AGENDA – SPECIAL MEETING

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

2:05 P.M., THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024
until the conclusion of business

Board of Public Works Hearing Room 350 City Hall
200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Virtual Meeting – Join via Zoom: bit.ly/zoom-lacdod24
Dial by phone: **1 (669) 444 9171**
Meeting ID: **896 4264 0290**
Real-Time Captioning:
bit.ly/streamtext-lacdod

Commissioners

Akiko Tagawa, President
Mary Grace A. Barrios, 1st Vice President
Jorge E. Acevedo, 2nd Vice President
Candace Cable, Secretary
Robert Bitonte, Commissioner
Myrna Cabanban, Commissioner
Iran Hopkins, Commissioner
Alisa Schlesinger, Commissioner
Robert Williams, Commissioner

Pedestrians can enter and exit, and vehicles can pick up and drop off at 200 North Main Street (between Temple and First Streets). There is limited free parking at City Hall East on Los Angeles Street (the parking entrance is across the street from LAPD's Parker Center). To arrange free parking, contact the commission at (213) 202- 2764 or TTY (213) 202-3452 at least two business days in advance of the meeting.

Virtual Instructions: Public participants may join via the Zoom link above. Participants may alternatively dial the phone number (669) 444 9171 and will then be asked for a meeting ID. Please enter 844-7583-0151 followed by the pound sign (#). Participants will be asked to enter a participant ID and may press the pound sign (#) to continue. Comments by the public on agenda items will be heard only at the time the respective item is considered. Members of the public who wish to speak on items shall be allowed

to speak for up to two minutes per item up to a total of five minutes per meeting. We request that each speaker announce their name before public comment. This is for the benefit of our captioners, interpreters, and attendees.

All in-person requests to address the Commission must be submitted prior to the Commission's consideration of the item through physical Public Comment cards available. Comments by the public on all other matters within the subject matter jurisdiction of the board will be heard during the "Public Comments" period of the meeting.

During virtual meetings all attendees are automatically muted upon entry. Please use the RAISE HAND function to indicate your wish to speak on a specific agenda item. To use the RAISE HAND function, press star (*) and then 9 When called upon, you may UNMUTE by pressing star (*) and then 6.

Members of the public who wish to speak on items shall be allowed to speak for up to two minutes per item up to a total of five minutes per meeting.

When the Commission meeting starts, please silence or turn off all cell phones or other devices that make noise. If there are any written materials for distribution to the Commissioners, please submit it to the secretary. Call to order, roll call, announcements and introductions will be made.

ITEM (1)

REQUEST FOR TELECONFERENCE OPTION PURSUANT TO AB 2449

In accordance with AB 2449 Section 2(a)(i) members may now notify the legislative body of their need to participate remotely for just cause, if they haven't already done so, including a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely. The provisions of this clause shall not be used by any member of the legislative body for more than two meetings per calendar year.

Item is for **DISCUSSION** and **ACTION**.

ITEM (2)

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

The Commission will review the minutes of the MARCH 2024 REGULAR MEETING and vote to approve.

Item is for **DISCUSSION** and **ACTION.**

ITEM (3)

PUBLIC COMMENT

For items not on today's agenda, but under the Commission's jurisdiction, members of the public who wish to speak on items shall be allowed to speak.

ITEM (4)

LA28 DISABILITY ACCESS PLAN (ongoing)

The 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be planned and carried out through a massive coordination between multiple City, County, and State entities and other organizations. The Commission will hear from various persons regarding transportation, infrastructure, and planning in the greater Los Angeles Area. The following individuals will share their knowledge of specific plans, campaigns, and current features of their organizations as they contribute and make possible this historic event.

- Andre Colaiace, Executive Director, ACCESS
- Pamela Lee, Supervising Transportation Planner II, Department of Transportation
- Sunil Rajpal, PR Civil Engineer, and Prashant Konareddy, SR Civil Engineer, Public Works: Street Services

Item is for **DISCUSSION.**

ITEM (5)

COMMISSION COMMITTEE UPDATES

The four current committees: Disabled Homelessness, Policy and Legislation, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Emergency Management will provide work plan updates and written recommendations, if any, which the Commission may choose to act upon.

Item is for **DISCUSSION** and **ACTION.**

ITEM (6)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ongoing update on items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues. Presentation is by Stephen David Simon, Executive Director and/or other department staff.

Item is for **DISCUSSION.**

ITEM (7)

NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements from Commissioners, DOD staff, and guests, as well as follow-up items from this or previous commission meetings to be presented at the next meeting.

Item is for **DISCUSSION.**

ITEM (8)

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment.

Item is for **ACTION**

NOTE

If you wish to receive this agenda in advance of the meeting, please go to the hyperlink www.disability.lacity.gov. Click the search icon, and type "commission on disability agenda," then click "agenda." You may also contact: Department on Disability, 201 North Figueroa Street, Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90012 or by calling the main line at (213) 202-2764 and ask to be put on the mailing list. You can also give the meeting secretary your email address to receive the agenda by email.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART) services are provided at each meeting. Upon request, agenda material in alternative formats and other accommodations are available to the public for City-sponsored meetings and events. All requests must be made at least five business days prior to the scheduled meeting. For additional information, contact the Commission on Disability at (213) 202-2764 (voice) or (213) 202-3452 (TTY).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment can be made for each agenda item at the time each item is considered by the Commission (before the action is taken), and members of the public who wish to speak on items shall be allowed to speak for up to two minutes per item up to a total of five minutes per meeting

DRAFT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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STEPHEN DAVID SIMON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ALI EVERETT
ASST. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 16, 2024

The Honorable Karen Bass
Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Room 303, City Hall

City Council
c/o City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall

Legislative Coordinator

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TREATY TO ENHANCE EQUITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

On behalf of the Commission on Disability (Commission), we respectfully request that your office and the City Council adopt the articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Treaty with an Executive Directive and that the City of Los Angeles (City) adhere to it as a matter of policy and practice; and add the United States Federal Ratification of the CRPD to part of the City's Legislative agenda.

The United Nations CRPD is available online at: https://social.desa.un.org/issues/disability/crpd/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-crpd

We are asking for the City to lead the country in this initiative. The Commission believes that taking this action will align with the Mayor's commitment to integrity and dedication to improving the quality of life in Los Angeles. Adoption will also result in increased dignity and compassion, while fostering a stronger, more equitable community for each Angeleno. The Commission also believes this action is timely in light of the upcoming LA28 Paralympic Games.

Background

The CRPD is modeled after and expands the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, which protects individuals with disabilities against discrimination in areas such as employment, public accommodations, and transportation, and was intended as a human rights instrument to ensure that all persons with all types of disabilities can exercise their human rights and fundamental freedoms. The CRPD and its Optional Protocol (A/RES/61/106) was adopted in December of 2006, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

There are currently 164 signatories and 191 state party (countries) ratifications. Despite the United States signing the CRPD in 2009, and that the CRPD is modeled after the ADA, the nation continues to await the US Senate's ratification, indicating the country's lag in support of persons with disabilities to effectively exercise their rights, address areas where their rights have been violated, and where protection of rights must be reinforced. The ratification status can be found at: https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?Treaty=CRPD

An excerpt from the United Nations website indicates: *It takes to a new height the movement from viewing persons with disabilities as "objects" of charity, medical treatment and social protection towards viewing persons with disabilities as "subjects" with rights, who are capable of claiming those rights and making decisions for their lives based on their free and informed consent as well as being active members of society.* (https://social.desa.un.org/issues/disability/crpd/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-crpd)

The details of the history of the negotiations for this Convention can be found at: https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/about-us/history-of-united-nations-and-persons-with-disabilities-the-first-millennium-decade.html

Summary

Therefore, the Commission on Disability respectfully requests that the City of Los Angeles formally adopt the articles of the United Nations CRPD Convention through an Executive Directive, and add United States Federal Ratification of the CRPD as part of the City's Legislative agenda.

Sincerely,

Akiko Tagawa
President, Commission on Disability

cc: Councilmember Paul Krekorian, President, City Council

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Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martínez, Chair, Civil Rights, Equity, Immigration, Aging and Disability Committee

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Understanding the History & Benefits of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Webinar

Date: 22 May 2024
Time: 3:30pm EST
Registration: https://tinyurl.com/42p3cwf9

Panel Facilitator:
USICD President
Candace Cable, PLY

#USICD4CRPD

Dr. Abigail Akande
Professor of Rehabilitation & Human Services, Penn State University

Janet Lord
Executive director of the Center for International & Comparative Law, University of Baltimore School of Law

John Wodatch
Former, Chief Disability Rights Section Civil Rights Division U.S. Department of Justice

Jakeel Abdullah
Louisiana Disability Community Leader & Legislative Advocate

Dr. Patricia Morrissey
Former, Director of the Center on Disability Studies at the University of Hawaii

Sponsored by:

U.S. International Council on Disabilities

Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living EOCIL 1999

Commission on Disability
Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Work Plan

The Commission shall provide a forum for the identification and discussion of difficulties encountered by disabled persons in our society, and shall make recommendations to the Mayor and the City Council on measures which the Federal, State and local governments may undertake to assure that persons with disabilities may participate without any hindrance in the life of our community.

Powers and Duties

1. Advise the Mayor, the City Council and the Department on Disability of the needs and problems of persons with disabilities in the City of Los Angeles.

2. Hold public hearings at least once a year to take testimony from disabled persons and others regarding conditions adversely affecting the lives of disabled persons in the City of Los Angeles, and report its findings and recommendations to the Mayor and the City Council.

3. Monitor the program mandates of the Department on Disability and make recommendations to the Mayor and the City Council on program and policy initiatives to improve the service of the Department to the disabled community and provide persons with disabilities in the City of Los Angeles a better opportunity and ability to pursue activities of daily living without discrimination.

4. Review and make recommendations to the Mayor on grant proposals.

5. Maintain active liaison with citizen groups interested in the problems facing persons with disabilities.

6. Promote greater awareness of the changing life patterns, opportunities and responsibilities of persons with disabilities.

7. Investigate and report to the Mayor and the City Council instances of discrimination based on disability, as well as attitudinal barriers in the areas of housing, transportation, employment and training, recreation, media of mass communications, health and social services, and legislation; and special problems of disabled persons living alone, as well as their safety and access to support services.

8. Perform specific studies and surveys on the needs of disabled persons when requested by the Mayor and/or the City Council.

9. Submit an annual report to the Mayor and the City Council on the activities of the Commission.

FY 2023-2024 Ad Hoc Committees

Objective #1 - Disabled Homelessness
Objective #2 - Policy & Legislation
Objective #3 - Transportation & Infrastructure
Objective #4 - Emergency Management

The Ad Hoc Committees below will research, consider, and make recommendations to the full Commission, in alignment with the Commission's powers and duties.

Objective #1 – Disabled Homelessness

Purpose

Ensure the City's homelessness services are inclusive of and responsive to the specific needs of the disability community.

Ad Hoc Committee: Bitonte (Chair), Schlesinger, Tagawa, Williams

Action Items

- Promote opportunities for people with disabilities who are experiencing homelessness to access critical government resources and services that are provided where they are.
    - Specifically, mobile SSI
- Submit a recommendation to the Mayor supporting changes to existing legislation and programs to increase funding opportunities to serve people with disabilities experiencing homelessness
- Request a presentation on the status of the Inside Safe program.

Work Plan Updates

October 2023:

- The Ad Hoc Committee was created consisting of Commissioners Bitonte, Schlesinger, Tagawa.

November 2023:

- The Committee roster and Chair position were approved.

Objective #2 – Policy & Legislation

Purpose:
Advise on policy and legislation to advance equity for people with disabilities.

Ad Hoc Committee: Cable (Co-Chair), Tagawa (Co-Chair), Acevedo**,** Cabanban

Action Items

- Review draft legislation impacting people with disabilities and report to the Commission on the impacts.
- Submit a recommendation to the Mayor to add support for the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) to the City's legislative agenda.
- Draft a recommendation in support of the City adopting a policy allowing members of advisory bodies to participate remotely in public meetings.
- Research a possible recommendation to support implementation of the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower program within the City of Los Angeles.

Work Plan Updates

October 2023:

- The Ad Hoc Committee was created consisting of Commissioners Acevedo**,** Cabanban, Cable, Tagawa.

November 2023:

- The Committee roster and Co- Chair positions were approved.

February 2024:

- Co-Chair Cable has informed the Commission that work has begun on the CRPD Letter

Objective #3 – Transportation & Infrastructure

Purpose:

Maintain awareness of, monitor, and advise on City of Los Angeles transportation and infrastructure projects and policies as they impact access for people with disabilities.

Ad Hoc Committee: Barrios (Chair), Acevedo, Cable

Action Items:

- Participate in public outreach meetings related to City infrastructure projects
- Request a presentation from the Department on Disability on the status of the City's self-evaluation and transition plan
- Request a presentation on the status of the City's implementation of the Willits settlement.
- Research the feasibility of creating a media campaign promoting sidewalk infrastructure improvements in advance of LA28, then make a recommendation as appropriate.
- Request a presentation from LA28 about disability access plans for all venues.
- Conduct one or more site visits of various locations associated with the joint LAWA METRO project, the Automated People Mover (APM), and recent Downtown Los Angeles renovations and new stations.
- Collaborate with the Disability Access and Accommodation Advisory Committee (DAAAC) to address access issues at the airport.

Work Plan Updates

October 2024:

- The Ad Hoc Committee was created consisting of Commissioners Acevedo, Barrios, and Cable.

November 2023:

- The Committee roster and Chair position were approved.

Objective #4 – Emergency Management

Purpose:

Ensure that people with disabilities have equal access to life saving and sustaining services and support before, during, and after emergencies.

Ad Hoc Committee: Cabanban (Chair), Bitonte, Tagawa

Action Items

- Request a presentation from LA County Department of Public Health regarding the incidence of long Covid and its impact on people with disabilities

Work Plan Updates

October 2024:

- The Ad Hoc Committee was created consisting of Commissioners Bitonte and Tagawa.

November 2023:

- The Committee roster, with the addition of Commissioner Cabanban, and Chair position were approved.

January 2024:

- The Committee and Commission received new information regarding the Covid 19 Pandemic and Long Covid relevant Los Angeles County.

Presentation Schedule

FY 2023-2024

To Be Scheduled:

- No items currently waiting to be scheduled

November 16, 2023

- None

December 21, 2023

- Meeting canceled

January 18, 2024

- Long Covid Update (objective #4)

February 15, 2024

- Willits Settlement status update (objective #3)

March 21, 2024

- Inside Safe (objective #1)

April 18, 2024

- Canceled

May 16, 2024

- LA28 disability access plan (objective #3)

June 20, 2024

- Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan status update (objective #3)