card read into record): Asked about increased funding this fiscal year to expand hours.

Theme across speakers: Restore pre-COVID hours; address sidewalk safety and accessibility; prioritize adult day care; maintain senior-center meals/luncheons and craft fairs; improve communication and data transparency.

11. Closing Remarks & Adjournment

Mayor's Remarks — Mayor Barbara Lee

Summary of key points:

- Priority on seniors in the mid-cycle budget; commitment to work with Council on restoring center hours and to expand programs that allow seniors to age in place.
- Safety & infrastructure: Focus on public safety, sidewalks and accessible transportation; City completed a \$334M bond sale to fund affordable housing, transportation, and infrastructure (including sidewalks/potholes).
- Intergenerational engagement: Seniors must have a seat at every policy table; encouraged bringing young people into senior-center life for mentorship and community building.

Chair's Closing: Reiterated advocacy asks (contact Council; support budget restoration), liaison report-outs at future meetings, and upcoming subcommittee work.

ACTION ITEM: Jacqueline Johnson / Sharawn Tipton / Moved — Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

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Commissioners: Robert “Bob” Scott (Chair) — **RESIGNED (no longer on the Commission)**; Blake Spears (Vice-Chair) — **PRESENT**; Suzi Kalmus — **PRESENT**; Jacqueline Johnson — **EXCUSED ABSENT**; Brandon Hemphill — **EXCUSED ABSENT**; Leslie Smith — **PRESENT**; Car-Lette Garrett — **PRESENT**; Sharawn Tipton — **ABSENT**; Kevin Beachem — **PRESENT**; Gwendolyn Thomas-Knight — **PRESENT**; Rhonda Ramirez — **PRESENT**

Human Services Department (HSD) Commission Staff: Ana Bagtas, Aging and Adult Services Manager; Jessi Cutter, Outreach Developer; Marshay Boyd, Commission Clerk

MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON AGING

Wednesday, June 3, 2026

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Oakland City Hall, Hearing Room 1 - One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza

Meeting Minutes

1. Call To Order

Vice-Chair Blake Spears called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m., noted the meeting was recorded, and previewed the agenda items and presentation.

Discussion: The Chair role is vacant following Robert “Bob” Scott’s resignation; Vice-Chair Spears presided.

2. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum

Present at roll call: Blake Spears; Suzi Kalmus; Leslie Smith; Car-Lette Garrett; Kevin Beachem; Gwendolyn Thomas-Knight; Rhonda Ramirez

Absent: Jacqueline Johnson (excused); Brandon Hemphill (excused); Sharawn Tipton

Quorum: Established, seven commissioners present at roll call.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Pre-motion discussion (Commissioner Kevin Beachem):

- Requested corrections to the presentation title (agenda listed “New East Bay Foundation for Aging”); cited the organization’s usage and asked staff to align to the correct name (discussion referenced “on Aging”).
- Asked that future presentations include advance materials and a clear purpose for why the item is before the Commission; proposed moving the foundation presentation to July to enable commissioners to prepare questions and have a more substantive dialogue.

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Additional discussion: Commissioners Leslie Smith and Car-Lette Garrett supported receiving slide decks/briefing in advance; staff explained Brown Act constraints and the 72-hour posting requirement, while committing to improve pre-distribution where possible.

ACTION ITEM: Car-Lette Garrett / Leslie Smith / Moved — Approved.

Result: Agenda adopted with corrections to the presentation title and a proviso that, going forward, presenters will provide advance materials and context for their items.

4. Approval of May 6, 2026, Meeting Minutes

ACTION ITEM: Moved to July — meeting minutes not ready for action at this time.

5. Public Comment (Specific Agenda Items, limit of two minutes)

- Philip (Public Member): Spoke regarding the Group Trip (JTP) policy, asserting that the City must allow peer assistance (steady hand) for riders boarding/alighting buses and should reconcile the policy with ADA Title II and Good Samaritan protections. Asked HSD to clarify whether the no-assistance language stems from a vendor/insurance requirement or an internal City/HSD safety protocol and requested alternatives or reasonable modifications when assistance is needed. Provided a written packet of questions for follow-up.

6. Presentation: The New East Bay Foundation for Aging; Transition to an Independent Foundation - *Scott Means, President, East Bay Foundation for Aging*

Main points:

- Organization & independence: Originated from the Matilda Brown Home legacy; grants support Oakland-serving seniors (nutrition, health access, aging in place). As of July 2026, the foundation becomes an independent entity (no longer a supporting org under EBCF), with full board control and quicker decision-making.
- Grantmaking: Currently awards over \$500,000 annually to nonprofits that substantially serve Oakland seniors; strategic planning and grant guidelines updates forthcoming (commitment to return with materials in advance).
- Board recruitment: Seeking diverse and multigenerational members with legal and human-services/HR expertise. Executive Director Dianne Duong to begin in July.
- Focus areas & advocacy: Continuing strong nutrition focus; expanding into mental health, exploring supports linked to Care Court; willing to advocate for senior services with councilmembers (no candidate endorsements).

Discussion: Commissioners asked about future priorities, partnerships, and how advocacy translates to budget outcomes; Scott Means committed to provide advance briefings when grantmaking changes are ready.

7. Chair's Announcements/Reports – *Robert Scott, MCOA Chairperson*

- Recognition: Read a Certificate of Appreciation for Former Chair Robert “Bob” Scott (service 2024–2026; strategic-plan leadership and support securing needs-assessment funding).

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- Officer Elections (Chair process): Vice-Chair outlined Chair responsibilities (preside meetings, supervise Commission activities, appoint committees, represent the Commission; with Vice-Chair and Standing Committee to set agendas).
Nominations: Gwendolyn Thomas-Knight nominated Kevin Beachem; Kevin declined, noting his strengths in execution over presiding. Vice-Chair Spears nominated Rhonda Ramirez; Rhonda accepted the nomination (and will consider over the month).
- Process/timing: Commissioners may submit additional names; nominations remain open until next meeting; voting will occur by secret ballot next month (run-off if needed).

8. Report Outs on Senior Center Advisory Councils

- **Downtown Oakland Senior Center (DOSC)** — Commissioner Rhonda Ramirez
Reported strong advocacy momentum following presentations by Vice-Chair Blake Spears and partner organizations (Senior Services Coalition, Meals on Wheels, Mercy Brown Bag); noted that members have been actively contacting the mayor's office by phone/email in support of expanded senior-center hours. Centers are open to additional briefings from commissioners and partners to keep residents informed during budget season.
- **North Oakland Senior Center (NOSC)** — Commissioner Leslie Smith
Confirmed bathroom railings installed after the March report; invited the public to attend the advisory-board meetings on the third Thursday and encouraged volunteers to fill board vacancies. Highlighted resumption of group bus trips and recent well-received community orchestra event; requested exploration of chess/game activities and continued promotion of the strength-training class.
- **East Oakland Senior Center (EOSC)** — Commissioner Car-Lette Garrett
Described a fully staffed, very active advisory board meeting on the fourth Tuesday; prioritized restoring five-day hours, janitorial staffing, and facility rentals (including Saturdays). Noted loss of on-site notary/legal services and is pursuing a dedicated local notary (pending scope/approval). Reported a postcard campaign to the at-Large City Council office urging restoration of hours and revenue-supporting rentals; invited all commissioners to the Juneteenth celebration on June 18 (11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.). Commissioner Beachem recounted a moment of confusion where he was described as “divisive,” and clarified the Commission’s role is to serve and advocate for centers, not to supplant center leadership; he is reconsidering resigning his liaison role considering the clarification.
- **West Oakland Senior Center (WOSC)** — Liaison Assignment
With former Chair Robert Scott no longer on the Commission, Gwendolyn Thomas-Knight agreed to accept appointment as liaison to the West Oakland Senior Center Advisory Council, noting her concurrent subcommittee commitment (9:00–10:00 a.m.) and asking to revisit if scheduling proves problematic. Staff clarified that West and North advisory councils meet separately, and West is currently meeting at the North Oakland facility until WOSC reopens; Vice-Chair Blake Spears and staff will introduce Commissioner Thomas-Knight to the council and coordinate meeting logistics.

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Discussion: Commissioners and staff affirmed the value of liaison report-outs to amplify one community voice, share center-level priorities (hours, rentals, staffing, programming), and bring issues back to the Commission for coordinated advocacy.

9. Advocacy Updates – Blake Spears, MCOA Vice-Chairperson

Main points:

- Urged commissioners to schedule meetings with district councilmembers before July 1 budget adoption; ask for General Fund to restore senior centers to five days/week and avoid shifting funds from the ASSETS senior-aide program to cover center hours.
- Senior services coalition will provide talking points and optional refresher training; requested confirmations for councilmember outreach by next week and encouraged commissioner testimony at the June 12 budget hearing (12:00 p.m.).

Commissioner assignments (highlights):

- District 1 (Councilmember Zac Unger): Suzi Kalmus to request a meeting.
- District 2 (Councilmember Charlene Wang): No commissioner assigned.
- District 3 (Councilmember Carroll Fife): Rhonda Ramirez to request a meeting.
- District 4 (Councilmember Janani Ramachandran): Blake Spears to request a meeting.
- District 5 (Councilmember Noel Gallo): Kevin Beachem to request a meeting.
- District 6 (Councilmember Kevin Jenkins): Leslie Smith to request a meeting.
- District 7 (Councilmember Ken Houston): Car-Lette Garrett to request a meeting.
- At-Large (Councilmember Rowena Brown): Blake Spears to request a meeting.

Commissioners agreed to pursue an at-large meeting invitation; senior services coalition to assist with contact routing.

10. Human Services Department/Aging & Adult Services Report – Ana Bagtas, Aging and Adult Services Manager, HSD

Department leadership: Greg Elliott introduced himself as Interim Human Services Department Director; expressed support for senior-center operations and partnerships.

Main points:

- West Oakland Senior Center (WOSC) status: Three prerequisites to soft-open: complete rekeying, install alarm system, and secure/return furniture (and procure new adult furniture where needed). Rekeying/alarm scheduled this week (or next at latest); furniture disputes with storage vendor nearing resolution; procurement moving under new quotes/contract. Kitchen appliances (refrigerators/stove) to be replaced by the contractor (building was in contractor's possession at time of theft). Food prep will not occur on-site at soft opening, but catered food and Mercy Brown Bag distribution can resume. Cameras: Inside-counter cameras pending union meet-and-confer; exterior camera(s) included on the punch list. Adult Day Program interest: A provider has inquired about leasing rooms for an adult-day program; discussions ongoing (any lease revenue would support WOSC operations).

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- Subcommittees & data: Transportation, Safety & Violence Prevention, and Wellness/Health & Nutrition (WHN) subcommittees held core-team meetings; USF public-health students will present zip-code equity analyses at June subcommittee meetings. Q&A sessions scheduled (incl. June 8) to invite knowledgeable community members to join working committees.
- CalAIM (Enhanced Care Management & Community Supports): City Council approved the resolution to accept funding and authorize the contract (approved May 19); HSD is preparing the certified vendor application with Kaiser and Alameda Alliance, including policies, workflows, HIPAA-compliant platforms, and evaluation plans. Population of focus includes older adults 55+ with high utilization (risk of institutionalization) and unhoused/precariously housed 25+ residents.

Discussion: Commissioners asked about security timelines, procurement sequencing, and responsible contacts; staff reiterated City/vendor roles and the need to avoid over-promising dates while providing status-based updates.

11. Open Forum (Limit of two minutes)

- Philip (Public Member): Requested that commissioner's get clarity on roles at advisory-council meetings (standards differ by center) and welcomed their attendance at meetings/events. Asked whether the mayor's budget funds all 12 senior-center positions and, if not, how restored hours will be achieved.

12. Closing Remarks & Adjournment

Vice-Chair Spears summarized next steps: continue councilmember outreach, keep Chair nominations open through next meeting, and support WOSC soft-opening milestones.

ACTION ITEM: Rhonda Ramirez / Suzi Kalmus / Moved — Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.