



**Neighborhood and Family Services Commission Meeting**  
**Commission Members will attend either in person or by telephone or video conference call**

Wednesday, September 25, 2024, 6:00 p.m.  
AZ Complete Health Avondale Resource Center, 995 E. Riley Drive  
Aravaipa Conference Room  
Avondale, AZ 85323

*Physical Access to the Aravaipa Conference Room will be available 30 minutes prior to the meeting.*

**AGENDA**

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <b>1. Call to Order</b>  | Chairperson Oliver Morrison           |
| <b>2. Review and Approval of the June 26, 2024, Meeting Minutes</b>  | Chairperson Oliver Morrison           |
| This item is for discussion and possible action.   |                                       |
| <b>3. Code Compliance Division:</b> A presentation introducing the new Avondale Curb Appeal Award program, designed to recognize property owners who have consistently maintained or enhanced the appearance of their homes. | Joshua Perez, Code Compliance Manager |
| This item is for discussion and possible action.   |                                       |
| <b>4.</b> The Neighborhood and Family Services Commission will consider a request to reschedule the December 25, 2024, meeting to November 13, 2024.   | Chairperson Oliver Morrison           |
| The Commission will take appropriate action.   |                                       |
| <b>5. Future Agenda Items:</b> This item is for information only.  | Commission and Staff                  |
| <b>6. Announcements:</b> This item is for information only.  | Commission and Staff                  |
| <b>7. Call to the Public:</b> This item is for information only.   | Chairperson Oliver Morrison           |
| <b>8. Adjournment</b>  | Chairperson Oliver Morrison           |

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Personas con necesidades especiales de accesibilidad, incluyendo personas con impedimentos de vista u oído, impresión grande o interprete, deben comunicarse con la Secretaria de la Ciudad at 623-333-1200 o TDD 623-333-0010 cuando menos dos días hábiles antes de la junta.



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### MEETING MINUTES

**Commission Members in Attendance:** Dawn Gerundo, Eddie James, Shari Weise, Oliver Morrison, Michelle McMullen

**Commission Members Absent:** Pearlette Ramos (Excused), Fabian Prado (unexcused), Jerome Brownlee Jr. (unexcused)

**City Staff and Guests in Attendance:** Neighborhood & Family Services Assistant Director Edith Baltierrez, City of Avondale Housing & Community Development Manager Regina Marette, City of Avondale Housing & Community Development Management Analyst Alexia Grady, Administrative Assistant Mayra Garibodavila, Administrative Assistant Yvonne Bravo, Administrative Assistant Alisa Chavez, Civitas Consultant Kyle Jenkins, Civitas Director of Operations Spencer Christian

#### 1. Call to Order

The Neighborhood and Family Services Commission meeting was called to order by Oliver Morrison at 6:04 p.m.

**Note from the Clerk:** Items were discussed in the following Order: Agenda Item 1; Agenda Item 3; Agenda Item 2.

#### 2. Review and Approval of the March 27, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Ms. Weise made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Ms. McMullen seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously with an Aye by Members present.

#### 3. Community Needs Assessment:

Spencer Christian, a consultant from Civitas, delivered a presentation on the objective to develop a 5-year Strategic Plan for the City as mandated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Mr. Christian stated the input from the community played a vital role in identifying the needs of the community and its residents. Mr. Christian also indicated outreach objectives would encompass conducting hearings, organizing public meetings, and distributing surveys.

Ms. McMullen asked if the data was limited to reports from previous years in order to predict the distribution of future funding. Mr. Christian stated that the ongoing growth of the City was factored in as well.

Mr. James inquired about the method used to calculate the growth percentage for the City. Mr. Christian explained, the population data from the Census over the past decade would be used to estimate new growth in future years. Mr. Christian also stated other variables, including the quantity of planned new construction homes, would be taken into account.

Ms. McMullen inquired about the eligibility of child-care as an option. Mr. Christian confirmed that, yes, some funds would be eligible for use in child-care programs.

Mrs. Weise inquired about the duration of the HUD survey, mentioning that she had received it through an email blast. Mr. Christian informed the survey would remain accessible through March 2025, after which the collected data would be integrated into the report.

**Following the conclusion of item #3, at 6:29 PM, Ms. Marette, Ms. Grady, and the speakers departed from the meeting.**

#### **4. FY2025 Contributions Assistance Program Update:**

Ms. Baltierrez delivered an update on the Contributions Assistance Program. A total of \$200,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds was designated for this program, with 49 organizations submitting funding requests totaling \$623,154. Ms. Baltierrez indicated following the review process, the Council Subcommittee recommended funding for 32 organizations which will be presented to the full City Council for funding approval at the Council Meeting scheduled for Monday, July 8, 2024. Ms. Baltierrez also added the award ceremony was scheduled to take place at the City of Avondale Council Chambers on Wednesday, August 7, 2024, commencing at 5:00 PM.

Mr. James inquired about the possibility of media attendance at the award ceremony. Ms. Baltierrez indicated that details regarding the award ceremony would be disseminated through a press release and various social media platforms in order to keep the public informed.

#### **6. Future Agenda Items**

- Public safety
- Senior Services Division Update
- Parks & Recreation Update per Mrs. Weise's request, including progress made in terms of Americans with Disability Act improvements.
- AZ Complete Health Resource Center Update per Ms. Gerundo's request, including an overview of the services available.

## 7. Announcements

Ms. Baltierrez provided information on the following projects and events:

- Avondale Teen Employment and Mentorship Program Update: A total of 21 young individuals were participating in different departments, including the Resource Center, to gain valuable work experience.
- Adelante Women, Infants and Children hosted a Back to School Bash in Goodyear for students in grades K-12. Attendees enjoyed complimentary backpacks and school supplies, accessed community resources, indulged in snacks, and had the chance to win prizes. Event took place on Saturday, July 20, 2024, from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm at 13471 W. Cornerstone Blvd, Goodyear AZ 85395.
- The City of Avondale has organized the Light up the Sky Event on Thursday, July 4, 2024 at the Phoenix Raceway. The gates opened at 6 PM with a firework show at 8:25 PM.
- The First Things First team arranged a daily Lunch N' Learn session at the Resource Center. Children under 18 enjoyed lunch and participated in interactive social emotional learning activities. This program was offered Monday to Saturday until July 26, 2024, from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM.
- Ms. Gerundo informed that the literacy hub at Lattie Coor Elementary had a highly successful summer program, which not only provided meals, but also tutoring where 20 families participated. Services were extended to Pendergast and Littleton. Furthermore, an impressive number of 8000 books were distributed as part of this initiative.
- The Resource Center is currently offering heat relief services to the public. These services are available during regular business hours throughout the week, and from 10 AM to 4 PM on weekends and holidays.
- Ms. Gerundo added that a new Artificial Intelligence application has become available for finding heat relief sites in the vicinity of the participant's current location.

## 8. Call to the Public

None

## 9. Adjournment

Mr. Morrison made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Mrs. Weise. The motion passed unanimously with an Aye by Members present. The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Next meeting, 6:00 p.m. – AZ Complete Health Avondale Resource Center – September 25, 2024.