



# COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

## MINUTES

Wednesday, July 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  
Betty Wilson

### COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Richard Rothenberg (excused)  
Robert Williams (excused)

### DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director

Chris Lee, City Attorney Office

Office of the City Clerk, Los Angeles Sandra Mendoza, Senior Program Manager and Mayra Puchalski, Sr Management Analyst II

### OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

### GUESTS:

American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), Zach Baldwin Burns, Director of Outreach.

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Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC), Jeff Klein, Manager of Voter Education, Outreach, and Community Relations and Aaron Nevarez, Manager of Governmental and Legislative Affairs Division.

California Secretary of State, Susan Lapsley, Deputy Secretary of State

## **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 June 13, 2018, meeting minutes.

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

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

## **ITEM NO. (3): PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON VOTER ACCESS**

- I. American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), Zach Baldwin Burns, Director of Outreach - The REV UP UP (Register! Educate! Vote! Use your Power!) campaign and the AAPD's aim is to increase the political power of the disability community while engaging candidates and the media on disability related issues through state and national coalitions on effective, non-partisan campaigns to eliminate barriers to voting, promote accessibility of voting technology and polling places. The aim of the REV UP Campaign is to eliminate barriers to voting, promote accessibility of voting technology and polling places, educate voters about issues and candidates, promote turnout of voters with disabilities, engage candidates and the media on disability issues, and protect eligible voters' right to participate in elections. During the month of July, the REV UP Campaign organized their third annual national disability voter registration week. They also have a toolkit on how to organize different events and partnering with election departments that includes a demonstration voting machine, a guide to working with your state protection and advocacy agencies to offer

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

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training on disability rights, and samples of media graphics to organize online. They also have an election accessibility and best practices toolkit to make sure that polling places and voting systems are accessible, have a guide on how disability advocates can engage with election officials, resources for poll worker training, and how poll workers can interact with disability community.

- II. Office of the City Clerk, Los Angeles Sandra Mendoza, Senior Program Manager and Mayra Puchalski, Sr Management Analyst II– The City Clerk serves as the Clerk of the City Council and maintains a record of all Council proceedings, the official City records and archives, and administers all City elections, among many other duties. The Office of the City Clerk developed a video for the public and for training poll workers regarding the accessibility of serves for voters, such as curb side voting at the polling locations, how to use the wheelchair accessible voting booth and the audio booth, and voter information in audio recordings and in braille. The Office of the City Clerk has engaged in outreach at several events catered to people with disabilities during the year including DEAFestival, wheelchair wash events, and the Angel City Games. Their future endeavors included providing Neighborhood Council candidate filling information and information on the Voter's Choice Act in accessible formats. They would also like to partner with the Commission on Disability on outreach events to get more information on voter registration and candidate filing procedures.
- III. Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC), Jeff Klein, Manager of Voter Education, Outreach, and Community Relations and Aaron Nevarez, Manager of Governmental and Legislative Affairs Division. The LA RR/CC presented on Voting Solutions for All People (VSAP) to address an aging voting system. The project seeks a collaborative approach to a voter-centered voting system and development design that will put voters at the center and maximize stakeholder participation. They conducted interviews, workshops, and focus groups with thousands of voters throughout the

community and worked with election and technology experts throughout the country to develop the system. The new voting system development will include electronic books, interactive sample ballot and a ballot marking device, and early voting centers with an 11-day period for votes to cast their ballots. They are also part of the Accessibility Advisory Committee and invites the Commission on Disability to participate in the committee.

- IV. California Secretary of State, Susan Lapsley, Deputy Secretary of State. The Secretary of State's office is dedicated to making government more transparent and accessible in the areas of elections, business, political campaigning, legislative advocacy, and historical treasures. They are responsible for the online voter registration system, so they are focusing on getting more people with disabilities to register to vote by ensuring their website is accessible and holding outreach events through the state, and working closely with the Disability Rights of California. They have also implemented a system called My Voter Status for registered voters in California can look up their status, how there are registered, see voter participation history, where you have voted, whether you voted in previous elections, and you can see where they registered to vote currently. They have a survey about voter accessibility issues and will provide the Commission on Disability with the link that can be accessed by constituents. They have also provided the LA County over \$10 million on to mitigate issues in polling places and to do outreach on accessibility. They are also responsible to test and certify the technology that is being proposed has met the state statute in the state.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

#### **ITEM NO. (4): COMMISSION ON DISABILITY: OFFICER ELECTION**

The Commission on Disability held their annual election of officers.

The new Commission officers are as followed:

President-Theresa de Vera  
1st Vice President-Alisa Schlesinger  
2nd Vice President- Iran Hopkins  
Secretary- David E. Wolf

Action Taken: New officers elected.

### **ITEM NO. (5): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Discussion of items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, July Election, and/or other relevant issues. Presentation is by Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability. The Department on Disability is meeting with other City departments in planning and designing shelters, provide onsite assistance at homeless encampments, and working with L.A.P.D. and LAHSA and Sanitation to ensure people with disabilities are treated with the utmost respect and receive the referrals they need for additional assistance around the housing. The AIDS Coordinator's Office is working with providers to expand the syringe collection and exchange services around many of the encampments and at shelters. The Department on Disability is also working with Recreation and Parks on adaptive sport and recreation programs to be the in the forefront of adaptive sports and recreations and to ramp up to L.A. 2028 Para-Olympics and Olympics. The Department on Disability will be having the REALabilities film festival Thursday October 11 through Sunday October 14<sup>th</sup> for a total of the 21 films and 15 short films with five of them are foreign language films.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

### **ITEM NO. (6): NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Suggested items for the next regular meeting's agenda and 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. President Theresa May De Vera wanted to congratulate Richard Ray on receiving the CEO award for Exceptional Dedication and Commitment to

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Access and Supporting the National Association of the Deaf. Secretary David E. Wolf wanted to congratulate all his colleagues on their elections.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

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

The meeting was adjourned

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:10 P.M.