



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, July 12, 2019, 1:00 P.M.

Department on Disability

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Betty Wilson (excused)
Richard Rothenberg (excused)
Alisa Schlesinger (excused)

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Jaime Pacheco-Orozco, Assistant Executive Director, Department on Disability

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Chris Lee, City Attorney

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GUESTS:

Liz Logsdon, Registered Legal Services Attorney, and Pamila Lew, Senior Attorney, Disability Rights California (DRC).

Kristy Ramos, Legal Advocate and Renee Thomas, Greater Los Angeles Agency on Deafness (GLAD).

Kim Sinclair, Executive Director, Autism Society of Los Angeles (ASLA) and Emily Iland, Program Author/Consultant - The Autism Society of Los Angeles (ASLA).

Charles Dempsey, Detective III Admin-Training Detail, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD).

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.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the June 12, 2019, meeting minutes.

ITEM NO. (2): PUBLIC COMMENT

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): LAW ENFORCEMENT AND DISABILITY

Presentation from various organizations from the greater Los Angeles area and Los Angeles Police Department regarding the training, policy, goals, and data regarding Law Enforcement and Disability (First appeared on COD Agenda 10-10-18).

- I. Liz Logsdon, Registered Legal Services Attorney, Pamila Lew, Senior Attorney, Disability Rights California (DRC) - DRC is a nonprofit agency

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

and largest disability rights group in the nation. Their mission is to protect and advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. The Investigations Unit at DRC is a non-litigation, public policy oriented division to increase law enforcement training on interactions with people with disabilities, produce public reports, and recommend bills to legislators. Their training program for law enforcement started by conducting an analysis about the training LAPD receives regarding people with disabilities. Their results suggested that LAPD officers were only getting six hours of training at the academy level to covering all areas of interactions with people with disabilities. After the study, DRC's Investigations Unit recommend increasing the hours of training. Two bills were also introduced to change the training hours. SB11 increased the hours from six to fifteen and SB29 require eight hours of field training with additional hours for people with mental illness.

- II. Kristy Ramos, Legal Advocate, Renee Thomas, Greater Los Angeles Agency on Deafness (GLAD) – GLAD's mission is to ensure equal access of the deaf and hard of hearing community to the same opportunities afforded their hearing counterparts. GLAD's general purpose is the promotion of the social, recreational, cultural, educational, and vocational well-being of deaf and hard of hearing constituents. Their primary service is to provide advocacy between law enforcement and deaf and hard of hearing people. They have about eight different areas, have eight sister agencies, and are in eight different counties. Generally, the stories echoed the sentiment that people were not given an interpreter to be able to communication with officers. They did acknowledge that LAPD and the Department on Disability have a contact with LifeSigns, a non-profit organization to provide different qualified certificate interpreters that can be on site or using video remote interpreting for communication. They suggest officers utilize this service more often.

- III. Kim Sinclair, Executive Director, Autism Society of Los Angeles (ASLA), Emily Iland, Program Author/Consultant - The Autism Society of Los Angeles (ASLA) established a collaborative relationship with the

LAPD Mental Evaluation Unit In 2006. Together they have reached more than 6,000 law enforcement personnel with an evidence-based training that helps officers recognize and respond to individuals with autism and other related conditions. Their training includes teaching with self-advocates and introducing officers to individuals with autism. Their current program called Experience Autism extends the bridge between law enforcement and the disability community to improving the outcome of encounters between officers and the disability community by giving them autism simulations. The training program simulates what it is like to have autism by demonstrating the difficulty in processing information, communication, and motor tasks to understand how to accommodate people with autism. They also have a program called Be Safe, an interactive movie screening with officers and the disability community to show people what to do when they are with the police. In the past a program called Mission Possible was available, where officers were paired with someone with disabilities to practice communicating and learning about disabilities.

- IV. Charles Dempsey, Detective III Admin-Training Detail, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) - Los Angeles Police Department's mission is to safeguard the lives and property of the people, reduce the incidence and fear of crime, and enhance public safety while working with diverse communities to improve the quality of life. Currently, LAPD developed a community resource guides for the public to know more about different resources for someone experiencing mental health issues than calling 911. They also indicate when there is a communication gap, such as not informing 911 responders that the person has a history of mental illness, the police do not know the type of situation they will encounter. To help with the communication gap and understand how to interact with the person, the LAPD created a 911 checklist for family members to utilize with they call 911. They have also prioritize a culture change within LADP by training and educating younger and senior officers, so when they are promoted to sergeant or captain, they will have a better understanding on how

those calls are managed. They also use other response units such as nurse practitioner response units and sober units, so that not everything is a criminal justice response. If it is a medical response, the situation should be treated as a medical response rather than a criminal response. The LAPD also utilizes many community partners to train officers on how to interact with people with disabilities.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (4): LAWA ACCESSIBILITY COMMISSION CONFIRMATION

The Commission will confirm Kathleen Barajas to the LAWA Accessibility Commission.

Action Taken: Kathleen Barajas is confirmed to the LAWA Accessibility Commission.

ITEM NO. (5): COMMISSION ELECTION

The Commission will hold its officer elections. Nominations and Self-Nominations will be for the following positions: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary. Votes for each position is an Open Election.

Action Taken: Commissioner Williams is the Commission Secretary, Commissioner Wolf is the Second Vic President, Commissioner Cabanban is the First Vice President, and Commissioner De Vera is President.

ITEM NO. (6): COMMISSION CALENDAR

The Commission will discuss possible topics and vote on their calendar.

Action Taken: Will table this action to the next meeting.

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

Discussion on items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues. Presentation is by Jaime Pacheco-Orozco, Assistant Executive Director in place of Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability. Last week the department held the quarterly policy forum on scooters that invited three private companies and the Department on Transportation to discuss issues with scooters. The department also attended Angel City games and provided information and referrals to different services within the City and services organizations offer. The Office of the Mayor has started a task force for public health with representatives from the department in attendance.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (8): NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Suggested items for the next regular meeting's agenda and announcements from Commissioners, DOD staff, and guests. Commissioner Bitonte announced that they have their first wheelchair champion who won Mr. Muscle Beach on July 4th. President De Vera announced that Ali Stroker is the first wheelchair user to win a Tony award as best actress in a musical. She also wants to congratulate Richard Ray for the numerous years fighting and advocating for equal access and the ability to call 911 and was honored with admission into NENA' Hall of Fame.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (9): ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:09 P.M.