



## **COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**

### **MINUTES**

Wednesday, June 1, 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  
Theresa de Vera  
Alisa Schlesinger  
Iran Hopkins  
Norma Lopez  
Betty Wilson

#### **COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

Robert Williams (excused)  
Richard Rothenberg (excused)

#### **DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:**

Stephen Simon, Executive Director

#### **OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:**

None

#### **GUESTS:**

Clayton Frech, Founder of Angel City Sports  
Dr. Glenda Tolbert, Tolbert Center for Rehabilitation and Wellness  
Louis Burns, Access Services

\*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 pm. Roll call was conducted and a quorum of the commissioners was present.

Action Taken: Commission approved the May meeting minutes.

**ITEM NO. (2) Public Comment.**

Public Commentary Received – For Announcement Purpose Only\*

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (3): Nomination and Election of Commission Officers.**

The Commission on Disability held the nomination and election of its officers at this meeting. The President is Dr. Robter Bitonte, First Vice President is David E. Wolf, and Second Vice President is Iran Hopkins.

Action Taken: New elected officers.

**ITEM NO. (4): 2016 Angel City Games.**

Clayton Frech, Founder of Angel City Sports gave a presentation on the 2016 Angel City Games for qualifying events for the 2016 Paralympics. The mission of Angel City Sports is to create sports opportunities for adults, children, and Veterans with physical differences and impairments. The strategic focus areas are access to equipment, competition, training, and leadership.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (5) Survivor Benefits for Disabled Dependents.**

Currently, people who have a dependent adult child are not able to leave them their City survival benefits. Lydia Garcia put forth a recommendation to request get the cost of implementation for the disabled dependent benefits and to seek a Council motion to amend the administrative code. Currently, the Coalition of L.A. Employees Union is drafting an ordinance.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (6): Coordinated Care Initiative.**

Stephen David Simon updated the Commissioners on the status of the Commission's FOIA request. The FOIA request has been sent to the primary federal office requesting reports, consumer complaints, and communication reports. DOD has been contacting the office every two weeks to continue checking on the status of the request.

Action Taken: Move to the end of the agenda until there is an update with information along with reoccurring items.

**ITEM NO. (7): Pain Management.**

Dr. Glenda Tolbert, Tolbert Center for Rehabilitation and Wellness gave a presentation on pain management with an emphasis on access to opioid medication. Dr. Tolbert recommends a special program that treat patients holistically, that provides medical and non-medical services, and that is distinct from the managed care programs currently receiving funding.

Action Taken: Making a recommendation to the City Council on how Medicare and/or Medicaid are funded and to recognize the importance of services to the disabled community.

**ITEM NO. (8): Disability Art Exhibit.**

A presentation by President Dr. Bitonte was made regarding the Disability Art Exhibit. The purpose of Disability Art Exhibit is to highlight artist's abilities and promote artistic expression for the disability community. A letter was sent to every other Commission on Disability across the county and a letter to related organizations inviting them to participate in the exhibit.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (9): Public Messages on Vehicles of Access Services.**

Louis Burns, Access Services gave a presentation on how public messages can be carried on their vehicles. Access has a magazine to advertise community events and information. It is sent to every Access employee every two weeks. They can also send out one page announcements to their member agencies announcing community events.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (10): Commission on Disability Retreat.**

Discussion about scheduling a Commission on Disability (COD) retreat. The purpose of the retreat is to review the mandate, history, and to look at policies that the COD may want to focus on moving forward. This year's retreat is going to be on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September in lieu of the regular Commission on Disability meeting.

Action Taken: Commission Retreat is on 14<sup>th</sup> of September in lieu of the regular Commission meeting.

### **ITEM NO. (11): Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Stephen David Simon provided background information and highlights for the Department. The Department is focused on expanding programs, reinforcing existing programs, working on staff restructuring, and making documents accessible to all Angelenos. DOD is working on the meeting for the placard task force, continuing to take names of the people interested in sidewalk repairs and then forwards the information to BOE. DOD is also and working on getting video remote interpreting at a few library branches.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

### **ITEM NO. (12): New Business and Announcements**

New business suggested for the next regular meeting's agenda is the discussion about policy recommendations on equal access and opportunity of any private industry.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

### **ITEM NO. (13): Adjournment**

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:21 P.M.