

Senior Citizens Advisory Council

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May 11, 2021

Dear Chairman Do and Members of the Board,

As the advisory body to the Orange County Board of Supervisors on matters relating to our county's older adults, the Orange County Senior Citizens Advisory Council (SCAC) presents the "Top 5 Priorities for Orange County Senior Citizens." In an effort to align State and local initiatives, these priorities have been developed around California's Master Plan for Aging goals; and were approved at our April 9, 2021 meeting.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on older adults, coupled with the State's recent release of the Master Plan for Aging, and the realization that Orange County's aging population is projected to double in the next 20 years, creates a sense of urgency and unique opportunity to help improve the quality of life for all Orange County senior citizens.

The Master Plan for Aging includes 5 bold goals including: Housing for all Ages and Stages; Health Reimagined; Inclusion of all Seniors; Caregiving that Works; and Affording Aging. During our annual workshop meeting, SCAC developed key priorities to support these goals. Our priorities address senior housing and homelessness, transportation, mental well-being, nutrition, and technology to help bridge the digital divide.

Some of the priorities presented in the attached report are within your area of governance and await your direction. For those priorities that are not within your direct area of responsibility, we respectfully request that you be the voice to highlight the current needs of Orange County's older adults.

We continue our work to fulfill the responsibility of SCAC and will collaborate with the Office on Aging and community partners to advocate for the needs of older adults. We welcome your input and communication with us as we work together to serve the older adults of Orange County.

Sincerely,

Elaine Gennawey, Chair
Senior Citizen Advisory Council

SCAC Board

*Elaine Gennawey, Chair ♦ Gene Hernandez, Vice-Chair ♦ Elizabeth Busick, Secretary
♦ Phil Mandeville, Member-at-Large ♦ Dave Tetzlaff, Member-at-Large
♦ Cynthia Thacker, Member-at-Large ♦ John Pointer, Past Chair*