



# SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD

## Meeting Notice and Agenda

TUESDAY, March 26, 2024

**In-Person** Meeting, 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Location: Civic Center Plaza, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room –  
1200 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, San Diego, CA 92101

**Chair:** Austin Evans | **Vice Chair:** Natasha Salgado

**Board Members:** Ania Kaminska, Austin Evans, Brandon S. Johnson, Donna Deberry, Jason Paguio, Jenna Hanson, Natasha Salgado, Sarah Mattinson, Shane Beard, Sunny Lee, and Valery Belloso.

**Staff Liaisons:** Alex Southard and Sean Karafin.

### Public Comment

**Public Comment on an Agenda Item:** If you wish to address the Board on an item for today's agenda, please complete and submit a speaker form before the Board hears the agenda item. You will be called at the time the item is heard.

**Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda:** You may address the Board on any matter not listed on today's agenda. Please complete and submit a speaker form. However, California's open meeting laws do not permit the Board to discuss or take any action on the matter at today's meeting. At its discretion, the Board may add the item to a future meeting agenda or refer the matter to staff or committee. Individuals' comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. At the discretion of the Chair, if a large number of people wish to speak on the same item, comments may be limited to a set period of time per item.

Item 1: Call to Order (Chair Evans)

Item 2: Action: Roll Call (Chair Evans)

Item 3: Action: Approval of February 27, 2024 Minutes (Chair Evans)

Item 4: Presentation from Valery Belloso, Accessity – Update on the Community Development Financial Institutions Equitable Recovery Program

- Item 5: Discussion: San Ysidro Business Improvement District Advisory Board (Sean Karafin)
- Item 6: Discussion: [AB 817 - Open Meetings: Teleconferencing: Subsidiary Body](#) (Liaison Southard)
- Item 7: Discussion: FY2025 Budget
- Item 8: Action: Draft Advising Letter (Chair Evans)
- Item 9: Committee Report
  - a. Development Services Department Technical Advisory (Board Member Beard)
- Item 10: Staff Report
  - a. Economic Development Department (Liaison Southard)
- Item 11: Board Member Comments
  - a. Suggested items for future meetings
- Item 12: Non-Agenda Public Comment
- Item 13: Adjournment

## REQUESTS FOR ACCESSIBILITY MODIFICATIONS OR ACCOMMODATIONS

This information will be made available in alternative formats upon request, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), by contacting Sean Karafin at [sdbusiness@sanidiego.gov](mailto:sdbusiness@sanidiego.gov) or 619-236-6700. Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations required to facilitate meeting participation, including requests for alternatives to observing meetings and offering public comment as noted above, may be made by contacting Sean Karafin at [sdbusiness@sanidiego.gov](mailto:sdbusiness@sanidiego.gov) or 619-236-6700. Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations required to facilitate meeting participation, including requests for auxiliary aids, services or interpreters, require different lead times, ranging from five business days to two weeks. Please keep this in mind and provide as much advance notice as possible in order to ensure availability. The City is committed to resolving accessibility requests swiftly in order to maximize accessibility.



# SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD

## Meeting Minutes

TUESDAY, February 27, 2024

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Location: Civic Center Plaza, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room –  
1200 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, San Diego, CA 92101

**Chair:** Austin Evans | **Vice Chair:** Natasha Salgado

**Board Members:** Ania Kaminska, Austin Evans, Brandon S. Johnson, Donna Deberry, Jason Paguio, Jenna Hanson, Natasha Salgado, Sarah Mattinson, Shane Beard, Sunny Lee, and Valery Belloso.

**Staff Liaisons:** Alex Southard and Sean Karafin.

Item 1: Call to Order (Chair Evans)

- Meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m.

Item 2: Action: Roll Call (Chair Evans)

- In Attendance: Austin Evans, Brandon S. Johnson, Donna Deberry, Jason Paguio, Jenna Hanson, Natasha Salgado, Sarah Mattinson, Sunny Lee, Valery Belloso.
- City Staff: Alex Southard

Item 3: Action: Approval of January 23, 2024 Minutes (Chair Evans)

- With a motion by Jason Paguio and a second by Natasha Salgado, the board voted to approve the January 23, 2024 minutes.
  - Yes: Austin Evans, Brandon S. Johnson, Donna Deberry, Jason Paguio, Jenna Hanson, Natasha Salgado, Sarah Mattinson, Sunny Lee, Valery Belloso.
  - Abstain: None.
  - Absent: Ania Kaminska and Shane Beard.

Item 4: Discussion on FY2025 Budget

- The board discussed the Independent Budget Analyst Report and noted that the Small Business Enhancement Program was only mentioned as a priority among one Councilmember.
- A discussion followed and the board identified a number of FY2025 budget priorities:

- The Small Business Enhancement Program should be fully funded per Council Policy.
- Council District 4 is currently unrepresented in the budget process due to the recent vacancy and special election. The January 22 storm and its long-term impact on residents and businesses was also discussed.
- Economic Development aspect of homelessness, specifically how the closure of small business can contribute a loss of livelihood and potentially increase homelessness.
- Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) and sales tax sharing.
- Climate equity fund – storm response and preparedness.
- Other ways of supporting businesses struggling to stay open due to challenges not related to a storm or crisis.

Item 5: Action: Draft Advising Letter (Chair Evans)

- Austin Evans, Chair, Small Business Advisory Board
- Natasha Salgado, Vice Chair, Small Business Advisory Board
- The Board determined an advising letter is needed. The Board chair will write a letter with the identified SBAB budget priorities discussed during Item 4.
- With a motion by Sarah Mattinson and a second by Sarah Sunny Lee, the board voted to approve drafting an advising letter.
  - Yes: Austin Evans, Brandon S. Johnson, Donna Deberry, Jason Paguio, Jenna Hanson, Natasha Salgado, Sarah Mattinson, and Sunny Lee.
  - Abstain: None.
  - Absent: Ania Kaminska and Shane Beard.

Item 6: Committee Report

- Development Services Department Technical Advisory (Board Member Beard)
- None.

Item 7: Staff Report

- Economic Development Department (Liaison Southard)
  - EDD launched an Emergency Response Grant for businesses and nonprofits impacted by the January 22 storms. The application closes on February 27. Applications will be reviewed as quick as possible with payments expected to start going out in a few weeks.

Item 8: Board Member Comments

- None.

Item 9: Non-Agenda Public Comment

- Future meeting topic recommendations from board members:
  - Invitation of elected officials to the meeting
  - World Design Capital presentation
  - Environmental impact on small businesses
  - Impact of construction/projects on small businesses

Item 10: Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

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## THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

March 14, 2024

The Honorable Blanca Pacheco  
Member of the State Assembly  
1021 O Street, #6240  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 817 (Pacheco): Support**

Dear Assemblymember Pacheco:

On behalf of my client, the City of San Diego, I am writing in support of your measure, AB 817, which would provide a narrow exemption under the Brown Act for non-decision-making legislative bodies to participate in meetings via teleconferencing outside of a declared state of emergency without posting the physical location of members or requiring a quorum to be present at a meeting location.

The City of San Diego is a large and diverse city that enjoys input from its many residents through dozens of advisory bodies. Unfortunately, the City often experiences multiple vacancies on its advisory boards and commissions due to challenges associated with recruitment including participation time commitments, time and location of meetings, physical limitations, conflicts with childcare, and work obligations.

During the pandemic, public health precautions allowed for remote participation during public meetings, which resulted in increased accessibility and resident participation. Individuals who could not previously meet the time, distance, or mandatory physical participation requirements were able to become more engaged, increasing the diversity of input and thought on several critical community proposals.

Diversification in civic participation at all levels requires careful consideration of different protected characteristics as well as socioeconomic status. The in-person requirement to participate in local governance bodies presents a disproportionate challenge for those with physical or economic limitations, including seniors, persons with disability, persons with inflexible work schedules, single parents, caretakers, economically marginalized groups, and those who live in rural areas and face prohibitive driving distances. Participation in local advisory bodies and appointed boards and commissions often serves as a pipeline to local elected office and opportunities for state and federal leadership positions.

AB 817 would help address these issues by giving local advisory bodies the same teleconferencing flexibilities that state advisory bodies currently enjoy, so that equity in opportunity to serve locally and representative diversity in leadership can be achieved. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 206-4459 or [moira@toppstrategies.com](mailto:moira@toppstrategies.com) if you have any questions or concerns regarding the position of the City of San Diego.

Sincerely,

Moira C. Topp  
Topp Strategies