



# **COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, November 16, 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  
Jorge E. Acevedo, 2nd Vice President  
Alisa Schlesinger, Commissioner  
Candace Cable, Commissioner  
Iran Hopkins, Commissioner  
Robert Bitonte, Commissioner  
Robert Williams, Commissioner

### **COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

Mary Grace A. Barrios, 1st Vice President  
Myrna Cabanban, Commissioner

# COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

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## **DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:**

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, 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 October 2023 regular meeting and will vote to approve them.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the minutes for the October 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.

#### **ITEM NO. (4): DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY – ANNUAL PLANNING**

The Commission will discuss and may choose to finalize committee formation, objectives, and action items for the 2023/2024 year, as well as appoint chair or co-chairs to those committees.

- I. Presentation is by the Department on Disability. A brief overview to finalize committee formation, objectives, and action items for the 2023/2024 year, as well as appoint chair or co-chairs to those committees. The Commission on Disability discussed the following four objectives: Objective #1 – Homelessness, Objective #2 - Policy & Legislation, Objective #3 - Transportation & Infrastructure, and Objective #4 - Emergency Management. The purpose of Objective #1 – Homelessness is to ensure the City’s homelessness services are inclusive of and responsive to the specific needs of the disability community. The Ad Hoc Committee consists of Commissioners Bitonte, Schlesinger, Williams, and Tagawa; Commissioner Bitonte is the Chair for the committee. The purpose of Objective #2 - Policy & Legislation is to advise on policy and legislation to advance equity for people with disabilities. The Ad Hoc Committee consists of Commissioners Acevedo, Cabanban, Cable, and Tagawa; Commissioners Cable and Tagawa are the Co-chairs for the committee. The purpose of Objective #3 - Transportation & Infrastructure is to maintain awareness of, monitor, and advise on City of Los Angeles transportation and infrastructure projects and policies as they impact access for people with disabilities. The Ad Hoc Committee consists of Commissioners Acevedo, Barrios, Cable; Commissioner Barrios is the Chair for the committee. The purpose of Objective #4 - Emergency Management is to ensure that people with disabilities have equal access to life-saving and sustaining services and support before, during, and after emergencies. The Ad Hoc Committee consists of Commissioners Bitonte, and Cabanban, and Tagawa; Commissioner Cabanban is the Chair for the committee.

Action Taken: Change the name of objective one to say Disabled Homelessness and add a presentation from the Social Security program, add the action item to evaluate the effectiveness of AB313 and review data on the number of State employees with disabilities, add a second presentation on treatment on COVID,

and add an action item for a presentation from EMD regarding emergency alerts.

### **ITEM NO. (5): DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY EVENTS**

The Commission will discuss various upcoming events for possible attendance and support.

- I. Presentation is by Department on Disability on various upcoming events for possible attendance and support. The department continues to update the event calendar for the Commission on Disability on a monthly basis. A few highlights of events that are happening include the following: December 1<sup>st</sup> is World AIDS Day, with City Council District 14 sponsoring a proclamation and the illumination of City Hall, Abilities Expo is on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of March, Autism Awareness recognition on April 24<sup>th</sup> with sponsorship from Council member John Lee and CSUN, ReelAbilities Film Festival will take place May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of 2024, and the 34<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA will be taking place next year.

Action Taken: Approval of the calendar and can be updated during any time.

### **ITEM NO. (6): 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. The department has been participating in the 10-freeway policy group hosted by the Mayor's Office and Emergency Management Department. LAPD and DOT have staff out at streets near the 10 freeway to direct traffic. LAHSA is on location to offer several people who are unhoused and dislocated from their spaces to get shelter. The department has made LAHSA aware of the DME program and their willingness to help people who are disabled and are unhoused. The department is also working on the budget for the next fiscal year and is asking for additional resources, to include two new positions, the creation of a new Accessible Communications Division, more funding for the DME program, increasing the overtime funding to support outreach and emergency activities, and to build out the professional worker program.

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. The Department on Disability will continue to monitor and see if a quorum can be reached for the December meeting to hold a Commission on Disability that month. Commissioner Hopkins wanted to add bringing in the World Cup Planning Committee to present on their accessibility plan and having LADBS and the California Energy Commission present on energy benchmarking reporting.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (8): ADJOURNMENT**

MEETING ADJOURNED IN HONOR OF BETTY WILSON AT APPROXIMATELY 3:20 P.M.