



City of Santa Ana
20 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, CA 92701
Staff Report
March 7, 2023

TOPIC: Senior Citizens Commission

AGENDA TITLE:

Senior Citizens Commission Informational Report

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Accept informational report and provide direction to staff.

DISCUSSION:

Background

At the January 17, 2023 City Council meeting, Mayor Amezcua added the following councilmember requested item: Discuss and Consider Directing the City Manager to Direct Staff to Prepare an Ordinance Establishing a Senior Citizen Commission. There was consensus among the City Council to proceed with this item.

Accordingly, staff has prepared this report outlining preliminary research of different commission structures, alternatives to a commission, and a draft ordinance establishing a Senior Citizen Commission.

Senior Citizen Commission

Like all other boards and commissions, a Senior Citizen Commission is an advisory body that advises the City Council, particularly relating to matters concerning aging and older adults or senior citizens (the terms "older adults", "seniors", and "senior citizens" refer to individuals who are 55 years of age and older, and are used interchangeably in this report). Generally, a Senior Citizen Commission advises the City Council on the following matters:

- To act in an advisory capacity to the City Council relating to service delivery pertaining to older adults.
- To make recommendations to the City Council relating to services provided by the City to older adults.
- To make recommendations to the City Council relating to policies and plans relating to older adults.

- To facilitate coordination between the City of Santa Ana and external government agencies that provide services to older adults
- To carry out such studies as may be assigned to it by the City Council.
- To report to the Mayor and City Council its findings from time to time.

Similar to how all other City boards and commissions are established, a Senior Citizen Commission would include seven members, each nominated by a member of the City Council and appointed by a majority vote of the City Council. With the exception of the citywide commissioner seat nominated by the Mayor who would serve a two-year term, each commissioner would serve a term of four years. The Senior Citizen Commission would meet regularly, establish bylaws concerning their scope of work, and report to the City Council from time to time.

For discussion only, attached is a draft ordinance establishing a Senior Citizen Commission (Exhibit 1).

Staff researched surrounding municipalities with existing or prior Senior Citizen Commissions and found that most Senior Citizen Commissions were disbanded due to time commitment requirements and lack of participation from the community.

Alternatives to Establishing a Senior Citizen Commission

Below are alternatives to establishing a stand-alone Senior Citizen Commission.

Add Two Seats to the Parks and Recreation Commission to Represent Older Adults

Add two more seats to our current Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Commission to make a Commission of nine members, whereby the two new members are older adults. Under this model, the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem would each select an additional person to fill the two seats. These two commissioners would provide insight into the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Agency's service delivery for older adults.

Direct Staff to Establish a Senior Committee

At the direction of the City Council, staff may establish a Senior Committee — a group of individuals appointed to engage in a short-term study or to advise staff on matters relating to older adults.

Direct Staff to Establish a Senior Task Force

The City Council may direct staff to form a Task Force to accomplish one or more specific objectives. A Task Force would meet as often as necessary, and would operate in a purely functional capacity.

Establish a City Council Standing Subcommittee to Discuss Matters Relating to Older Adults

The City Council may establish a standing subcommittee to discuss matters relating to

older adults. Standing subcommittees are subject to provisions of the Brown Act.

City Council Ad-Hoc Committee to Discuss Matters Relating to Older Adults

As an alternative to a standing subcommittee, the Mayor may establish an ad hoc committee ad hoc committee to discuss matters relating to older adults. The ad hoc committee would generally serve only a limited or single purpose, would not be perpetual, and would dissolve when its specific task is completed.

Recommendation

At this time, staff recommends adding two more seats to the existing Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Commission to make a Commission of nine members to include older adults who would serve on the Commission provide insight into the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Agency's service delivery for older adults.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

EXHIBIT(S)

1. Draft ordinance for discussion only

Submitted By: Hawk Scott, Executive Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Approved By: Kristine Ridge, City Manager