



## **COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**

### **MINUTES**

Wednesday, September 13, 2017, 1:00 P.M.  
Los Angeles City Hall Board of Public Works  
200 North Spring Street, Room 350, Los Angeles, California 90012

#### **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Theresa de Vera  
Iran Hopkins  
Alisa Schlesinger  
Robert Williams  
David Wolf

#### **COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

Dr. Robert Bitonte (excused)  
Myrna Cabanban (excused)  
Richard Rothenberg (excused)  
Betty Wilson (excused)

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

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director  
Geoffrey Straniere, ADA Compliance Officer  
Richard Pope, ADA Coordinator  
Rosemarie Punzalan, Management Analyst

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

None

#### **GUESTS:**

Elena Fiallo, Program Manager, Housing for Health Division, Los Angeles County, Department of Health Services  
Sarah Callender, LCSW, Program Manager, Housing for Health Division, Los Angeles County, Department of Health Services  
Jess Segovia, Senior Manager, Accessibility, Office of Civil Rights, METRO

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

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

President de Vera called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m. The Commission did not have a quorum when roll call was conducted. A quorum was established subsequent to hearing public comment (second agenda item).

Action Taken: The Commission approved the August 9, 2017, meeting minutes as amended.

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

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

## **ITEM NO. (3): OUTREACH TO THE HOMELESS RE: PUBLIC BENEFITS**

Presentation and discussion about the Countywide Benefits and Services Team (CBEST) and the services they provide to the homeless community. Presentation was by Elena Fiallo and Sarah Callender, Housing for Health Division, Los Angeles County, Department of Health Services. Their program was instituted as a result of the homeless strategies that were approved in February 2016.

Currently, there are 47 strategies for ending homelessness, and CBEST executes three of those strategies. They provide advocacy for persons with disabilities, veterans, older veterans and anyone within this population who is homeless or at risk of experiencing homelessness. They also identify and assist persons who are pre-release and post-release from incarceration within the Los Angeles County jail system.

CBEST has partnered with multiple organizations to address the various needs of the homeless population, also identified as service planners. Their organization collaborates with the Catalyst Foundation, Tarzana Treatment

Center, Volunteers of America, St. Joseph Center, Lutheran Social Services, People Assisting the Homeless (PATH), and the Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care Services. A primary goal of the CBEST program is reaching constituents who do not have access to services. The partnership with the aforementioned organizations helps to streamline the process for providing services and benefits to people who are experiencing homelessness, and minimize system level barriers. There are multiple collaborations with other advocacy groups that provide additional resources and services.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

#### **ITEM NO. (4): PRIORITY SEATING ON METRO BUS AND RAIL SERVICES**

Presentation and discussion about METRO's policy on reserved seating on its bus and rail services. Presentation was by METRO's Jess Segovia, Senior Manager, Accessibility, Office of Civil Rights. Jess Segovia discussed METRO's policy on reserved seating and their fleet of approximately 2,000 buses. The new buses provide separate reserved seating for disabled persons with wheelchairs and persons with disabilities who do not utilize a wheelchair.

In accordance with METRO's policy and existing regulations, bus operators shall request that persons without a wheelchair vacate from the wheelchair securement section, if a person with a wheelchair boards the bus. However, operators cannot mandate that people vacate the wheelchair securement section.

He advised that METRO is currently working on ways to educate their customers and provide information on reserved seating. Due to safety measures, METRO's operators do not act in an enforcement role.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

## **ITEM NO. (5): SIDEWALK ACCESS PROGRAM**

Update on the sidewalk repair program. Presentation was by Geoffrey Straniere, ADA Compliance Officer, Department on Disability. The City of Los Angeles has made commitments to extend approximately \$1.4 billion across 17,000 miles of concrete over the next 30 years, to create compliant sidewalks. During the soft launch of the Access Request Program, specifically, January 2017 through July 2017; there was an average of 100 submittals each month.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

## **ITEM NO. (6): COD RETREAT**

Discussion about establishing the date, location, and topics for the Commission on Disability's annual retreat. Commissioners discussed the proposed retreat agenda and its related theme. The commissioners focused on their goals and objectives, current legislation, and requested further direction from the Mayor's Office and Los Angeles City Council.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

## **ITEM NO. (7): MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONS'S AD HOC SUB-COMMITTEES**

President de Vera discussed the ad hoc subcommittees and their effectiveness. The Commission will review the topics of subcommittees at the Commission on Disability retreat on October 11, 2017. They will determine which subcommittees should be maintained and how the Department on Disability can provide additional support to the subcommittees.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

## **ITEM NO. (8): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director, Stephen David Simon presented on DEAFestival, which is scheduled to take place on September 30, 2017, and will be held at Los Angeles City Hall. The event will include a full resource fair on the south lawn.

The Department on Disability is the lead department for the Give to LA Combined Charitable Campaign. The Give to LA kickoff was held on Tuesday, September 12, 2017.

Richard Pope presented on the La Tuna fire, emergency preparedness, evacuation plans, and resources that were supplied to elderly and disabled residents.

Rosemarie Punzalan presented on the milestones of the technology access program. As a 508 accessibility specialist she will be coordinating training for City employees to ensure compliance with 508 accessibility standards and guidelines. She will also be working on the Commission on Disability's website and will be surveying commissioners in the upcoming weeks.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

## **ITEM NO. (9): New Business and Announcements**

The Los Angeles Department on Transportation (LADOT) and METRO are scheduled to present on November 8, 2017.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

## **ITEM NO. (10): Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned in memory of those who lost their lives on Tuesday, September 11, 2001 (9/11).

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:51 P.M.