



## COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

### MINUTES

Wednesday, April 11, 2018, 1:00 P.M.

Department on Disability

200 N. Spring Street, Room 350, Los Angeles, California 90012

#### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Theresa de Vera  
David Wolf  
Myrna Cabanban  
Alisa Schlesinger  
Dr. Robert Bitonte  
Iran Hopkins  
Robert Williams

#### COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Betty Wilson (excused)  
Richard Rothenberg (excused)

#### DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director

Chris Lee, City Attorney Office

Sinan Khan, Access and Functional Needs Coordinator, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management.

Paul Weinberg, Emergency Management Coordinator, City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation – LADOT.

#### OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

#### GUESTS:

Hector Ochoa, Program Manager, Southern California Resource Services for Independent Living (SCRS-IL).

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

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Scott Underwood, Regional Disaster Officer, Michael Edwards, Regional Manager, American Red Cross, Los Angeles.

Ted Horton-Billard, Intern with the American Red Cross, Los Angeles.

### **ITEM NO. (1): APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

President de Vera called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The Commission had a quorum when roll call was conducted.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, meeting minutes as amended.

### **ITEM NO. (2): PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

### **ITEM NO. (3): PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON DISABILITY AND EMPLOYMENT**

- I. Sinan Khan, Access and Functional Needs Coordinator, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management, (OEM) - The OEM organizes and directs preparedness efforts for the Emergency Management Organization of Los Angeles County. The focus of the OEM is the coordination and implementation of resources and needs during a response phase of an emergency and emergency preparedness for people with disabilities. During the COD meeting, OEM asked individuals to enroll in the County alert system that contains information about the emergency and where to call for extra assistance. They also have an Emergency Council, an advisory body made of stakeholders from the community as well as County and City partners, to bridge the gaps between LA City and LA County and to talk about future emergency planning issues. The next meeting is on May 3rd, at 1:30 it is going to be held at 1275 Northeastern Avenue Los Angeles, California. The OEM has an emergency survival guide that is specifically for people with disabilities called Stay Safe and Stay in

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Control. You can obtain the survival guide by calling their office at 323-980-2260.

- II. Paul Weinberg, Emergency Management Coordinator, City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation – LADOT manages the operation of City streets for motorists, transit, cyclists, pedestrians, and movement of goods. During La Tuna, Creek, and Skirball fires, LADOT was at the command post looking at maps of the areas that needed to be evacuated. LADOT was also able to grasp the needs and resources for the area and communicate those needs to the command post. LADOT also collaborates with the Fire Department, Police Department, Emergency Management Department, Recreation and Park Department, and other transportation partners to respond to emergencies.
- III. Hector Ochoa, Program Manager, Southern California Resource Services for Independent Living (SCRS-IL) - SCRS-IL responds to the needs of the disability community, enabling them to lead healthy, independent, and productive lives through programs and services. They are one of six independent living centers in Los Angeles County. The largest center in LA County covers 44 cities. During La Tuna Fire, SCRS-IL assisted with potential evacuations by transporting people to safer areas. After the La Tuna Fire, SCRS-IL hosted an emergency readiness summit to discuss emergency preparedness, they had over 40 community based organizations in attendance. SCRS-IL collaborates with the surrounding independent living centers and other community based organizations that serve individuals with disabilities for emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.
- IV. Scott Underwood, Regional Disaster Officer, and Michael Edwards, Regional Manager, American Red Cross, Los Angeles. Additional Speaker: Ted Horton-Billard – The mission of the American Red Cross is to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors. Michael Edward oversees programs related to emergency sheltering,

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emergency feeding, reunification and support of the distribution of emergency supplies during disasters. The Red Cross collaborates with Fire Department, Police Department, Emergency Management Department, Recreation and Park Department, and other emergency departments to ensure their commitment to the residents of the City and County. The Red Cross also has programs such as the Alarm Campaign that installs free accessible smoke detectors for those who are who are either hard of hearing or other disabilities to make sure they hear the warning. The Red Cross is also committed to creating programs in shelters, when giving out information during training, and when they work in a partnership to be fully accessible.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (4): HOUSE BILL 620**

Discussion on memorandum to the Mayor and City Council about House Bill 620, which is an amendment to the Americans with Disability Act that might adversely affect people with disabilities. On behalf of the Commission on Disability, the Department on Disability drafted a letter to be sent to the Mayor's Office recommending that the City of Los Angeles Office of Chief Legislative Analyst take a position to oppose the HR 620.

Action Taken: Approval of the letter to the Mayor's Office.

**ITEM NO. (5): ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Discussion about the nomination in May 2018 and election in June 2018 of officers for the positions listed below, in accordance with COD Bylaws.

1. President
2. First Vice President
3. Second Vice President
4. Secretary

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In May, the Commission on Disability will take either self-nominations or nominations by another commissioner for President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, and Secretary. In the month of June, the Commission on Disability will electing First Vice President, Second Vice President, and Secretary.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

### **ITEM NO. (6): PUBLIC HEARING**

Discussion about selecting a topic for a public hearing in the future during the fiscal year.

Action Taken: Will table this discussion for the June meeting.

### **ITEM NO. (7): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Discussion of items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues. Presentation is by Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability. The Department on Disability will have their budget hearing in front of the Budget and Finance Committee on April 30th 9:00 a.m. in City Council Chambers and invite all the commissioners to attend that hearing. A highlight from the audit suggested changing the Administrative Code to be able to match the responsibilities and the resources for the department. Another highlight is to expand the department's authority within the City to ensuring ADA compliance. The department is also looking at their SLI contracts to increase the number of interpreters that are contacted through the department. Council District 13 requested a report from the AIDS Coordinator's Office about potential funding and supportive programs for the transgender community. The Department on Disability will host an Autism Awareness to celebrate Autism Awareness and Acceptance month. Stephen David Simon formally introduced Dina Garcia from CALIFE to advocate for more accessible and affordable housing and to collaborate with the City. Dina will be coming to the Commission on Disability every month.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (8): New Business and Announcements**

Announcements from the Commissions are: Commissioner Williams asked the Department on Disability to look into getting Tony Abraham a proclamation for his service to the City and President De Vera wanted to congratulate Richard Ray for being selected as one of the 25 doers drivers of 2018 in Government's Technology.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (6): Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:16 P.M.