



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING COD RETREAT

Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 10:30 A.M.
Department on Disability
201 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 100, Los Angeles, California 90012

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Dr. Robert Bitonte
Myrna Cabanban
Theresa de Vera
Iran Hopkins
Richard Rothenberg
Alisa Schlesinger
Robert Williams
David Wolf

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Betty Wilson

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Ashley Stracke, Mayor's Office, Director of Neighborhood Services
Jane Chung, Mayor's Office
Chris Lee, City Attorney
Nicole Enriquez, Ethics Commission

GUESTS:

ITEM NO. (1): Approval of the Regular Commission Meeting Minutes

President de Vera called the meeting to order. Roll call was conducted, and a quorum of the commissioners was present.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the September 13, 2017 meeting minutes.

ITEM NO. (2): Public Comment

No Public Comment Received.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): Roles and Responsibilities of Commissioners

Ashley Stracke, Director of Neighborhood Services, Mayor's Office, discussed the Mayor's expectations, indicating that Commissioners should identify how services can be improved, what best practices are being implemented by other municipalities or by the state and federal government, and what legislative changes are being considered. Ms. Stracke indicated that such information could be transmitted to her by e-mail and by contacting the Department on Disability. Ms. Stracke will try to give an initial response to inquiries within 24-48 hours.

Nicole Enriquez, Ethics Commission's liaison, reviewed basic ethic guidelines for Commissioners, saying that the Ethics Commission administers campaign financing, lobbying, rules on political activities, and other ethics issue mandated by state and federal laws. The Ethics Commission provides both formal and informal advice, however, formal advice must be requested in writing, is binding and made public on the website of the Ethics Commission.

Additionally, Ms. Enriquez discussed conflict of interest, gifts and financial disclosure, all of which are summarized in the PowerPoint presentations made available to the Commission. Ms. Enriquez emphasized that Commissioners should avoid a conflict of interest, where a conflict of interest occurs whenever

a Commissioners' actions on the Commission on Disability affect them or their family. Additionally, Commissioners are prohibited from accepting gifts from lobbyist, identified on the Ethics website.

Topic for Future Consideration: Schedule Ethics Commission to present in the future on the City's guidelines on political activity, its definition and restrictions.

Chris Lee, Deputy City Attorney III, provided an overview of the Commission's responsibilities as listed in the City Charter and Administrative Code. Mr. Lee also presented on the Brown Act. Mr. Lee informed the Commission that they have the responsibility of informing and advising the Mayor's Office, in conjunction with the Department on Disability, on actions and policies that are favorable and unfavorable for the City.

Mr. Lee indicated that an annual report should be completed. Mr. Lee summarized meeting requirements of the Brown Act which was provided in the PowerPoint presentation distributed to each Commissioner and is a part of these meeting minutes. In response to a question, Mr. Lee indicated that Commissioners can participate in political processes as long as they don't as a Commissioner and that they emphasize that they are not representing the Commission on Disability.

Topic for Future Consideration: Annual report and funding to procure a position and other resources to support the Commission on Disability.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

ITEM NO. (4): Department on Disability Presentations

The following programs of the Department on Disability gave PowerPoint presentations which is part of the minutes:

ADA Compliance and ADA Training, Community Outreach, Referrals and Education (CORE), AIDS Coordinator's Office (ACO) and the Technology Access

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

ITEM NO. (5): Commission's Priorities

Richard Corral of Corral Consulting moderated the discussion. Mr. Corral reviewed the results of the on-line survey completed by the Commissioners, and received agreement by the Commission to discuss policies and strategies for the top two: (1) Employment and (2) Housing and Homelessness.

Although the priority list is included in these minutes as an attachment, the major points are summarized below:

Employment

Identify goals, such as "X range of constituents employed by Y date," and "Vocational training through LAUSD - Division of Adult and Career Education."

Identify and address employment policies. For one recommend a change in the income threshold for the Ticket to Work Program. Also, recommend tax credits for employers to hire people with disabilities. For instance, the tax credit could be similar to those tax credits once provided under the Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). If a tax credit is recommended, ensure that the recommendation is for a ballot measure for citizens of Los Angeles and not those for the entire State of California, in order to narrow the voters needed for approval. Once the Employment and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) completes its RFP, the Commission can recommend employment requirements for people with disabilities.

Housing and Homelessness

Recommend more money for Section 8, especially for accepting people with disabilities, in the form of set-asides; review Measures H and HHH; identify sources of funding for homelessness, as a significant percentage of the homeless have disabilities; identify allies like the County, Housing Authority of City of Los Angeles (HACLA), and Housing and Community Investment Department (HCID); discuss how to integrate the work of these entities with

COD's activities; create incentives for landlords for accepting people with disabilities; recommend funding set-asides in housing / homelessness for people with disabilities in federal and local programs; ensure the COD has identified projects for funding set-asides, if set-asides are authorized for housing/homelessness for people with disabilities; obtain a better understanding of fair housing among constituent and the process for lodging grievances; and identify the agencies that oversee housing and homelessness programs, such as Housing Authority and Housing and Community Investment Department.

A comprehensive approach that includes talking points should be drafted before approaching EWDD for resources.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

ITEM NO. (6): Retreat Wrap Up and Next Steps

The Commission agreed to use the priority list developed with the assistance from Corral Consulting and discuss strategies for implementing the priorities

Action Taken.

ITEM NO. (7): Public Comment

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (8): Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.