



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, November 2, 2016 1:00 P.M.
Los Angeles City Hall Board of Public Works
200 North Spring Street, Room 350, Los Angeles, California 90012

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Dr. Robert Bitonte
Theresa de Vera
Alisa Schlesinger
Betty Wilson
David Wolf
Iran Hopkins
Norma Lopez
Robert Williams

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Richard Rothenberg (excused)

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Angela Kaufman, ADA Compliance Officer

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Verej Janoyan, Senior Transportation Engineer, Department of Transportation, City of Los Angeles (LADOT)

GUESTS:

Dr. Jeffrey Gunzenhauser, Interim Public Health Officer, Department of Public Health
Dr. Frank Pratt, Medical Director of the Immunization Program, Department of Public Health

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

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Page 2 of 6

Yvonne Price, Accessibility Program Manager, METRO

Darlene Williams, Accessibility Analyst, METRO

Jess Segovia IV, Senior Manager, Accessibility, Office of Civil Rights, METRO

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

President Bitonte called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Roll call was conducted, and a quorum of the commissioners was present.

Action Taken: Commission approved the October meeting minutes.

ITEM NO. (2): Public Comment.

Public Commentary Received.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): Los Angeles County Meningitis Outbreak.

Update on Meningitis outbreak in Los Angeles County. The presentation was by Dr. Jeffrey Gunzenhauser, Interim Public Health Officer, Department of Public Health; and Dr. Franklin Pratt, Medical Director of the Immunization Program, Department of Public Health. The speakers provided an update on the 2016 Meningococcal disease outbreak within the Southern California region.

They advised that the Meningococcal disease primarily affects gay and bisexual men and is transmitted through saliva. A population of approximately 250,000 gay or bisexual men exists within Los Angeles County. Vaccinations are recommended for gay and bisexual men and all persons who are HIV-positive. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) an outbreak consists of three or more cases within a close period of time.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (4): METRO'S Priority Seating.

Discussion about METRO's policy on priority seating for seniors and people with disabilities. The presentation was by METRO's Yvonne Price, Accessibility Program Manager; and Darlene Williams, Accessibility Analyst. They advised METRO has a section for priority seating and signage promoting cooperation with METRO's guidelines.

The Federal Transportation Administration circular dated November 4, 2015 indicates that passengers in priority seating can be asked, but are not required, to vacate the priority seating area. In response to a question about the securement of wheelchairs, METRO must finalize their own policy whether to require drivers to secure all wheelchairs.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (5): Blue Curb Program.

Update on the status of the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation's (DOT) Blue Curb Program. Presentation was by Verej Janoyan, Senior Transportation Engineer, Transportation Department, City of Los Angeles

He advised that the City of Los Angeles suspended the Blue Curb Program in 2010 due to a lack of financial resources. However, the program was reinstated in 2012. A recent change in Federal and State guidelines prevented the City of Los Angeles from continuing the program due to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance issues.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (6): Draft Summary Report on 2016 Commission on Disability Retreat.

Commissioners were encouraged to review the report on the 2016 Commission on Disability Retreat and to select priorities and committees to investigate those priorities, noting that committees are subject to the Brown Act.

Action Taken: Commissioners will discuss the report at the December 7, 2016 meeting.

ITEM NO. (7): Coordinated Care Initiative.

President Bitonte will form an ad hoc committee on this issue. Additionally, he's working with Justice in Aging on this topic.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (8): Executive Director's Report

On behalf of Stephen David Simon, Angela Kaufman announced that a grant was received by the Mayor's Office, Department on Disability, Independent Living Center, and Peace Over Violence. The grant will help integrate the needs of individuals with disabilities into LAPD's response to domestic violence and sexual assault.

The sidewalk repair program is in the process of developing the online tool that will capture requests from the public for sidewalk and curb repairs.

Action Taken: Metrics will be presented at the December 7, 2016 meeting.

ITEM NO. (9): New Business and Announcements

Commissioners will discuss which committees they would like to chair. The commission will also entertain modifying the speaker's card, in order to identify people who need more time to speak.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (11): Adjournment

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 2:55 P.M.