

### Neighborhood and Family Services Commission

03/25/2026

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Meeting Date

06/24/2026

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Date Minutes Were Approved



Natosha Edmonds (Jun 25, 2026 14:04:25 PDT)

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Chair

### CERTIFICATION AND ATTESTATION

I hereby certify that the accompanying document is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the aforementioned meeting. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that the quorum was present.

*Yvonne Bravo*

Yvonne Bravo (Jun 25, 2026 13:35:10 PDT)

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Staff Liaison



# Avondale

## Neighborhood and Family Services Commission Meeting

Wednesday, March 25, 2026, 6:00 p.m.  
AZ Complete Health Avondale Resource Center  
995 E. Riley Drive, Avondale, AZ 85323  
Aravaipa Conference Room

### MEETING MINUTES

**Commission Members in Attendance:** Dawn Gerundo, Natosha Edmonds, Louis Matamoros, Eddie James, Jerome Brownlee Jr.

**Commission Members Absent:** Pearlette Ramos, Michelle McMullen

**City Staff and Guests in Attendance:** Neighborhood & Family Services Assistant Director Edith Baltierrez, Senior Services Division Manager Sandy Lopez, Administrative Assistant Mayra Garibo-Davila

**1. Call to Order**

The Neighborhood and Family Services Commission meeting was called to order by Natosha Edmonds at 6:07 PM.

**2. Roll call by Staff Liaison**

**3. Call to the Public**

None

**4. Review and Approval of September 24, 2025, and November 5, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the September 24, 2025, and November 5, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Jerome Brownlee and seconded by Louis Matamoros. The minutes were approved unanimously with an Aye by Members present.

**5. Election of 2026 Officers**

Jerome Brownlee was nominated for Vice Chair by Natosha Edmonds. The motion was approved unanimously with an Aye by Members present.

**6. Senior Services Presentation**

Sandy Lopez presented on the Senior Center's impact on participants' health, well-being, and stability, noting that active engagement helps slow mental and physical decline. She provided an overview of services, including meals, transportation, field trips, and partnerships with St. Mary's Food Bank. Ms. Lopez stated home-delivered meals included welfare checks, and additional programs included exercise, education, arts, and community events, serving an average of 110 participants daily.

Ms. Edmonds thanked the City for these services and inquired about field trip opportunities. Ms. Lopez shared that trips included shopping, dining, aquariums, museums, picnics, and visits to other senior centers.

Ms. Edmonds also asked whether there was a limit on participation. Ms. Lopez explained that capacity depended on the type of event, transportation, and staff availability.

Commissioner Edmonds asked what support is needed from the community. Ms. Lopez stated that the division already benefits from strong partnerships that provide volunteers and sponsorships.

Ms. Gerundo offered to share volunteer opportunities through the United Way website. She also asked about APS/SRP discount programs and suggested coordinating an in-person presentation. She offered to connect Ms. Lopez with a contact who could provide bilingual, hands-on assistance to the senior participants.

Mr. Matamoros shared that he had visited many senior centers and considered Avondale's programs to be exceptional in quality, engagement, and creativity. He also expressed interest in volunteering. Ms. Lopez told Mr. Matamoros she would follow up with him after the meeting.

Mr. James expressed his appreciation for the success of the Senior Services programs.

## **7. Future Agenda Items**

- Homeless Services Updates
- Police Department regarding service impacts related to funding
- Information on the City's budget reductions
- Overview of Parks & Recreation programming, with a focus on summer programs

## **8. Announcements**

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

- The VITA program offered free tax preparation for low- to moderate-income households. This volunteer-based service was available Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, February 7 through April 11.
- AviTEMP was a summer teen employment program providing work readiness training. It would run from June 1 to July 17 and was open to individuals ages 16 to 24.
- The Security Deposit Assistance Program assisted low-income households with move-in costs for rental housing in Avondale. Eligible households may receive help with security deposits for leases of at least 12 months and select utility deposits.
- Maricopa Arizona@Work - A job fair was held on Thursday, April 16, 2026, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.
- Contributions Assistance Program - Applications opened Tuesday, April 21. Two workshops were provided to offer applicants an overview, application guidance, and Q&A. Sessions were held April 8 from 9:00 to 11:00 AM and April 10 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM.
- Kid Fest took place on April 11 at Friendship Park, beginning at 9:00 AM.

- The Heat Relief Program began on Friday, May 1 and would be offered at the resource center through September 30, including weekends and holidays.

**9. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Louis Matamoros and seconded by Eddie James. The motion passed unanimously with an Aye by Members present. The meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM.

Next meeting, 6:00 p.m. – AZ Complete Health Avondale Resource Center – June 24, 2026.