



# COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

## MINUTES

Wednesday, August 14, 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  
Richard Rothenberg

### COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Betty Wilson (excused)  
Alisa Schlesinger (excused)

### DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability

### OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Chris Lee, City Attorney

**GUESTS:**

Louis Burns, Customer Service Administrator, Randy Johnson Manager Government Affairs and Outreach, and Melissa, business analyst from Access Services.

Traci Lee, Senior Public Policy Manager, Julia Kim, Manager, Policy Partnerships, LYFT.

Arturo Gonzalez, Urban Strategy Group INC. Representing Wheels.

Kristen Bailey, Business Development Manager, Hanger Clinic.

**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 July 10, 2019, meeting minutes.

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

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (3): TRANSPORTATION**

Presentation from various organizations from the greater Los Angeles area regarding Transportation Network Companies, Paratransit, and Disability.

- I. Louis Burns, Customer Service Administrator, Randy Johnson Manager Government Affairs and Outreach, ACCESS – ACCESS provides paratransit services to persons with disabilities in the Los Angeles County area. They presented on their current services as well as new and expanded services for riders. Their online reservation system has a new feature that allows customers to book trips from an address, cancel trips, or edit the information about their trips online, via

Smartphone, or any device that has a web browser. The new system lets customers book trips when having certain mobility devices so the driver knows how much space is need to set aside in the vehicle. The online reservation system is in a testing format for people in the southern region with plans to incorporate the system to all of the customs. Currently, there are about 11 hundred customers using the system and are booking about 400 trips daily. Customers can create and account by accessing [www.accessLA.org](http://www.accessLA.org) and start booking trips.

- II. Traci Lee, Senior Public Policy Manager, Julia Kim, Manager, Policy Partnerships, LYFT. Lyft is committed to promoting transportation equity through shared rides, bike share systems, electric scooters, and public transit partnerships. Lyft has recently launched a WAV (wheelchair accessible vehicle) pilot in Los Angeles and San Francisco to expand transportation access for individuals with disabilities, particularly users of non-foldable, non-collapsible wheelchairs. The Senate Bill 1376, Access For All Act passed last year encourage transportations companies to increase accessible vehicles by imposing a \$0.05 surcharge per ride for all rides originating in California to be placed into an accessibility fund and increases services on the Lyft platform. Their one-year pilot program called WAV collaborates with First Transit, which will provide the drivers and vehicles, and Lyft, which will provide the dispatch, to provide reliable transportation for the disability community. WAV has a safety feature to share the route information with friend or family member. Currently, WAV only has five vehicles in L.A. and San Francisco to gather more information and expand the program further. They are looking for more input with the community members.
- III. Arturo Gonzalez, Urban Strategy Group INC. Representing Wheels. Wheels is Shared Mobility Device (SMD) provider serving the Los Angeles area. Wheels presented on their mission and goals in regards to accessibility for the Los Angeles area. Their plot program is a plan for low-income community members providing thirty minutes of free transportation. Riders must submit proof they are part of a state or

federal government program to qualify for the pilot program. Their one-year pilot program is currently operating in Venice, West Los Angeles, Hollywood, Mid-City, downtown Los Angeles, Silverlake, and the Figueroa Corrido. They also work closely with the community to create geofencing (fencing off areas on a virtual map) where the community does not want the vehicles to be located. Some examples where the vehicles are not permitted pass through is the Venice boardwalk, LA canals, and L.A Live. When a path of travel become obscured with a scooter, people should call 311 to have the manufacture come out and remove the scooter.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

#### **ITEM NO. (4): COMMISSION CALENDAR**

The Commission will discuss possible lead topics for their FY2019-20 meetings, and vote on their proposed calendar.

Action Taken: The Commission on Disability will have their retreat during the month of December and table the calendar for the next meeting.

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

Discussion on items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues. Presentation is by Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability (DOD). DOD is working on getting the ADA 30<sup>th</sup> celebration next year in the month of July. Reelabilitites Film Festival is taking place October 25<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> at the AMC Universal City theater. DOD is having a policy form about disability employment entertainment and inviting the community to engage the film festival. They are also working with the targeted local hire program to hire more people with disabilities. Special Guest Speaker, Kristen Bailey from Hangar Clinic, a prosthetics company. The Hangar Clinic have eight hundred

clinics with certified clinicians. They have a vast amount of contacts to help people who have an HMO or a PPO insurance and have the Hanger Foundation for people that do not have insurance. They also have many other resources such as peer-to-peer support groups for people to utilize their programs and services.

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. Commissioner Schlesinger asked the COD to agendize an update on Reelabilites.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (7): ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:35 P.M.