



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, December 7, 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
Robert Williams

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Richard Rothenberg (excused)
Iran Hopkins (excused)
Norma Lopez (excused)

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen Simon, Executive Director

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

None

GUESTS:

Molly Davies, Vice President, WISE & Healthy Aging Long Term Care
Ombudsman Program
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 1:25 p.m. Roll call was conducted, and a quorum of the commissioners was present.

Action Taken: Commission approved the November meeting minutes.

ITEM NO. (2): Public Comment.

Public Commentary Received – For Announcement Purposes Only*

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): COMPLAINT SYSTEM FOR LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES.

Presentation and discussion addressing the status of care for approximately 75,000 residents who reside in either the City of Los Angeles or the County of Los Angeles. The presentation was by Molly Davies, Vice President, WISE & Healthy Aging Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. Molly Davies reported that her agency conducts investigations on behalf of residents who reside in nursing homes or assistive living facilities. However, her agency is an advocate and doesn't carry regulatory or enforcement powers. Her agency empowers its clients to manage the complaint process through conflict resolution.

Her agency works collaboratively with state agencies and law enforcement, and makes referrals to entities such as the Department of Social Services, the Department of Public Health, and the Attorney General. Through her agency, she conducts preliminary investigations for suspected elderly abuse at various facilities throughout the City and County of Los Angeles.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (4): METRO'S PRIORITY SEATING.

Presentation and discussion about Los Angeles METRO's policy on priority seating and wheelchair securement for seniors and people with disabilities. Presentation was by METRO's Jess Segovia IV, Senior Manager, Accessibility, Office of Civil Rights. Jess Segovia discussed the changes from reserved seating to priority seating. These amendments have increased the amount of reserved seating for people with disabilities. He indicated that METRO's policy is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). He emphasized that operators are only allowed to request that people move from a priority seating area, so operators cannot make demands. However, METRO operators understand that any questioning of a person's disability, whether overt or inconspicuous, is a direct violation of the ADA.

He also advised that METRO does have a system that provides wheelchair securement for passengers. They are in the process of procuring additional fleet and updating some of the existing buses with the new securement system. METRO's long-term goal is to provide safe accessible services and facilities for all, coupled with safe ridership.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (5): DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT ON 2016 COMMISSION RETREAT.

Discussion of the "Draft Summary Report on the 2016 Commission Retreat" including the Commission's priorities and the development of standing or ad hoc committees.

The discussion involved seeking volunteers from the Commission on Disability to establish and head subcommittees based on individual interests. The Commission on Disability will revisit the discussion of subcommittees on January 4, 2017.

Action Taken: Motion to defer discussion until next Commission meeting on January 4, 2017.

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

ITEM NO. (6): SPEAKER'S CARDS.

Discussion about the content and use of speaker's cards as they relate to requests for reasonable accommodation during public comments. The speaker's cards will allow persons who need reasonable accommodations to request additional speaking time. This item will be discussed on January 4, 2017.

Action Taken: Motion to defer discussion until next Commission meeting on January 4, 2017.

ITEM NO. (7): GRANTS TO THE CITY

Discussion about recommending that the Mayor and City Council require City Departments seeking grant funding to award a portion of the funding for accessibility. The discussion was led by President Dr. Robert Bitonte. The Commission voted to request between 1% to 2% of all revenue generated by grants within the City of Los Angeles be awarded to the Commission on Disability to fund for accessibility.

Action Taken: Motion to proceed with funding request.

ITEM NO. (8): STAFF SUPPORT

Discussion about recommending that the Mayor and City Council provide staff support to the Commission on Disability in the form of paid positions. The Commission was advised there were five position classifications for consideration. The Commission was informed of the range in salaries for the listed position classifications.

The Commission requested the Department on Disability report back on whether other departments have paid positions dedicated to their commissions, and whether a paid position had been dedicated in the past to the Commission on Disability.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

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

ITEM NO. (9): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Discussion of items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues. Presentation was by Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability. The Executive Director advised that the budget was submitted on November 18, 2016. He also commented that the Sidewalk Repair Program was launched in the month of November 2016, and residents can contact the City regarding the program and potential sidewalk repair rebates. Finally, he reported that the City's mediation program will assist small businesses with accessibility and ADA compliance issues.

No Action taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (10): NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

New business suggested for the next regular meeting's agenda are as follows: (1) the Department on Disability's Geoffrey Straniere, Senior Project Coordinator, and Bureau of Engineering, provide a presentation about the Sidewalk Repair and Access program; (2) a discussion about the abuse of Opioids; (3) the outreach conducted by the Social Security Administration; and (4) the accessibility of ride sharing programs like Uber and Lyft.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (11): ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:38 P.M.