



Commission on Aging  
Margot Smith, Chair  
Darlene Bronson, Commission Secretary

# COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, April 17, 2024  
North Berkeley Senior Center  
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

## **Preliminary Matters**

1. Call to Order by Chair Smith
2. Roll Call by Secretary
3. Public Comments  
The public may comment about any item not on the agenda. Public comments are limited to two minutes per speaker. Public comments regarding agenda items will be heard while the Commission is discussing the item.
4. Approval of minutes from March, 2024 (Attachment A)

The Commission may discuss any subject listed on the Agenda. Public comments regarding agenda items will be heard while the Commission is discussing the item. Public comments are limited to two minutes per speaker.

## **Presentation**

1. How communications are managed within the City of Berkeley- Matthai Chakko, City Communications Director/Assistant to the City Manager

## **Discussion / Action Items**

1. Summary of Age-Friendly Berkeley Committee findings-Phyllis Orrick (Attachment B)
2. Commission on Aging procedure for submitting agenda items-George Porter. (Attachment C)
3. Speed limit for bicycles, e-bikes, and e-scooters on the Ohlone Greenway as regards senior safety"-George Porter.
4. Discussion of Plan to Provide Berkeley City Council Members with information on Berkeley Rides for Seniors and Disabled-Karin Evans.
5. Presentation proposal: AC Transit's Transit Supportive Design Guidelines-Phyllis Orrick.
6. Presentation proposal: San Pablo Avenue Multimodal Corridor Project Update-Phyllis Orrick.
7. Presentation proposal: Missing middle housing-Phyllis Orrick.

## **Commissioner reports**

## **Items for Ongoing Discussion**

1. Alzheimer's programs for residents of Berkeley

2. City website
3. Forum for women's safety

### **Information Items**

\*\*Please submit all agenda items for the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting by Monday, May 6, 2024 to the chair.

Community member letter of concern, Carol Denny-IHHS support letter. (Attachment D)

### **Adjournment**

#### **COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION**

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the **Disability Services Specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD)** at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the commission secretary for further information.

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the North Berkeley Senior Center located at 1901 Hearst Avenue, during regular business hours. The Commission Agenda and Minutes wed on the City of Berkeley website <http://www.cityofberkeley.info/commissions>

#### **Secretary**

Darlene Bronson  
Health, Housing & Community Services  
Department (510) 981-5194  
E-mail: [dbronson@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:dbronson@berkeleyca.gov)

#### **Mailing**

Commission on Aging/HHCS  
Darlene Bronson  
1901 Hearst Ave. Berkeley,  
CA 94709



Health, Housing & Community  
Services Department  
Commission on Aging

## COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024  
1:30 p.m.

### 1. Roll Call

Present: (8) Chisholm, Cochran, Lavault; Orrick; Porter; Smith; Yamaguchi, Evans

Absent: 0

Excused Absence: (1) Collins

Staff Present: (2) Tanya Bustamante, Darlene Bronson

Public: (8)

### 2. Public Comment (8)

### Presentations

- Berkeley Rides for Seniors & the Disabled FY24-25 Program Plan, Mary Triston, Transportation Manager
- Missing Middle Housing and Zoning Measures, Karen Parolek, Planner

### Action Items

#### 1. Commission motions to strike Ohlone Greenway from the March 2024 agenda

M/S: Smith/ Orrick

Ayes: Chisholm, Lavault, Cochran, Smith, Yamaguchi, Evans

Noes: Porter

Abstain: None

**Motion passed.**

#### 2. Amend February 2024 meeting minutes. Correcting commissioner names. Approved once corrected.

M/S: Orrick / Cochran

Ayes: Chisholm, Lavault, Smith, Yamaguchi, Cochran, Porter

Noes: None

Abstain: None

**Motion passed.**

### Discussion Items

#### 1. Ohlone Greenway Safety & Modernization Project

Discussion; No action taken.

#### 2. Joint forum on public safety for women with the Commission on the Status of Women-Committee established: Cochran, Lavault, and Porter

Discussion; No action taken.

**Commissioners adjourned at 3:33 p.m.**

Minutes Approved on:

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Darlene Bronson, Commission Secretary

## Summary of Age-Friendly Berkeley Committee Findings Phyllis Orrick (Attachment B)

While recommendations are too numerous to list here, the Aging Commission identified as first steps four (4) priority areas and goals for the Action Plan:

**HOUSING AND ECONOMIC SECURITY:** Develop a continuum of affordable, accessible housing options for older adults to age in their community regardless of their health or financial status.

**TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY:** Advance a network of public and private transportation (including transit, assistive devices, e-bikes and e-scooters and bicycling and walking) that equitably serves residents and connects them to services, social activities, and employment opportunities.

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS:** Develop a more integrated system of services and supports that is person-centered and ensures that all residents have the opportunity to engage in health promoting activities.

**SOCIAL PARTICIPATION AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT:** Enhance neighborhood cohesion and social connectedness of all Berkeley residents with community events and activities that are inclusive, affordable, and accessible.

- The dire need for Increased outreach. Berkeley residents over 60 currently number approximately 20,000– or 1 in 5 residents. This number doubled in the decade from 2010 to 2020 and is projected to increase at a similar rate well into the future. Given this explosive growth, it is important that all Berkeley households and residences are made aware of the breadth of services available to individuals, their families, and their caregivers. At this time only a very small fraction of those over 60 years of age are receiving materials from the Berkeley Senior Centers and the Division of Aging Services, due to staff and budgetary shortages that have made it difficult to upgrade outreach: for instance, the main communication is via a print newsletter that is mailed to several hundred people, with no way of tracking whether it has been received. We recommend that the City invest in outreach to this growing demographic group.

This could include:

- a city-wide mailing, similar to the citywide mailings by the City Parks and Recreation Department about activities,
- updating and keeping relevant websites current,
- investing in collecting email addresses and disseminating information by email,
- reaching out to civic institutions and groups to seek their help with outreach to the aging community and their families.

**Attachment C**

Thanks for submitting an item to the Aging Commission agenda. All members of 5e Commission are eligible to submit items. The Chair and Vice Chair order the items. In the interest of clarity, it would help if you could fill in the following information:

Name of Person submitting the item:

Title of the item (please keep it brief):

Subject: 2-3 sentences:

How it is relevant to the Commission's mission:

Time to be allotted (subject to change due to time constraints):

To: In Home Support Services  
April 12, 2024  
6955 Foothill Blvd # 300,  
Oakland, CA 94605

Attachment D

Alameda County Board of Supervisors  
Alameda County Administration Building  
1221 Oak St # 536  
Oakland, CA 94612

To Whom It May Concern,

I am Carol Denney of Berkeley, California, a 70-year-old three-time cancer survivor. I turned to the courts for help after being repeatedly assaulted by a visitor to my apartment building, a tenant-run nonprofit where I have lived for thirty-five years. I was granted an elder abuse restraining order but wrongly denied its renewal, a case which the Family Violence Appellate Project, successfully appealed at the First District Appellate Court in San Francisco on February 21, 2024.

The appeal (see attached) illustrated the court's failure to apply the correct legal standard creating prejudicial error ( <sup>1,2</sup> ). The Family Violence Appellate Project and I now return to the lower courts for protective relief. My protective order under both the original and my current elder abuse restraining order would have restored my safety, at least within the building, had it not been for my abuser's decision to sign up as a caregiver entitling him to access due to his employment status in the eyes of both the police and the courts. My abuser has continued his violence and vandalism due to this proximity despite the property managers and owners prohibiting him entirely from the premises. The police have offered no help with this matter.

IHSS is not the technical employer, which, as we understand it, is the IHSS client, a neighbor<sup>3</sup>, who has additional caregivers. We feel IHSS has some responsibility as the entity paying the restrained party who is, under the elder abuse restraining order, supposed to stay at a distance from my home, car, and person, but is unwilling to do so. As it stands, any current order with this employment loophole will create the same dangerous conditions I have been forced to live with for more than six years, assaults which in one case required major surgery and most recently resulted in a concussion.

The legal standard referenced in our appellate brief, that "...the court is not permitted to consider any burdens whatsoever where the underlying abuse was based on physical violence or threats of physical violence...(Ritchie, supra, 115 Cal.App.4th at p. 1290.)" is relevant here. It appears that IHSS's current

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<sup>1</sup> "the existence of the initial order certainly is relevant and the underlying findings and facts supporting that order often will be enough in themselves to provide the necessary proof." (Ritchie, supra, 115 Cal.App.4th at p. 1291.)

<sup>2</sup>... the court is not permitted to consider any burdens whatsoever where the underlying abuse was based on physical violence or threats of physical violence. (Ritchie, supra, 115 Cal.App.4th at p. 1290.)

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Clark is unresponsive to the danger his caregiver poses to the protected party.

Internal

policy is does not conform to the priority the law gives to an elder abuse restraining order, putting the protected party and others on the property at considerable, predictable risk.

Please consider supporting a suspension of payment to IHSS workers with elder abuse restraining orders on applicable properties with elder abuse court orders, such as Ms. Denney's premises. Please let IHSS and the Alameda County Board of Supervisors know that you recommend this change to protect vulnerable seniors.

This would simply allow the client to substitute another IHSS worker and protect the tenants, including any protected party, on such a property. The restrained party would be free to work and be paid elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Carol Denney  
1970 San Pablo Avenue #4  
Berkeley, CA 94702  
510-548-1512

Marcia Poole  
2512 Regent St., #3  
Berkeley, CA 94704  
510.549.3345

David Cronin, Former Administrator, Orinda Rehabilitation  
and Convalescent and Skilled Nursing Hospital  
380 Camino Sobrante  
Orinda, CA 94563