



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 14, 2020, 1:00P.M.

Department on Disability

Zoom Video Conference

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Myrna Cabanban

David Wolf

Robert Williams

Richard Rothenberg

Betty Wilson

Alisa Schlesinger

Iran Hopkins

Candace Cable

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Dr. Robert Bitonte (excused)

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director

Jaime Pacheco-Orozco, Assistant Executive Director

Sergio Samayoa, Director, Administrative Services Division

Lourdes Sinibaldi, Director, Community Outreach Referrals and Education

Ricki Rosales, Director, AIDS Coordinator's Office

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

Minutes October 14, 2020

Page 2 of 7

Geoffrey Straniere, Director, Disability and Access Services Division

Margaret Wynn, Legislative Deputy

Peter Soto, Management Analyst

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Chris Lee, City Attorney III, City Attorney's Office

GUESTS:

Laura Peralta, Vice President, Community Relations, Citi

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

The Commission will review the minutes of the September 2020 meeting and vote to approve them.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the minutes for September 9, 2020 with a correction to change the ad hoc committee on Law Enforcement Policy and Training in Item 6 to the ad hoc committee on Expanding Access to Benefits to Those Experiencing Homelessness.

ITEM NO. (2): PUBLIC COMMENT

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY ANNUAL UPDATE REPORT

The Department on Disability Division Managers will review division functions, metrics, metrics, achievements, and goals for the past and upcoming year. Presentations are by Lourdes Sinibaldi, Jaime Pacheco-Orozco, Sergio Samayoa, Ricki Rosales, and Geoffrey Straniere.

- I. The Community Outreach Referrals and Education (CORE) division has served over 700 constituents by providing information and referrals. The division has attended 18 outreach events and provided digital accessibility trainings to 25 City Departments. The division created the Meals to Angelenos with Disabilities program, where 180,000 meals were distributed during the three month period. CORE also coordinated

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

Minutes October 14, 2020

Page 3 of 7

community engagement in policy discussions to support new City strategies and celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Additionally, CORE secured Personal Protective Equipment for families with disabilities in Council District 1. CORE will continue to expand digital accessibility training and use of assistive telecommunications within City Departments. The division also aims to secure Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for families with disabilities, particularly in South LA and the Valley.

- II. Disability Employment is an area that DOD has been monitoring. In order to improve the employment outcomes of individuals with disabilities, a clear understanding of baseline data is required. This can be challenging because disability status requires self-disclosure. Statistics available are limited because they reflect pre-pandemic trends, and are likely to change as new data becomes available. There are approximately 4.07 million Californians with disabilities, about 1.9 million of whom are working-age. Of that number, 700,000 are employed. The employment rate of people with disabilities is 36.9%, whereas the rate for people without disabilities is 77.2%. DOD's future goals and projects in this area will be to pursue joint grant opportunities, push for public agencies as model employers, and improve public workforce system services to people with disabilities.
- III. The mission of the Administrative Services Division (ASD) is to provide support necessary to help DOD improve operational capability, while establishing Departmental processes designed for stability and growth. ASD managed the DOD budget and maximized use of allotted resources to advance Department priorities, and created 28 work order numbers to track the use of resources across various initiatives. ASD also supported the effort to provide staff with resources, software, and equipment needed to work remotely in response to COVID-19. The division also provides administrative support for Commission meetings and DOD events, including Abilities Expo, ADA 30th Anniversary, Meals for Angelenos with Disabilities, and ReelAbilities Film Festival Los Angeles (RAFFLA). Future goals include restructuring the ASD in response to Citywide budget reduction measures and continuing to address long term issues from the 2018 Controller's Audit.
- IV. The AIDS Coordinator's Office (ACO) is committed to developing and supporting programs and policies that prevent transmission and acquisition of HIV and improve quality of life for people living with

HIV/AIDS. The ACO distributed over 6,400 Fentanyl test strips, disposed over 2.7 million syringes, and provided over 18,700 HIV tests to several Health Centers. Over 4,800 people were trained in overdose prevention. ACO reached out to over 860 community members to raise awareness on the need to change social and cultural norms regarding indifference on the stigma of HIV in the Latinx community. The division also provided 18 technical assistance grants to organizations and used funds to support community based organizations purchase PPE and train staff on technology to ensure continued service delivery. ACO aims to continue expanding the HIV and Homelessness program, as well as the HIV and Disability Legal Services Partnership with the LA County Bar Association.

- V. The Disability Access Services Division (DASD) coordinates and monitors the City's compliance with the ADA and related laws, and provides technical advisement to ensure people with disabilities have access to facilities and programs. DASD has processed over 3,300 access service requests, which include curb ramps and sidewalk repairs. Over 1,300 Accessible Parking Zone requests have been processed. Additionally, the division is involved in providing guidance on the City's Al Fresco program, making sure that restaurants are able to successfully set up dining areas on sidewalks and parking zones while also being mindful of people with disabilities and challenges they may encounter, especially involving path of travel. Other projects DASD is involved in include the viaduct bridge project, adaptive sports in parks, and preparing for the Paralympics

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (4): PRESENTATION ON LEGISLATIVE POLICY PROCESS

City and Legislation Presentation by Margaret Wynn and Peter Soto,
Department on Disability

The Commission on Disability is an advisory body without managerial functions. It can make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on the way that the City government interacts with people with disabilities, including weighing in on ordinances. It can also make recommendations on State or Federal affairs. The Commission can present an idea to City Council, or a City Councilmember can introduce a motion that the Commission can make recommendations on. For

issues involving multiple departments or large budgetary impacts, an Executive Directive from the Mayor may be necessary. The Department on Disability can assist the COD on determining the best strategy to move items forward.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (5): PRESENTATION ON BROWN ACT AND COMMISSION FUNCTIONS

Review of the Brown Act, Ad Hoc Committees, and Q+A for any Brown Act or Commission processes by Chris Lee, Office of City Attorney.

Under the Brown Act, it is especially important to follow open meeting requirements that allow the public to participate. A meeting is when more than a quorum of Commissioners are present in one location, five for the COD. However, there are also “chain meetings” and “wheel meetings.” Chain meetings are when one person speaks to another about a Commission item, and the item is discussed from Commissioner to Commissioner in a chain of five people. A wheel meeting is when one person contacts five or more Commissioners individually; the initial contact is at the center, and each Commissioner is like a spoke on a wheel. Both of these types of meetings are a violation of the Brown Act. There are specific instances where a closed meeting is appropriate, such as personnel matters and negotiations. Notice is still required to be given to the public, and the outcome of the closed session meeting has to be reported.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (6): AD HOC COMMITTEES REPORT

Discussion of items relating to any of the Commission’s established Ad Hoc committees.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Law Enforcement Policy and Engagement requested that DOD reach out to Assistant Chief Girmala regarding updates on training materials. The Ad Hoc Committee on Expanding Access to Benefits to Those Experiencing Homelessness met with an individual who works with Social Security to get a better understanding of how the program discussed in Commission can best fit with current Social Security Administration policies.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (7): COMMISSION CALENDAR, PRIORITIES, AND BEST PRACTICES REVIEW

Discussion of items relating to the Commission's established calendar and what priorities or goals the Commission would like to set for the new year.

The upcoming topic for November is Long Term Medical and Economic Impacts of COVID-19. Other ideas for future meetings include electoral participation and election debrief, civil disobedience, placard reform updates, public transportation, rideshare programs, homelessness and housing, education, financial assistance, Olympics and Paralympics, revisiting law enforcement trainings, and a community forum with LAPD.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (8): COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Discussion of items relating to Department activities regarding the COVID-19 event. Presentation is by Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability and Laura Peralta, Vice President Community Relations, Citi.

DOD has been part of the Empowered Cities project for over a year, collaborating with other cities on workforce development, economic empowerment, and financial literacy. When the COVID-19 pandemic began, Citi moved forward with their agreements to provide funding. These funds were redirected to COVID-19 relief programs such as the Meals to Angelenos program run by DOD. Citi is committed to achieving economic empowerment for underserved demographics, and has provided nearly \$4.5 million to the Empowered Cities program.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (9): NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Suggested items for the next regular meeting's agenda and announcements from Commissioners, DOD staff, and guests.

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

Minutes October 14, 2020

Page 7 of 7

ReelAbilities Film Festival is taking place October 16th – 18th. Commissioners were encouraged to attend and promote the event on social media. The last day to report for the 2020 Census is Thursday, October 15th. Lastly, Commissioner Cabanban advised the Commission to be aware of the false ballot drop boxes that have been reported on in the news.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (10): ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 4:05 P.M.