



# 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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