



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 19, 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:

Akiko Tagawa, , President
Mary Grace A. Barrios, 1st Vice President
Jorge E. Acevedo, 2nd Vice President
Alisa Schlesinger, Commissioner
Candace Cable, Commissioner
Iran Hopkins, Commissioner
Myrna Cabanban, Commissioner
Robert Bitonte, Commissioner

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Robert Williams, Commissioner

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DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability

Ali Everett, Assistant Executive Director, Department on Disability

Ricky Rosales, AIDS Coordinator, Department on Disability

Lourdes Sinibaldi, Principal Project Coordinator, Department on Disability

Sergio Samayoa, Sr. Management Analyst, Department on Disability

Ashley Rodriguez, Public Information Officer, Department on Disability

Geoffrey Straniere, Principal Project Coordinator, Department on Disability

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Chris Lee, City Attorney's Office

GUESTS:

ITEM NO. (1): REQUEST FOR TELECONFERENCE OPTION PURSUANT TO AB 2449

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 were no Commission members attending the Commission on Disability meeting virtually. No action required by the Commission on Disability

ITEM NO. (2): APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the September 2023 regular meeting and the Commission on Disability will vote to approve them.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the minutes for the September 2023

regular meeting as amended during the meeting.

ITEM NO. (3): SPECIAL AGENDA 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): CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE PRESENTATION ON BROWN ACT AND OTHER LEGISLATION

Chris Lee will update the Commission on the current state of the Brown Act and other legislation guiding attendance and participation.

- I. Presentation is by Chris Lee, City Attorney's Office. Chris Lee updated the Commission on Disability regarding the AB 2449 Section 2(a)(i). The Department on Disability and the City Attorney's Office understand that AB 2449 Section 2(a)(i) does not consider commissioners who are disabled and may need to make more requests to participate virtually. The City Attorney's Office is currently crating a presentation and a recommendation for a better and more inclusive AB 2449 Section 2(a)(i) which would be in line with the ADA before the holiday season. The Department on Disability and the City Attorney's Office will continue to work formally on this and will reach out to the State's Office to see what can be done.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (6): DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY – ANNUAL PLANNING

Department on Disability Executive staff will discuss planning, objectives, and action items for the 2023/2024 year.

- I. Presentation is by Ashley Rodriguez, Public Information Officer,

Department on Disability. The mission of the Accessible Communications Division is to promote department series and programs, share public information through various media, and offer ADA-mandated digital accessibility training, technical assistance, and assistive technologies to City Departments. The types of services that are offered are: document remediation, sign language interpreters, communication access realtime translating, video remote interpreting, multimedia accessibility, website review and user testing, and digital accessibility training and technical assistance. The division also assists the ReelAbilities Film Festival Los Angeles.

- II. Presentation is by Ricky Rosales, AIDS Coordinator, Department on Disability. The mission of the AIDS Coordinator's Office is to develop and support programs and policies that prevent the transmission and acquisition of HIV and improve the quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS in the City of Los Angeles. One type of service that is offered is the Homelessness Prevention Advocacy Project that provides rent stabilization by quickly resolving housing disputes before they lead to an eviction. Some of the project goals and objective are to recruit and train 20 attorney and non-profit partners and recruit clients, clinics, screening and referrals, and placement. The ACO is asking the COD to promote the work of the office in the community; support the programs in conversations with the Mayor's Office, City Council, and other funders; attend department events and participate as a speaker on behalf of the COD; and advocate for expansion of services and funding to grow the reach of the programs.
- III. Presentation is by Sergio Samayoa, Sr. Management Analyst, Department on Disability. The mission of the Administrative Services Division is to provide support, services, and tools necessary to help the Department on Disability improve operational capability, while establishing departmental processes designed for stability and growth. The ASD is working on the 2024-2025 budget for the department. A letter from the Mayor's Office stated that priority funding request considerations are given to implementing strategies to end homelessness and expand housing access, preventing crime and interrupting cycles of violence, and promoting equity, climate change mitigations, and outstanding services to residents. Some of the challenges that are included in this year's budget are the potential for an economic downturn, contract negotiations with City employee unions, and homelessness as a "continuing emergency". The ASD

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will continue to provide support to the department and work on getting the departmental budget approved.

- IV. Presentation is by Lourdes Sinibaldi, Principal Project Coordinator, Department on Disability. The mission of the Community, Outreach, Resources, and Education Division is to build collaborations for social services referrals, conduct outreach for unhoused individuals with disabilities, manage the Durable Medical Equipment program, and coordinate community events and education on disability related matters. In 2022, the DME program received over 400 applications and derived 342 DME items. In fiscal year 2022-2023, the DME program received 243 applications and distributed 73 DME items. In the current fiscal year, 78 applications have been received and 73 DME items have been distributed. CORE plans to expand the DME program to include Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) devices, additional powered chairs, and ramps.

- V. Presentation is by Geoffrey Straniere, Principal Project Coordinator, Department on Disability. The mission of the Disability Access Services Division is to coordinate and monitor the City's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and related laws, and to provide technical advisement and guidance to ensure persons with disabilities have physical access to facilities as well as program access through auxiliary aids and services. The types of services that are offered are: staff training on accessibility awareness and compliance, emergency response planning and advising for accessible accommodations, responding to grievances, and offering technical assistance and advice on City facilities requirements. Some of the projects that the DASD team are working on are the Self Evaluation/Transition Plan and the Sidewalk Repair Program. The DASD team would like to collaborate with the COD by hosting a community forum to provide an opportunity for the Disability Community to offer comments on the SETP; schedule joint meetings between the COD and LAWA Disability Access and Accommodation Advisory Committee, and the LADBS Board of Disabled Access Appeals Commission; and help share information with the Disability Community about DASD services.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (6): DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY – ANNUAL PLANNING

The Department on Disability Executive staff will discuss planning, objectives, and actions items for the 2023/2024 year.

- I. Presentation is by Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability and other department staff. The Commission on Disability has the power and duties to advise the Mayor, City Council, and the Department on Disability of the needs and problems of persons with disabilities in the City of Los Angeles; hold public hearings at least once a year to take testimony of disabled persons and others regarding conditions adversely affecting the lives of disabled persons in the City and report its finding and recommendations to the Mayor and City Council; monitor program mandates of the DOD and make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on program and policy initiatives to improve the services of DOD to the disabled community and provide a better opportunity to pursue activities of daily living without discrimination; review and make recommendations to the Mayor on grant proposals; maintain active liaison with citizen groups interested in the problems facing persons with disabilities; promote greater awareness of ~~needs of the~~ changing life patterns, opportunities and responsibilities of person with disabilities; investigate and report to the Mayor and City Council instances of discrimination, barriers in areas of housing, transportation, and access to supportive services; perform specific studies and surveys on the needs of disabled persons when requested by the Mayor or City Council; and submit an annual report to the Mayor and City Council on the activities of the Commission. The purpose of the work plan is to identify objectives and actions items to achieve in support, identify ad hoc committee members for each objective, and provide an opportunity for monthly updates about what has been accomplished. The COD will have Ad Hoc Committees for policy and legislation, transportation and infrastructure, homelessness, housing, emergency management, employment, adaptive sports and recreation, and any other objectives the COD feel are necessary. The Commissioners on Ad Hoc Committee: Homelessness are Bitonte, Schlessinger, Tagawa; Policy and Legislation are Acevedo, Cabanban, Cable, Tagawa; Transportation and Infrastructure are Acevedo, Barrios, Cable; and Emergency Management are Bitonte, Tagawa.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (7): 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. No new business or announcements.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (8): ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 5:00 P.M.