



# **COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**

## **MINUTES**

Thursday, April 20, 2023 3:00 P.M.

Department on Disability

Board of Public Works Hearing Room 350, City Hall

200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Zoom Video Conference

### **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Myrna Cabanban

David Wolf

Dr. Robert Bitonte

Iran Hopkins

Alisa Schlesinger

Robert Williams

Candace Cable

### **COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

Betty Wilson

Richard Rothenberg

**DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:**

Peter Soto, Management Analyst, Department on Disability

Ali Everett, Assistant Executive Director, Department on Disability

**OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:**

Chris Lee, City Attorney Office

**GUESTS:**

**ITEM NO. (1): FINDINGS TO CONTINUE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS PURSUANT TO**

In accordance with AB 2449 Section 2(a)(i) members may now notify the legislative body of their need to participate remotely for just cause, if they haven't already done so, including a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely. The provisions of this clause shall not be used by any member of the legislative body for more than two meetings per calendar year.

AB 2449 allows local agencies to hold remote public meetings without identifying each teleconference location and without making each location accessible to the public. This alternative option can only be used under limited circumstances and expires on Jan. 1, 2026. Crucially, this measure may be used if "just cause" is met or if "emergency circumstances" exist.

"Just cause" is defined as any one of the following:

- Child care or caregiving of a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires a member to participate remotely.
- A contagious illness that prevents a member from attending in person.
- A need related to a physical or mental disability.
- Travel while on business of the legislative body or another state or local agency.

An "emergency circumstance" is a physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member of a legislative body from attending in person. In order to participate remotely for "just cause", a member must notify the legislative body at the earliest possible opportunity — including at the start of a meeting — of their

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need to participate remotely and provide a general description of the circumstances related to one of the four items above. A member may only use the just cause provision up to two meetings per calendar year. To participate remotely under “emergency circumstances”, the member must request that the legislative body allow them to participate in the meeting remotely because of emergency circumstances and the legislative body must take action to approve the request. The legislative body must request a general description of the circumstances relating to the member’s need to appear remotely. This description does not have to be more than 20 words and does not need to include any personal medical information.

Action Taken: Commission Robert Williams will abstain from voting on any and all Commission on Disability items for today’s agenda.

## **ITEM NO. (2): APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR AND SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the February 2023 regular meeting and the Commission on Disability voted to approve them.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the minutes for the February 2023 regular meeting.

## **ITEM NO. (3): PUBLIC COMMENT**

For items not on today’s agenda, but under the Commission’s jurisdiction, members of the public who wish to speak on items shall be allowed to speak for up to two minutes per item up to a total of five minutes per meeting.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

## **ITEM NO. (4): COMMISSION ON DISABILITY- ALI EVERETT**

Department on Disability Assistant Executive Director, Ali Everett, will introduce herself to the Commission and outline her role, as well as goals set for the department.

- I. Presentation is by Ali Everett, Assistant Executive Director, Department on Disability. She has worked and volunteered in accessibility for over 25 years and worn many different hats and has a lot of experience that continue to inform her work. She has her B.A. from the University of California, Santa Barbara, has her M.P.A from Syracuse University, and has her J.D. from Syracuse University College of Law. Prior to joining the Department on Disability, she was the Accessibility Coordinator for City of Pasadena, where she worked on citywide compliance and inclusion initiatives to create a more inclusive community. She wants to continue that work with the Department on Disability and the Commission on Disability.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

#### **ITEM NO. (5): AB 2449 BRIEFING**

City Attorney, Chris Lee, will provide the Commission with a review on the current requirements of the Brown Act and specifically on AB 2449.

- I. Presentation is by Chris Lee, City Attorney Office. City Attorney, Chris Lee, will provide the Commission with a review on the current requirements of the Brown Act and specifically on AB 2449. The act allows for meetings to occur via teleconferencing subject to certain requirements, particularly that the legislative body notice each teleconference location of each member that will be participating in the public meeting, that each teleconference location be accessible to the public, that members of the public be allowed to address the legislative body at each teleconference location, that the legislative body post an agenda at each teleconference location, and that at least a quorum of the legislative body participate from locations within the boundaries of the local agency's jurisdiction. AB 2449 has pre-requisites that at least a quorum (5) of the members of the COD must participate in person from a singular physical location, a member may only teleconference for publicly disclosed "just cause" or in "emergency circumstances" approved by the COD, and the COD must provide either a two-way audiovisual platform or two-way telephonic service and a live webcasting of the meeting. A remotely participating Commission member must notify the Commission of their need to participate remotely for "just cause" or "emergency circumstances" and the COD takes action to approve the request. The restrictions on COD Commission members for teleconference for no more than three consecutive months or 20% of the regular meeting and

that they must do so through both audio and visual technology.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

### **ITEM NO. (6): REPORT ON CITY PLANNING RE: TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN INFRASTRUCTURE**

ADA Compliance Officer, Geoffrey Straniere, will update the Commission on City plans relevant to road structure, planned diets, and improvements. Geoffrey could not make the Commission on Disability. The Department on Disability will reschedule him at a later date.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

### **ITEM NO. (7): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ongoing update on items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues. Presentation is by Ali Everett, Assistant Executive Director, Department on Disability and/or other department staff. The department presented a report to the Civil Rights Equity Immigration Aging and Disability committee regarding the feasibility of drafting an ordinance for business in the City to activate closed captioning on all of their televisions in public spaces to make communication more accessible. Stephen David Simon and Ali met with the Assistant General Manager and the General Manager from Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department on further collaborations to address disability discrimination enforcement within the City and to be able to cross train opportunities for the departments. The Department on Disability will ask Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department to present at a future COD meeting. The department is currently preparing the budget letter to present to the Mayor's budget committee and will be presenting the letter next week. AIDS Coordinator's Office participated in the National Biomedical HIV Prevention summit that focuses on implementation biomedical tool to help end the HIV epidemic in communities. The Department on Disability continues to reduce housing discrimination through the Fair Housing Compliance and Procedures workshop. Ali and the Commission President participated in an event with General Motors and EV Go on an electric vehicle summit to discuss accessibility of vehicles and charging stations.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (8): NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Items for the next regular meeting's agenda and announcements from Commissioners, DOD staff, and guests, as well as follow-up items from this or previous commission meetings to be presented at the next meeting. COD will be presenting a motion to agendaize a letter with the concerns of the COD on the implementation of AB 2449 for the next COD meeting. Commissioner Bitonte requested the number of the people who are disabled that were hired from the State mandate that was brought forth by Gov. Newsom for hiring the disability community in the State government positions to see if they are actually implementing the mandate. Commissioner Bitonte also wants a presentation regarding long COVID-19, and to continue working toward connecting people who are unhoused and are mentally ill and with mobile SSI clinics. Commission President Cabanban requested that the department schedule LA 28 to come and present on accessibility.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (9): THANKS AND RECOGNITION OF COMMISSIONER CONTRIBUTION**

The Commission and Department will thank outgoing Commissioners Rothenberg and Wolf for their years of service and knowledge.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (10): ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned on behalf of the passing father of former Commission President De Vera.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 4:32 P.M.