



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 18, 2023 2:00 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, President
Robert Bitonte, 1st Vice President
Robert Williams, 2nd Vice President
Mary Grace A. Barrios, Commissioner
Candace Cable, Commissioner
Alisa Schlesinger, Commissioner
Akiko Tagawa, Commissioner

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Betty Wilson, Commissioner
Iran Hopkins, Commissioner

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

Minutes May 18, 2023

Page 2 of 6

Peter Soto, Management Analyst, Department on Disability

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Chris Lee, City Attorney Office

Kim Kasreliovich, Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department

GUESTS:

Holly Tyrer, Hidden Disabilities Sunflower

Lynn Smith, Hidden Disabilities Sunflower

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.

Action Taken: There was no Commission member that was attending the Commission on Disability meeting virtually, no action required by the Commission on Disability.

ITEM NO. (2): WELCOMING OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

The Commission on Disability will welcome its newest Commissioners, Akiko Tagawa and Mary Grace A. Barrios. Akiko Tagawa is the Chief Deputy Director, Medical Examiner-Coroner, Los Angeles County and has over 25 years of County experience, mostly associated with administrative and process improvement work. She started her County career as an Environmental Health Specialist (restaurant inspector). Her inquisitive mind and penchant for asking questions helped her develop many friendships and working relationships with the State, federal, and local government agencies which helped her develop a reputation of expertise in food safety, quality assurance regulations and best practices. She also supported the implementation of the restaurant grading

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

Minutes May 18, 2023

Page 3 of 6

system and helped establish the public relations program within Environmental Health. Her administrative career has since evolved from legislative analyses and process improvement projects with the Substance Abuse Prevention and Control program, management services for the Probation Department, and most recently as the Acting Deputy Director of Public Health where she was instrumental in supporting the expansion of the contact tracing program and implementation of the vaccination mega-PODs during the COVID19 pandemic response. Mary Grace A. Barrios is an Executive Boardmember from SEIU Local 2015 that represents 500,000 IHSS Homecare, Private Agencies, Nursing Home union workers. She is part of the Pilipino American Los Angeles Democrats (PALAD), which is a political organization first chartered with the Los Angeles County Democratic Party in 1987 to organize and mobilize Filipino Americans in Los Angeles County and is dedicated to promoting political empowerment and increasing civic engagement and participation in the Filipino American community. She was also a Commissioner for the City of West Covina in the Community Services Commission, and later in the Public Parks Commission. She graduated from Ateneo De Manila Loyola University with a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR AND SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

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

Action Taken: The Commission approved the minutes for the April 2023 special meeting.

ITEM NO. (4): 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. (5): CITY OF LOS ANGELES, CIVIL + HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY DEPARTMENT

Department LA Civil Rights Assistant General Manager, Kim Kasreliovich will speak and present. LA Civil Rights Department Overview-Discrimination Enforcement, followed by a Q&A session with the Commission.

- I. Presentation is by Kim Kasreliovich, LA Civil Rights+ Human Rights and Equity Department, Assistant General Manager. Their mission is to maintain and strengthen the city's diversity, equity, and accountability. They are focused on reducing bias and injustices while leveling the playing field through community engagement, equity initiatives, and upward mobility programming. They are focused on reducing bias and injustices while leveling the playing field. They do this work through Equity and Empowerment (E2), the Office of Racial Equity, hate prevention, upward mobility programming, youth programming and through Commissions and Advisory Councils. The Discrimination Enforcement division of LA Civil Rights is being built and will launch as soon as possible. LA Civil Rights is responsible for enforcing Los Angeles' Civil and Human Rights Law, and has investigative powers and quasi-judicial authority to address the long-standing discrimination impacting underserved communities which denies equal treatment in private commerce, education, employment, and housing. LA Civil Rights partners with community-based organizations, faith-based institutions, business groups, Neighborhood Councils, philanthropic leaders, and academic institutions along with three commissions and two advisory boards to create equity initiatives that level the playing field through work in the following areas: policy equity lens, upward mobility programming, corporate diversity metrics, and COVID-19 equity. LA Civil Rights manages and supports the Commission on Civil Rights (CCR), The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the Human Relations Commission (HRC), The Reparations Advisory Commission, as well as the Transgender Advisory Council and various ad-hoc committees.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (6): HIDDEN DISABILITIES SUNFLOWER

Holly Tyrer and Lynn Smith of Hidden Disabilities Sunflower will discuss their organization and what it offers to people living with non-visible disabilities and to businesses, airports and travel hubs, schools, and other locations.

- I. Presentation is by Holly Tyrer and Lynn Smith of Hidden Disabilities Sunflower. The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower is a simple tool for you to voluntarily share that you have a disability or condition that may not be immediately apparent – and that you may need a helping hand, understanding, or more time in shops, at work, on transport, or in public spaces. While some experience a disability that is visible, many have a non-visible disability that is not immediately apparent to others. These can be temporary, situational or permanent. They can be neurological, cognitive and neurodevelopmental, physical, visual, auditory and including sensory and processing difficulties, respiratory, rare diseases and chronic conditions such as asthma, and diabetes. As diverse as these conditions are, so are your individual access needs and the barriers you face in your daily life. So you can opt to wear the Sunflower to discreetly be seen in shops, at work, on transport, or in public spaces.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (7): COMMISSION ON DISABILITY – ELECTION NOTICE

The Commission on Disability Officer Elections will be opened in June 2022. A brief overview of the requirements and deadlines will be shared with the Commission. The positions that are open are: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, and Secretary. Please send any questions to Peter Soto.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (8): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ongoing update on items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues. Presentation is by Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability and/or other department staff. The department is keeping track of the City's budget for the next fiscal year. The budget is passed by the City Council and will be going back to the Mayor and should have a finalized budget by the end of the month. The department included in this year's budget additional funding in the homelessness programs for people who are homeless and have disabilities, increase the funding for the self-evaluation program and to extend the contracts one more year, continuing the student professional worker program, funding for two social workers, hiring a targeted local hire, and additional funding for the durable medical equipment

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

Minutes May 18, 2023

Page 6 of 6

program.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (9): 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.

Commissioner Bitonte requested AB 313 be researched and presented for the next Commission on Disability meeting. Commissioner Cable will be attending the 16th Session Of The Conference Of States Parties To The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and will not be present during the Commission on Disability in June.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (10): ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 4:55 P.M.