



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 3, 2016 1:00 P.M.
Los Angeles City Hall Board of Public Works
200 North Spring Street, Room 350, Los Angeles, California 90012

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Dr. Robert Bitonte
David Wolf
Robert Williams
Alisa Schlesinger
Iran Hopkins
Betty Wilson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Harriet Posner (excused)
Theresa de Vera (excused)
Richard Rothenberg (excused)

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen Simon, Executive Director

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Presentation by Chief Greg Savelli of Enforcement and Traffic Control Division.

GUESTS:

Access Services
Aldon Bordenave, Jr., METRO's Emergency Homeland Security Manager (Interim)

*AUDIO TAPE(S) and CAPTIONING NOTES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

ITEM NO. (1): Approval of the Regular Commission Meeting Minutes

President Bitonte called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. Roll call was conducted and a quorum of the commissioners was present.

Action Taken: Commission approved the January meeting minutes.

ITEM NO. (2) Public Comment

Public Commentary Received – For Announcement Purpose Only*

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): Access' Emergency Preparedness

Representatives from Access Services presented on Emergency Preparedness for the expected El Niño weather conditions and the potential impact on the disability community. Access Services presented their metrics regarding their services. On January 5th, they had over 13,000 trips booked and only 9,000 completed. Access Services expressed the reduction was due to the rain and what can happen during the rainy season. Access Services hope that their customers acknowledge many unforeseen circumstance during a downpour.

Action Taken: Access Services will present for the next meeting.

ITEM NO. (4): Metro's Emergency Preparedness

Representatives from Metro presented on emergency preparedness and the potential impact on the disability community. Metro is working on a Rail Implantation Plan that identifies hotspots where any type of severe weather would affect their services, locations, or stations, and identifies departments to mitigate any issues. For the bus operations, Metro has the service alerts that deal with any type of service disruption and their Gold Metro phone number to

get information from their customer service representatives. Metro is investing in their Emergency Operation Center that can be activated during a severe weather storm, other types of hazards, or other types of disasters. The Accessibilities Program Group gave a braille map of the Metro Rail System to the Department on Disability.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (5) Department of Transportation's Disabled Parking Placard Policy

A presentation update on parking enforcement by Greg Savelli, Chief of Parking Enforcement and Traffic Control. They have increased their efforts within the Department of Transportation regarding leniency with people who are caught. In 2015, the Parking Enforcement and Traffic Control spent about 1100 hours on the disabled parking violations. Most recently, the Parking Enforcement and Traffic Control has been working to support legislation that will cut down abuse, but will not limit the access.

Action Taken: Will be placed on the agenda for next month's meeting

ITEM NO. (6): Coordinated Care Initiative

Stephen David Simon updated the Commissioners on the status of the Commission's FOIA request. The interest of the Commission was to see if the Medicare and Medi-Cal programs are serving the disabled community. Therefore, the Commission requested the Center for Medicare and Medi-CAL's periodic and regular reports such as the initial six month implementation report, quarterly monitoring reports, the annual reports, and the final evaluation reports. The Center for Medicare and Medi-CAL has confirmed and is currently processing the request.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

ITEM NO. (7) Sidewalk Repair Program

The Department on Disability is working closely with the Bureau of Engineering and Street Services and the Commission of Public Works and other major offices on the issues of the sidewalks that need to be repaired. The back log of all project that need to be address was given to the Bureau of Engineering. The Department On Disability will present more data pertaining to the metrics of the sidewalk repair program when more data is available.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

ITEM NO. (8): Regulations on Service Animals

Carey Stone from DOD gave an overview regarding the regulations, policy, and procedures pertaining to the use of service animal in public facilities. This included the regulations for service dogs under the Department of Justice regulation, service animals under Department of Transportation regulations implementing the ADA, how state and federal fair housing laws support emotional support animals and trained assistance animals, and the Air Carrier Access Act.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

ITEM NO. (9): Executive Director's Report

Stephen David Simon provided background information and highlights for the Department. The Department is focused on the 2016-17 budget, expanding programs, reinforcing existing programs within the department, working on staff restructuring, and making documents accessible to all Angelenos. The Department on Disability is submitting a few applications for the City's Innovation Fund to digitize the process for the sign language request, the information and referral section to better help people get the referrals they need, and the Hollyhock House. DOD is also trying to implement a City wide accessibility hot line that constituents can call to report of compliance issues or any other issues. DOD has expressed and currently working on

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transgender inclusion through the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which was adopted by the City.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

ITEM NO. (10): New Business

President Dr. Robert Bitonte suggested a presentation on the Disability Art Exhibit and the effectiveness in promoting the mission statement. 1st Vice President David E. Wolf has suggested the issues of non-operating elevators could be brought up for discussion.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

ITEM NO. (11): Announcements

President Dr. Robert Bitonte expressed a thank you to the Los Angeles County Disability Commission and acknowledged President Carlos Benavides and Commissioner Janet Neal.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

ITEM NO. (12): Adjournment

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:11 P.M.