



Senior Citizens Advisory Board Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON and MEMBERS GALATI, MOZDEAN (via teleconference), LEE, GRAHAM, TILZER, and YOUNG

EXCUSED: MEMBER DRUMM

ALSO PRESENT: GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I; OLGA FLOWERS, Community Program Technician; PAUL MATA, Deputy City Attorney III; and NICK CRAWFORD, Deputy City Clerk

2. Announcement Regarding: Compliance with Open Meeting Law

Minutes:

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE: This meeting has been properly noticed and posted at the following locations in accordance with the noticing standards as outlined in NRS 241.020: City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor; the City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov; and the Nevada Public Notice website – notice.nv.gov.

3. Public Comment: Comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters on the agenda for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward and give your name for the record. The amount of discussion, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, may be limited.

Minutes:

PAULO SARNATARO and DANIEL REZETKO, Nevada Free Taxes Coalition, appeared to raise awareness of their services and scams targeting senior citizens. MR. REZETKO said they provide free tax preparation to low-income individuals and began an awareness campaign focused on combating fraudulent tax preparation services and identity theft. He stated that 48 percent of Americans reported receiving fake IRS (Internal Revenue Service) texts, e-mails, and phone calls, noting that the IRS never initiates contact requests through these channels and this misinformation leaves seniors vulnerable to exploitation. They wanted to extend their campaign and free tax services through an AmeriCorps RSVP Grant, which would allow them to shift more resources towards seniors in the community. He added that this grant encourages seniors to serve as volunteers with their organization. MR. REZETKO asked for the Board's support in amplifying awareness of their initiatives and encourage seniors to volunteer, since their involvement would support low-income families and foster a more connected community.

4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of March 6, 2025

Motion made by Vito Galati to Approve

Passed For: 7; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 1

For-Deanne O'Rear-Cameron, Vito Galati, Caroline Mozdean, Charles Lee, Nicole Graham, David Tilzer, Linda Young; Excused-Jennifer Drumm;

5. Presentation by Edward Srok, Chief Compliance Audit Investigator, Nevada Secretary of State, regarding investment scams, fraudulent schemes, and con artist tactics that affect elderly and vulnerable persons - All Wards

Minutes:

EDWARD SROK JR., Chief Compliance Audit Investigator, Nevada Secretary of State Securities Division, utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to make senior citizens aware of their services and various scams affecting vulnerable adults. He reported that Nevada consumers lost over \$138 million to fraud in 2024, noting that the number is likely much higher since some victims do not report when they are scammed due to embarrassment. He said scam artists on social media sites will use well-known names to lure vulnerable people into pump and dump stock picking groups. He advised that one couple joined a stock-picking group on social media and were encouraged to invest \$250,000 into a certain stock. Once the stock reached a certain point, the money was taken out and they lost their investment. He showed several examples of Ponzi schemes and explained how they affect trusting individuals every day. MR. SROK JR. said Affinity fraud occurs when a person joins a social group and mentions a successful investment while ensuring not to solicit. Once someone inevitably asks about the successful investment, they are connected to another scam artist who poses as an accredited investment advisor and invites them to a scam investment group. He reported that Pig Butchering scams come from unsolicited phone calls, texts, and e-mails, stating that if someone responds, they will continue to receive unsolicited communication attempts. Commodity investments are precious metal or cryptocurrency scams. He noted that cryptocurrency scams stole \$10 billion from Americans in 2024 and victims aged 60+ filed more claims than any other group. MR. SROK JR. added that elder victims lost roughly \$185 million in metal scams. He mentioned an individual that wired \$40,000 from their retirement IRA (individual retirement account) to invest in precious metals. He explained that the investment was legitimate, but the contract showed the person selling the gold coins was a salesperson earning a commission and the gold would be marked up from two to 35 percent. He reported that the victim lost 34 percent of their investment, noting that they filed a complaint with the Securities Division but the contract did not allow them to intervene. He recommended having someone else read lengthy contracts for those interested in investing in precious metals, stressing the importance of investors understanding their investments.

MR. SROK JR. reported that the Securities Division audits licensed investment advisors, investigates complaints, and provides investment education at senior and community centers. They ensure investment advisors are giving the best investment scenarios for their client, and he clarified that they do not give legal or investment advice. If someone falls for a scam, they can file a complaint at www.nvsos.gov or call 702-486-2440 Monday-Friday. Additionally, the Nevada Secretary of State website has a broker check and an area to research SEC (U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission) advisors. He encouraged seniors to do thorough research before investing their money and said if something is too good to be true, it probably is.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON asked if financial planners fall under the purview of the Securities Division and if they hold seminars on wills and trusts. MR. SROK JR. said financial planners do fall under their purview, and they can hold seminars dependent upon what they are presenting. He reiterated that anyone giving investment advice needs to be licensed in Nevada, and they can investigate what financial planners present to the public.

MEMBER LEE wondered how scammers gain access to personal information. MR. SROK JR. said people can look up someone's name or use social media to find their phone number or e-mail address. He advised against answering personal question polls on social media, since those could give scammers answers to private security questions.

MEMBER GALATI noted the difficulty seniors have differentiating scams using artificial intelligence from legitimate companies. MR. SROK JR. explained that was why they began outreach programs to educate seniors.

GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, said if any seniors need assistance with researching or verifying information, they can call the CARE Coordination Line at 702-229-1200.

6. Discussion for possible action regarding the election of Vice Chair - All Wards

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON advised that the election for Vice Chair could be placed on the next agenda.

Motion made by NOTE: A motion was not made and no action was taken on this item.

For: 0; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 7; Excused: 1

Did Not Vote-Deanne O'Rear-Cameron, Vito Galati, Caroline Mozdean, Charles Lee, Nicole Graham, David Tilzer, Linda Young; Excused-Jennifer Drumm;

7. Report by Gregory Gray, Management Analyst I, Department of Neighborhood Services, regarding senior issues received by the Department of Neighborhood Services - All Wards

Minutes:

GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, advised he had nothing to report at the time.

8. Report by Board members regarding senior issues and events within their Council wards and at large - All Wards

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON introduced MEMBER YOUNG to the Board. MEMBER YOUNG was honored to serve and aimed to provide support to the City and Ward 5. She hoped to add to the direction, goals, and objectives of the Board, noting that she was available for assistance and was happy to attend community events.

Ward 1 - MEMBER GRAHAM attended Access City Council and reported that Howard Lieburn Senior Center will hold an education series every other month.

Ward 2 - MEMBER GALATI attended the Senior Buzz meeting and encouraged everyone to follow how the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and Las Vegas City Marshals find a solution for overlapping coverage issues, noting that he would follow up with City Marshals at the next Breakfast Buzz. He reported Art in the Park will be on April 17th at Bruce Trent Park.

Ward 4 - CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON was at First Tuesday in Sun City Summerlin to discuss elder abuse. She noted many people spoke to her about various scenarios and situations, which reminded her of the importance of spreading information on elder abuse. She reported that a Memorial Ceremony would be held on May 22nd at Police Memorial Park with MAYOR SHELLEY BERKLEY, SHERIFF KEVIN McMAHILL, and COUNCILWOMAN FRANCIS ALLEN-PALENSKE in attendance. The Chair added that a walk of honor would take place and encouraged attendees to bring a photograph of family members or friends that served. She recommended signing up for the Ward 4 newsletter and suggested that seniors look at the flyers on the City of Las Vegas website.

Ward 4 - MEMBER TILZER reported that a Home Expo took place on March 8th and vendors showed residents ways to make their homes safer. On March 15th, they held a successful document shredding event, and he stated that he learned a lot at the April 1st Elder Abuse/Neglect and Fraud Meeting in Sun City. He reported that the potential 20 percent increase in HOA (homeowner's association) fees was resolved and seniors on fixed income did not have to worry anymore. He concluded that there will be a semi-annual garage sale on April 25th and 26th, which he felt was a good way to connect with neighbors.

Ward 5 - MEMBER LEE wondered when construction was going to start for the Doolittle Active Adult Center entrance. GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, advised that he would have an answer by next week.

Ward 6 - MEMBER MOZDEAN attended HOAs 101 given by COUNCILWOMAN NANCY BRUNE and several City staff members. She reported that Aviation Nation would be held on April 5th and 6th at Nellis Air Force Base and the Bluegrass Festival will be held at the Centennial Hills Amphitheatre on April 12th from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Additionally, she stated that Spring Fling would be on April 19th at Floyd Lamb Park of Tule Springs and reminded everyone that the Clark County newsletter and City of Las Vegas TV are excellent resources to find information on community events.

9. Discussion for possible action regarding next steps and future meeting topics of the Senior Citizens Advisory Board - All Wards

Minutes:

GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, listed topics on their discussion list, which included housing, transportation, medical, and homelessness. He added that the Health and Wellness Initiative wanted to

coordinate social events with the Board, such as hosting a Senior Coffee in each ward to meet constituents and gain insight from the community.

MEMBER GRAHAM felt dementia and Alzheimer's disease would be great topics for the Board to review.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON reminded everyone that all meetings are on YouTube and advised the Board to share prior meetings with constituents to review certain topics.

MEMBER TILZER reported that he researched the partnership between Silver Ride and RTC (Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada) and was expressed concern with the price of transportation services. MR. GRAY clarified Silver Ride is a ride-sharing company that is subcontracted by RTC to supplement their paratransit program, noting that it may be best to have someone from RTC provide a presentation about the program.

MEMBER MOZDEAN wanted the Board to review a summarized presentation of items pertaining to seniors on the upcoming Nevada Legislative Session.

MEMBER YOUNG wished to share information on how grandmothers, grandfathers, and seniors with educational backgrounds can make a difference in improving literacy skills of young students.

Motion made by NOTE: A motion was not made and no action was taken on this item.

For: 0; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 7; Excused: 1

Did Not Vote-Deanne O'Rear-Cameron, Vito Galati, Caroline Mozdean, Charles Lee, Nicole Graham, David Tilzer, Linda Young; Excused-Jennifer Drumm;

10. **Citizens Participation:** Public comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters within the jurisdiction of the Board. No subject may be acted upon by the Board unless that subject is on the agenda and is scheduled for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward and give your name for the record. The amount of discussion on any single subject, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, may be limited.

Minutes:
None.

11. **Adjournment**

Minutes:
CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON advised that the next Board meeting would be held on May 1, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Nick Crawford, Deputy City Clerk



Gregory Gray, Management Analyst I

THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NOTICING STANDARDS AS OUTLINED IN NRS 241.020:

The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov
The Nevada Public Notice website – notice.nv.gov
City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor