

Commission on Aging  
Odile Lavault, Chair  
Darlene Bronson, Commission Secretary

## COMMISSION ON AGING REGULAR AGENDA

Wednesday, June 18, 2025  
North Berkeley Senior Center  
Gooseberry Room  
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

### **Preliminary Matters**

1. Call to Order by Chair, Lavault
2. Roll Call by Secretary, Bronson
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 April 2025 (Attachment A)
5. Approval of order of agenda

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**

None

### **Staff report**

Mary Triston- To present in July BRSD's FY26 Program Plan

### **Discussion / Action Items**

1. Commission on Aging 2025 Work Plan - Lavault, Evans (Attachment B)
2. Letter of appreciation for Rani Cochran, Newbery
3. Filling vacancies for Commission on Aging, Lavault
4. Cycling without Age (added to agenda by Orrick)

### **Commissioner reports**

### **Information Items**

\*\*Please submit all agenda items by *Tuesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>* to the Commission Secretary, for the *July 16<sup>th</sup>* meeting only.

## **Items for Ongoing Discussion**

1. Safety & identify homebound seniors in Berkeley
2. Berkeley Rides for Seniors and Disabled waitlist
3. Older drivers' safety and DMV policies

## **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.

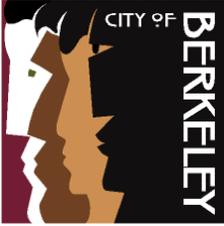
Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the North Berkeley Senior Center located at 1901 Hearst Avenue, during regular business hours. The Commission Agenda and Minutes may be viewed on the City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

#### **Secretary:**

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Health, Housing & Community  
Services Department  
Commission on Aging

## COMMISSION ON AGING REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025  
1:30 p.m.

### 1. Roll Call

Present: (6) Yamaguchi, Orrick, Lavault, Porter, Newbery, Evans

Absent:

Excused Absence: Collins

Staff Present: (2) Darlene Bronson, Donnaracia Scurry

Public: (0)

### 2. Public Comment (0)

### Presentation

None

### Staff Report

None

### Action Items

#### 1. Motion to adopt the Missing Middle Housing letter in attachment B and send to council

M/S: Orrick / Newbery

Ayes: Collins, Lavault, Orrick, Yamaguchi, Evan, Newberry

Noes: Porter

Abstain: None

**Motion passed.**

### Discussion Items

1. Letter supporting the new missing middle housing legislation
2. Commission on Aging 2025 Work Plan draft
3. Proclamation for Rani Cochran
4. Filling vacancies for Commission on Aging
5. Cycling without Age (added to agenda by Orrick)

**Commissioners adjourned at 3:16p.m.**

Minutes Approved on:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Darlene Bronson, Commission Secretary



June, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Commission on Aging

Submitted by: Odile Lavault, Chairperson, Commission on Aging

Subject: 2025 Commission on Aging Work Plan

### BACKGROUND

The Commission on Aging strives to enhance the quality of life for people 55 years and older in the Berkeley Community, and to increase public awareness of their contributions and needs by actively promoting their health, safety, independence and participation in our community.

### CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In the year 2024-2025 the Commission has worked to establish a broad knowledge base of City projects, services, and resources which can be used to best address the needs, policies, and quality of services affecting daily life for Berkeley seniors. We have heard and will continue to hear relevant presentations by city staff and community experts.

The Commission has been particularly concerned by the understaffing of the Senior Services, the closure of ASEB (Alzheimer's Services of the East Bay), increasingly unmet housing needs of our seniors, and lack of adequate transportation.

### **Finalization of Work Plan 2025**

Motion/Second:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

### WORK PLAN

#### **1. Support Berkeley Age Friendly Initiatives**

a. Commission will seek public input and discussion regarding the Action Plan. The

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- Commission will continue to identify key issues in the Age Friendly Initiatives strategic plan and communicate with other relevant commissions (seeking to send liaisons as necessary), urging support for the policies and their funding.
- b. Commission will work towards increasing awareness and communication regarding “The Age-Friendly Berkeley Action Plan” and make recommendations to the City Council. Short-term goal is broader community and municipal consideration of the Age-Friendly Plan and quality of life for Berkeley’s senior population.

**2. Advocate for Needs of Older Citizens in the Implementation of alternative & senior-friendly transportation modes in conjunction with “Safe-Streets” and parking issues.**

- a. Commissioners will continue to seek education regarding all aspects of transportation and safety for seniors.
- b. Commission will develop recommendations for the City Council regarding transportation and associated issues as regards the elder population i.e. senior-friendly shuttle system, parking issues, sidewalk safety, access to city subsidized senior transportation programs, implementation of measure FF, bike-friendly innovations for seniors.

**3. Advocate for Affordable Housing for Older Adults as well as other housing policies that are consistent with Berkeley’s commitment to encouraging “Aging in Place” and/or “Aging in Community” in intergenerational contexts**

- a. Commission will actively seek a clearer understanding of the range of housing concerns facing Berkeley’s increasing older population. It will encourage better communication between the City, its various departments and the elder population regarding housing issues.
- b. Commission will increase City Council and public awareness about the specific needs of Berkeley's older unhoused population.
- c. Commission will support housing policies that do not discourage, but instead encourage our older citizens to remain in Berkeley, and, where feasible, encourage intergenerational solutions.

**4. Identify and examine the emerging issues and policies regarding public health, well being and safety that are of particular concern to the older adult population and propose policy recommendations that address these specific concerns.**

- a. The issues we will focus on, but not be limited to, are:
  - Public health, wellbeing, and safety
  - Access to health insurance and services
  - Access to Alzheimer’s education and support services for Berkeley families
  - Challenges faced by family caregivers

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- Elders raising grandchildren
  - Crime
  - Physical abuse
  - Emotional abuse
  - Scammers and other predatory business practices
  - Systemic ageist attitudes
  - Civic engagement, community building, access to recreation
- b. Commission will seek education regarding Berkeley's aging citizens' safety concerns in order to identify that demographic's unique vulnerabilities and determine priorities.
- c. When feasible, Commission will coordinate with other Commissions to ensure that the concerns of our elder community are reflected in their deliberations and recommendations.
- d. Commission will watch that these concerns are addressed in all phases of municipal policy making and taken into account from the outset when any new policies are being considered.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Commission's work plan does not directly affect the environmental sustainability of the City, yet many of our priorities may lead to a more economical use of City land and commercial/residential spaces. Our work plan may positively impact City expenditures by reducing numbers of unhoused individuals and reducing the physical and mental health needs of our seniors that may require emergency attention.

#### POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

Based on Commission research and public hearings, the Commission will draft and submit recommendations and communications to Council when necessary.

#### FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

The Commission's work plan does not itself have any fiscal impact. The execution of many projects outlined in the work plan, however, may require the allocation of existing City funds and services. The commission is grateful for the support of Senior Center staff who coordinate our meetings and our interactions with the city of Berkeley.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Darlene Bronson, Commission Secretary, HHCS, 510 981 5194  
Odile Lavault, Chairperson, Commission on Aging  
Thomas Yamaguchi, Vice Chair, Commission on Aging