



City of Avondale

Neighborhood and Family Services Commission Meeting

Commission Members

Jerome Brownlee Jr., Commissioner

Natosha Edmonds, Commissioner

Dawn Gerundo, Commissioner

Eddie James, Commissioner

Louis Matamoros, Commissioner

Michelle McMullen, Commissioner

Pearlette Ramos, Commissioner

Kim Lewis, Alternate Commissioner

Neighborhood and Family Services Department

Christopher Lopez, Director

Edith Baltierrez, Assistant Director

Mayra Garibo-Davila, Administrative Assistant



Neighborhood & Family Services Commission Meeting Notice & Agenda Wednesday, March 25, 2026

**AZ COMPLETE HEALTH AVONDALE RESOURCE CENTER | ARAVAIPA CONFERENCE ROOM
995 E. RILEY DRIVE AVONDALE, AZ 85323**

Request to Speak: Anyone wishing to speak regarding items listed on the agenda or under unscheduled public appearance should submit a Request to Speak online at <http://www.avondaleaz.gov/requesttospeak> prior to consideration of that agenda item.

REGULAR MEETING 6:00 PM

Physical access to the conference room will be available 30 minutes prior to the meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIR

2. ROLL CALL BY THE STAFF LIAISON

3. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES (Time is limited per person. Please state your name.)

4. MINUTES

The Commission will consider the approval of the September 24, 2025 and November 5, 2025 meeting minutes. The Commission will take appropriate action.

5. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

The Commission will nominate and elect a Vice Chair for the 2026 calendar year. The Commission will take appropriate action.

6. SENIOR SERVICES DIVISION

Staff will present an overview of programs and services offered within the Senior Services Division. This item is for discussion only.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Staff and Commissioners will discuss future agenda items. This item is for discussion only.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff and Commissioners will share updates and announcements. This item is for discussion only.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Individuals with special accessibility needs, including sight or hearing impaired, large print, or interpreter, should contact the City Clerk at 623-333-1000 or TDD 623-333-0010 at least two business days prior to the meeting.

Personas con necesidades especiales de accesibilidad, incluyendo personas con impedimentos de vista o oído, o con necesidad de impresión grande o intérprete, deben comunicarse con la Secretaria de la Ciudad al 623-333-1000 o TDD 623-333-0010 al mínimo dos días hábiles antes de la junta.



Neighborhood and Family Services Commission Meeting

Wednesday, September 24, 2025, 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.

MEETING MINUTES

Commission Members in Attendance: Louis Matamoros, Natosha Edmonds, Fabian Prado, Michelle McMullen, Jerome Brownlee Jr., Dawn Gerundo

Commission Members Absent: Eddie James, Pearlette Ramos,

City Staff and Guests in Attendance: Neighborhood & Family Services Assistant Director Edith Baltierrez, Administrative Assistant Mayra Garibo-Davila, Avondale Finance & Budget Director Renee Weatherless

1. Call to Order

The Neighborhood and Family Services Commission meeting was called to order by Natosha Edmonds at 6:01 PM.

2. Review and Approval of March 26, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Mr. Prado made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Matamoros seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously with an Aye by Members present.

3. Bond Election Information

Ms. Renee Weatherspoon gave a presentation on Proposition 404 and Proposition 405, two proposed bond measures to fund major improvement projects in the City of Avondale. These new bond proposals were shaped with input from the Citizen Bond Committee, which helped identify and prioritize the most important projects based on community needs.

Proposition 404 proposes \$68 million for upgrades to parks, recreation facilities, and libraries. Improvements include enhanced trails, shaded areas, and updates at Las Ligas, Friendship, Fred Campbell, and Festival Fields parks. Trailheads and pedestrian access will be expanded, and the nearly 20-year-old Civic Center Library will receive technology and infrastructure upgrades.

Proposition 405 proposes an investment of \$55 million to public safety, providing funding for a new fire and police station, with two apparatus bays, six dorm rooms, and designated police briefing areas. It also includes a new Public Safety Headquarters to consolidate staff currently

spread across multiple buildings. Additionally, a proposed police training facility in Avondale would eliminate the need to send personnel to Glendale for training.

Mr. Matamoros inquired whether the City of Avondale pays a fee to use the training facilities in Glendale. Ms. Weatherspoon confirmed that the City does pay for staff to use those facilities. He then asked whether Avondale might consider renting out its own future training facility to other cities. Ms. Weatherspoon responded that such discussions have not yet occurred, but they may take place in the future.

Mr. Brownlee asked if a location had been identified for the proposed Public Safety Headquarters in Avondale. Ms. Weatherspoon stated that a few potential sites are currently under consideration. He also asked whether the headquarters and the proposed training facility would be located on the same property. Ms. Weatherspoon clarified that they would be on separate sites.

Ms. Weatherspoon also addressed the need to expand the City Court offices, noting that the current space is limited, and expansion would be included in the bond projects.

Ms. McMullen asked whether the bond would result in any additional financial obligation for residents. Ms. Weatherspoon explained that the proposed bonds would not result in a city tax increase. She added that issuing bonds is a fiscally responsible method for funding major capital improvements.

Ms. Weatherspoon explained that voting will be by mail-in ballot only, a change from previous years, with ballots due by 7:00 p.m. on November 4, 2025. She also stated an open house was scheduled for September 29, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at the Avondale Visitor Center to inform the public.

Ms. McMullen asked what materials the park coverings would be made of and whether they would be permanent or temporary. Ms. Weatherspoon stated that the coverings would be made of long-lasting, durable materials.

Mr. Matamoros asked if any parks would need to close during the construction process. Ms. Weatherspoon explained that full park closures are rare, and efforts would be made to reroute or relocate park users as needed. She also added if a closure were necessary, the community would be notified in advance.

Ms. McMullen asked whether the bonds had already been approved. Ms. Weatherspoon clarified that the proposals have been presented to the community, but they must still be approved by voters. Ms. Weatherspoon stated following voter approval, City Council would then determine when to issue the bonds.

Ms. Edmonds expressed her excitement about participating on the bond committee and shared that she looks forward to seeing the outcomes of these proposed improvements.

4. **Meeting Reschedule**

Mr. Brownlee made a motion to approve the proposed new meeting date of Wednesday, November 5, 2025. Ms. McMullen seconded the motion. The new date was approved unanimously with an Aye by members present.

5. **Future Agenda Items**

Public Hearing and presentation for the Community Development Block Grant Allocation

6. **Announcements**

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

- **Project Connect** will be held on Thursday, September 25, from 8 AM to 3 PM at Avondale Baptist Church. This event provides resources for individuals experiencing homelessness, including transportation to and from the event, meals, showers, clothing, and referrals to various support services.
- **Billy Moore Days** will take place from Thursday, October 16 through Sunday, October 19, from 6 to 11 PM at Festival Fields Park. The event features carnival rides, a parade, softball and cornhole tournaments, and free transportation via WeRIDE until 8 PM.
- **Make a Difference Day** is scheduled for Saturday, October 18, from 7:30 to 11:30 AM. Volunteers are invited to help plant trees at Michael Anderson School. Registration is required.
- **Creepin' Candy Crawl** will occur on Thursday, October 30, from 5 to 8 PM at Alamar Park. Various city departments will host themed booths and hand out candy for a community focused Trick-or-Treat experience.

8. **Call to the Public**

None

9. **Adjournment**

Mr. Prado made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Ms. Gerundo. The motion passed unanimously with an Aye by Members present. The meeting adjourned at 6:38 PM.

Next meeting, 6:00 p.m. – AZ Complete Health Avondale Resource Center – November 5, 2025.

Avondale

Neighborhood and Family Services Commission Meeting

Special Meeting - Wednesday, November 5, 2025, 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.

MEETING MINUTES

Commission Members in Attendance: Eddie James Jr., Fabian Prado, Louis Matamoros

Commission Members Absent: Natosha Edmonds, Jerome Brownlee Jr., Dawn Gerundo, Pearlette Ramos, Michelle McMullen

City Staff and Guests in Attendance: Neighborhood & Family Services Assistant Director Edith Baltierrez, Housing & Community Development Manager Regina Marettte, Administrative Assistant Mayra Garibodavila, Administrative Assistant Yvonne Bravo

NOTE FROM THE CLERK: A QUORUM OF THE COMMISSION WAS NOT PRESENT; THEREFORE, NO ACTION WAS TAKEN. A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD AND NO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WERE PRESENT.

1. Call to Order

The Neighborhood and Family Services Commission meeting was called to order by Fabian Prado at 6:28PM.

2. Review and Approval of September 24, 2025, Meeting Minutes

ITEM NOT VOTED ON - LACK OF QUORUM

3. FY2025-2029 Five-Year Consolidated Plan

Mr. Prado stated: This agenda item is a public hearing opened at 6:32 p.m. on November 5, 2025. To submit a public comment please email cityclerk@avondaleaz.gov.

Ms. Marettte provided an overview of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan, highlighting key focus areas including preserving and expanding housing inventory, strengthening infrastructure and vital community services, and supporting the Home Repair Program, which prioritizes health and safety repairs.

Mr. James inquired about income qualifications and project funding limits. Ms. Marette explained that qualifications depend on both property and household income, and that liens are filed on all properties receiving assistance.

Ms. Marette clarified that “vital community services” refers to programs such as AvITEMP (Avondale Teen Employment & Mentorship Program), which serves residents at or below 80% of area median income. She also noted that the workforce development program is a cost-share initiative with Maricopa County that focuses on building job skills and providing employment assistance.

Mr. James also asked about the community need for these programs. Ms. Marette responded that the Home Repair Program currently operates with a waitlist, and the AvITEMP program consistently receives a high number of applications.

Mr. James asked what percentage of applicants receive HUD grants. Ms. Marette stated that HUD determines these allocations based on factors such as poverty levels and population.

Mr. Matamoros asked about Parks and Recreation funding recommendations. Ms. Marette clarified that the recommendations are separate from the bond measure currently on the ballot and that the document shared is only a draft.

Mr. Matamoros inquired whether any home repair funding is directed toward veterans. He noted that Veteran Affairs offers similar services, including ADA-related improvements.

Ms. Marette reviewed recent improvements and accomplishments made possible through HUD grant funding.

Mr. Matamoros asked whether any AvITEMP participants had been hired by the City of Avondale. Staff did not believe that information was tracked but agreed it would be valuable to have.

Mr. Matamoros also asked how infill homes are allocated. Ms. Marette explained that homes are awarded to qualifying applicants through partner agencies, including Habitat for Humanity, Newtown, and Trellis.

Mr. James asked whether tenants are required to pay real estate taxes if they are not the property owners. Ms. Marette stated she would follow up to confirm.

Mr. Prado closed the public hearing at 7:01 p.m. November 5, 2025. To submit a public comment please email cityclerk@avondaleaz.gov.

4. Avondale Leading Edge Non-Profit Community Impact Award

Ms. Baltierrez shared information about the upcoming Avondale Leading Edge Non-Profit Impact Award and advised staff would be reaching out for volunteers from the commission to help review applications and select a nonprofit to receive the award.

5. Future Agenda Items

- Strategic Plan for the NFS Commission
- Presentation from the Senior Services Division

6. Announcements

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

- Mercados & Melodies event on Friday, November 14 from 6:00–9:00 PM at the Avondale Civic Center Amphitheater: An event offering youth an opportunity to showcase and sell their handmade crafts, treats, and talents.
- Health & Resource Fair scheduled for Saturday, February 21 from 10:00 AM–1:00 PM, Capes and Connections: A free community event designed to connect residents with available human and housing services offered through the Resource Center.
- Seniors Winter Gala taking place on Thursday, January 22, 2026, beginning at 4:30 PM: An evening event featuring elegant attire, music, socializing, and photo opportunities for senior participants.

8. Call to the Public

None

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM.

Next meeting, 6:00 p.m. – AZ Complete Health Avondale Resource Center – March 25, 2026.