



## **Regular Meeting**

### **City of Los Angeles Commission on Disability**

**Thursday, July 17, 2025**

**2:00 P.M. until the conclusion of business**

Edward R. Roybal Board of Public Works Session Room 350,  
City Hall, 200 North Spring Street,  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

### **Virtual Meeting Information**

Join via Zoom: [bit.ly/zoom-lacdod24](https://bit.ly/zoom-lacdod24)

Dial by phone: 1 (669) 444-9171

Meeting ID: 896 4264 0290

Real-Time Captioning: [bit.ly/streamtext-lacdod](https://bit.ly/streamtext-lacdod)

### **Commissioners**

Akiko Tagawa, President

Mary Grace A. Barrios, 1st Vice President

Myrna Cabanban, 2nd Vice President

Alisa Schlesinger, Commissioner

Iran Hopkins, Commissioner

Jorge E. Acevedo, Commissioner

Robert Bitonte, Commissioner

Robert Williams, Commissioner

Vacant, 9th Commission Position

## **Meeting Information**

Commission on Disability regular meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 2:00 PM.

## **Virtual Attendance Information**

Public participants may join the Commission meeting via the Zoom link or phone number provided above. Participants joining by phone will be asked for a meeting ID. Please enter 844-7583-0151 followed by the pound sign (#).

## **Public Comment**

Comments by the public on agenda items and on all other matters within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission will be heard during the "Multiple Agenda Item Public Comment" period of the meeting.

Members of the public who wish to speak on Agendized items and Non-Agendized items shall be allowed to speak for up to two (2) minutes per Agendized item, and two (2) minutes on Non-Agendized items, up to a total of five (5) minutes per meeting. We request that each speaker announce their name before public comment. This is for the benefit of meeting captioners, interpreters, and attendees.

All in-person requests to address the Commission must be submitted to the Commission support staff prior to the Commission's consideration of the item through physical Public Comment cards available at the meeting room entrance.

**During virtual meetings all attendees are automatically muted upon entry. Please use the RAISE HAND function to indicate your wish to speak on a specific agenda item. To use the RAISE HAND function, press star (\*) and then 9 When called upon, you may UNMUTE by pressing star (\*) and then 6.**

If you wish to provide documents to the full Commission for consideration on an item, please present the COD Liaison with 20 copies. Otherwise, your material will simply be added to the official record.

## **Agenda Packet**

This agenda packet is available on the Department on Disability Website at <https://disability.lacity.gov/about/commission-disability>. To request to be placed on the agenda packet mailing list, provide your email address to the Commission support staff at the Commission meeting or contact the Department on Disability: 201 North Figueroa Street, Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90012; (213) 202-2764; [dod.contact@lacity.org](mailto:dod.contact@lacity.org).

## **Accommodations**

Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART) and American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation are provided at each meeting. Upon request, materials in alternative formats and other reasonable accommodations are available for City-sponsored meetings and events. For additional information or to request an accommodation, please contact the Commission on Disability at least five business days in advance by calling 213-202-2764 (Voice), dial 711 for CA Relay, or email [DOD.Contact@lacity.org](mailto:DOD.Contact@lacity.org).

## **Meeting Agenda**

### **Item One (1) - Request for Remote Participation Option Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)(2)(a)**

In accordance with Government Code Section 54953(e)(2)(a) members may now notify the commission of their need to participate remotely for just cause or request the commission to allow them to participate in the meeting remotely due to emergency circumstances, 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 subdivision shall not be used by any member of the commission or more than two meetings per calendar year. The member shall publicly disclose at the meeting before any action is taken whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present in the room at the remote location with the member, and the general nature of the member's relationship with any such individuals. The member shall participate through both audio and visual technology.

Item is for **Discussion** and **Action**.

### **Item Two (2) - Multiple Agenda Item Public Comment**

Comments by the public on agenda items and on all other matters within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission will be heard during the "Multiple Agenda Item Public Comment" period of the meeting. Members of the public who wish to speak on Agendized items and Non-Agendized items shall be allowed to speak for up to two (2) minutes per Agendized item, and two (2) minutes on Non-Agendized items, up to a total of five (5) minutes per meeting.

Item is for **Information**.

### **Item Three (3) - Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes**

The Commission will review the minutes of the May 2025 special meeting and vote to approve.

Item is for **Discussion** and **Action**.

**Item Four (4) - Special Acknowledgement of Former Commissioner  
Candace Cable**

Former Commissioner Candace Cable will be presented with a certificate in recognition of her years of dedicated service to the City of Los Angeles's Commission on Disability.

Item is for **Information**.

**Item Five (5) - Presentation by the State Council on Developmental  
Disabilities (SCDD)**

Sofia Cervantes, Defense Advocate, SCDD, will present a comprehensive overview of the Council's services, including any updates or anticipated impacts stemming from recent federal policy or funding alterations that may influence its operations or the broader Disability communities.

Item is for **Information**.

**Item Six (6) - Commission on Disability FY 2024-25 Report of  
Accomplishments Review and Approval**

The current ad hoc committees - Commission Bylaws and Advocacy, Disability Culture and Legacy, Aviation and Transportation Network Companies (TNCs), Accessible Infrastructure and Communication, Housing Equity - will review and discuss, and may approve, the draft Fiscal Year 2025-26 Report of Accomplishments.

Item is for **Discussion and Action**.

### **Item Seven (7) - Commission on Disability FY 2024-25 Attendance Report Review and Approval**

The Commission will review and approve the FY 2024-25 Attendance Report.

Item is for **Discussion and Action**.

### **Item Eight (8) - Executive Director's Report**

The Department on Disability Executive Director, Stephen David Simon, and/or other department staff will provide an update on items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues.

Item is for **Information**.

### **Item Nine (9) - Commission on Disability Officer Elections for FY 2025-26**

Election of Commission on Disability President and Vice President for the 2025-26 Fiscal Year.

Item is for **Discussion and Action**.

### **Item Ten (10) - New Business and Announcements**

Announcements from Commissioners and City staff and requested agenda items for future Commission meetings.

Item is for **Discussion**.

### **Item Eleven (11) - Adjournment**

Adjournment

Item is for **Action**.



## **Special Meeting Minutes**

### **City of Los Angeles Commission on Disability**

**Thursday, May 15, 2025**

**2:00 P.M. until the conclusion of business**

City Controller Conference Room

Room 351

Los Angeles City Hall East

200 N. Main Street

Los Angeles, California 90012

Zoom Video Conference

### **Commissioners Present**

Akiko Tagawa, President

Mary Grace A. Barrios, 1st Vice President

Myrna Cabanban, 2nd Vice President

Candace Cable, Secretary

Jorge E. Acevedo, Commissioner

Robert Bitonte, Commissioner

Iran Hopkins, Commissioner

Alisa Schlesinger, Commissioner

Robert Williams, Commissioner

### **Commissioners Absent**

N/A

### **City Staff Present**

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability  
Alison Everett, Assistant Executive Director, Department on Disability  
Kayvon Wroten, Department on Disability  
Salina Goytia, Department on Disability  
Peter Soto, Department on Disability  
Gail Delgado-Huezo, Department on Disability

### **Item One (1) - Request for Remote Participation Option Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)(2)(a)**

In accordance with Government Code Section 54953(e)(2)(a) members may now notify the commission of their need to participate remotely for just cause or request the commission to allow them to participate in the meeting remotely due to emergency circumstances, 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 subdivision shall not be used by any member of the commission or more than two meetings per calendar year. The member shall publicly disclose at the meeting before any action is taken whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present in the room at the remote location with the member, and the general nature of the member's relationship with any such individuals. The member shall participate through both audio and visual technology.

Action Taken: There were no Commission members attending the Commission on Disability meeting remotely. No action required by the Commission on Disability.

### **Item Two (2) - Approval of Minutes**

The Commission will review the minutes of the April 2025 special meeting and vote to approve.

Commissioner Cable requested the minutes be amended with edits before approval.



Action Taken: Commissioner Cabanban moved, and Commissioner Barrios seconded, to approve the minutes of the April 2025 special meeting, as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Item Three (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.

Public comment was provided on the following topics applicable to the Commission's scope of work:

- Public commenters addressed housing, FEMA, and the budget cuts affecting the Disability community.
- Public commenters raised concerns about reports indicating that blockades of public rights-of-way off Sunset Blvd. in Hollywood existed for over eight months before legal action was taken. Additionally, they noted that the street still lacks ADA-compliant parking.
- Public commenters expressed their gratitude to community members for attending the meeting and advocating on their behalf, thanked the presenters; noting that people with Disabilities are often forgotten in disaster planning, and that Disabled fire victims need more help and during the rebuilding stage; and recommended the City learning from people with Disabilities who survived disasters.
- A public commenter shared that a friend's wheelchair was damaged at an LA Metro station and has been unable to receive a replacement. Additionally, highlighted the lack of transition resources, which has led to some individuals experiencing homelessness.
- A public commenter thanked the DOD for access to teleconference public comment, and would like the City Council to create a report on why this is no longer allowed for Council and Committees. She requests that LA28 allow teleconferences to allow members of the Disability community to actively participate in a major event in Los Angeles.
- A public commenter stated that she is having serious long term issues with DME and it is very emotionally and physically challenging.

- A public commenter spoke about the LA Municipal Code and noted that many revenue streams within the City of Los Angeles that are not being realized due to lack of enforcement.

Executive Director Stephen Simon informed the Commission that the Metro Advisory Committee meets the second Thursday of each month 213 922-6919 for commentary on Metro issues, and that for repairs on wheelchairs constituents could contact CALIF at (213) 627-0477.

No action taken, information purposes only.

#### **Item Four (4) - Presentation by Disability Disaster Access & Resources (DDAR)**

Michael Martinez, Disability Disaster Access & Resource Coordinator (DDARC) at CALIF, and Ben Kahn, DDARC at the Disability Community Resource Center (DCRC), will present on the Disability Disaster Access & Resources (DDAR) Program. They will cover services such as emergency preparedness, backup power for medical equipment, and accessible resources during disasters. They'll also explain how the program supports older adults and people with disabilities during Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) and other emergencies. In addition, Lilly Sanchez, Program Director at Communities Actively Living Independent & Free (CALIF), will give a presentation on the Downtown Los Angeles Independent Living Center. She will discuss the role of Independent Living Centers, which are operated by a majority of people with disabilities and serve individuals with all types of disabilities. Her presentation will highlight the services.

Michael Martinez, Ben Kahn, and Lilly Sanchez presented on the DDAR program and their respective independent living centers. Communities Actively Living Independent & Free, (CALIF). CALIF is an independent living center that offers various services to people with Disabilities. CALIF collaborates with other City departments to ensure services are provided. There are 29 independent living centers in California. In serving as a hub for Disability services, this program assists with vital information and direct services for government benefits. In addition, there is a personal service department that advocates and assists with in-home support. CALIF has 2 housing coordinators that

assist with applications and related advocacy. CALIF centers also offer a Durable Medical Equipment (DME) in-house repair program and public education to address discrimination in the community. The presenters went on to explain CALIF's assistive technology division has programs that may provide iPads with technology to help one speak through that app.

CALIF works with DDAR and FEMA to provide emergency information, resources and assistance before and after a disaster. During the recent Palisades fire, DDAR individually reached out to more than 800 people with Disabilities within hours of the fire to conduct service needs and assessment. DDAR also arranged hotel stays, transportation, and food assistance for those affected by the fire. They assisted in keeping medical devices operational through energy and back up battery support in addition to providing gift cards and propane and generating equipment for people. They work directly with the Los Angeles Emergency Management Department (EMD) and stakeholders to identify and address potential issues before they escalate. For more information, CALIF is located at 634 South Spring Street on the second floor. Phone number, (213) 627-0477. CALIF does not require referrals for service.

Commissioner Bitonte asked if CALIF offered housing facilities on-site. Michael Martinez responded "No"; transition services for exiting from an institution are offered. In response to CALIF noting services for both Disability and Aging communities, Commissioner Cable stated she thought that Independent Living Centers only work with people with disabilities. Lilly Sanchez responded that CALIF services are for ALL types of medical conditions and ages. Commissioner Cable also asked if older adults have to identify as a person with disability for services? Lilly Sanchez responded, No, but for specific core services, they would have to identify as having a Disability. Commissioner Tagawa asked how many personnel were involved in the emergency call center as part of the outreach? Ben Kahn responded 14.

No action taken, for informational purposes only.

### **Item Five (5) - Review and Approval of the Updated Bylaws of the Commission on Disability**

The Commission on Disability will review and consider approval of the updated Bylaws of the Commission on Disability.

Commissioner Bitonte moved and President Tagawa seconded to approve the Commission Bylaws with amendments from Commissioners. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Item Six (6) - Opening of the Commission on Disability Officer Elections for FY 2025-26**

The Commission on Disability Officer Election process will be opened. A brief overview of the requirements and deadlines will be shared with the Commission, and Commissioners may nominate and self-nominate for the officer positions of: President and Vice President.

Commissioner Barrios was nominated for Vice President by themselves.  
President Tagawa was nominated for President by Commissioner Barrios.  
Commissioner Cabanban was nominated for Vice President by President Tagawa.

Executive Director Simon reminded the Commission that nominations will close at the July Commission Meeting before voting begins.

No action taken, for informational purposes only.

### **Item Seven (7) - Ad Hoc Committee Updates**

The current ad hoc committees - Commission Bylaws and Advocacy, Disability Culture and Legacy, Aviation and Transportation Network Companies, Accessible Infrastructure and Communication, Housing Equity - will provide work plan updates and written recommendations, if any, which the Commission may choose to act upon.

The Ad Hoc Committees provided the following updates:

- Ad Hoc Committee 1 (Commission Bylaws and Advocacy):
  - Commissioner Cabanban reported the Commission's updated Bylaws were approved with amendments during the May 15th Commission meeting.
- Ad Hoc Committee 2 (Disability Culture and Legacy):

- Commissioner Cable discussed with staff from the Department of Cultural Affairs the possibility of creating a mural celebrating disability culture and informed the Commission that DCA is interested in working with the Commission on the mural.
- Ad Hoc Committee 3 (Aviation and Transportation Network Companies (TNCs):
  - No update provided
- Ad Hoc Committee 4 (Accessible Infrastructure and Communication)
  - No update provided
- Ad Hoc Committee 5 (Housing Equity):
  - No update provided

Action Taken: No action taken.

## **Item Eight (8) - Executive Director's Report**

The Department on Disability **Executive Director, Stephen David Simon**, and/or other department staff will provide an update on items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues.

Executive Director Stephen David Simon provided the following information as part of his Executive Director's Report:

- Budget and Mayor's Office Updates
  - Noted the status of efforts to retain Department on Disability staff.
  - Noted that three Special Studies were requested by the Budget and Finance Committee and DOD will work on the reports. There is no specific due date:
    - Games Access Updates and Information
      - Report on the resources, including staff and other expenses, that the Department on Disability would need to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations and prepare for large scale events such as the 2026 World Cup and 2028 Games.
    - Web & Accessible Access Updates and Information
      - Report on the staffing needs for the Department on Disability and Information Technology Agency (ITA) to comply with the

Americans with Disabilities Act's (ADA) "Final Rule" on web and mobile application accessibility requirements by the April 2026 deadline.

- Fee Study Information
  - Report on the feasibility of establishing a fee for service program for Disability to ensure that physical improvements and electronic services such as websites are reimbursed by other City departments, including proprietary departments.
- Legislative Updates
  - Reported on the Regional Coordinating Council on Aging and Disability Update
  - Noted a possible June Presentation regarding Federal Disability policy changes.
- Other Items
  - Noted the Public Hearing is scheduled for June 12th 2025, 2pm (Next Meeting)
    - Topic: Emergency Evacuation for People with Disabilities in Greater Los Angeles
    - Location: Edward R. Roybal Board of Public Works Session Room, 200 N Spring Street, Room 350, City Hall (usual location)

No action taken, for information and discussion only.

## **Item Nine (9) - New Business and Announcements**

Announcements from Commissioners and City staff and requested agenda items for future Commission meetings.

Commissioner Cable stated she will be leaving the Commission as of July. She expressed how honored and grateful she was to have served with the Commission on Disability for 5 years. Commissioner Hopkins urged all Commissioners to educate the public about the Department's June 12th Public Hearing Meeting. Commissioner Cabanban announced the 11th Annual Angel City Games will be held at El Camino College on June 27-29th, 2025 and encouraged all Commissioners to attend. Commissioner Hopkins requested to have revenue information on the budgetary talks on how the City could improve revenue generation. Executive Director Simon stated that

there have been discussions on this topic and the amended budget will be released this upcoming Friday.

No action taken, for discussion only.

## **Item Ten (10) - Adjournment**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:19 P.M.



## City of Los Angeles Commission on Disability

### **Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Report of Accomplishments**

The Commission shall provide a forum for the identification and discussion of difficulties encountered by Disabled persons in our society, and shall make recommendations to the Mayor and the City Council on measures which the Federal, State and local governments may undertake to assure that persons with disabilities may participate without any hindrance in the life of our community.

### **Powers and Duties**

1. Advise the Mayor, the City Council and the Department on Disability on the needs and challenges of persons with disabilities in the City of Los Angeles.
2. Hold public hearings at least once a year as a regular or special meeting to take testimony from persons with disabilities and others regarding issues impacting the lives of persons with disabilities in the City of Los Angeles, and report the Commission's findings and recommendations to the Mayor and the City Council.
3. Monitor the program mandates of the Department on Disability and make recommendations to the Mayor and the City Council on program and policy initiatives to improve the service of the Department to the Disability community and provide persons with disabilities in the City of Los Angeles a better opportunity and ability to pursue activities of daily living without discrimination.
4. Review and make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on funding disability access for City programs and services.
5. Maintain active liaisons with Disability community stakeholders interested in the problems facing persons with disabilities.
6. Promote greater awareness of Disability culture, as well as civic and community engagement of persons with disabilities.
7. Investigate and report to the Mayor and the City Council instances of discrimination based on disability, as well as ableism and attitudinal barriers in



areas including housing, transportation, employment, recreation, public information, health and social services, civil and human rights, and legislation.

8. Perform specific studies and surveys on the needs of persons with disabilities when requested by the Mayor and/or the City Council.
9. Submit an annual report to the Mayor and the City Council on the activities of the Commission.

## **FY 2024-2025 Ad Hoc Committees**

[Ad Hoc Committee #1 - Commission Bylaws and Advocacy](#)

[Ad Hoc Committee #2 - Disability Culture and Legacy](#)

[Ad Hoc Committee #3 - Aviation and Transportation Network Companies \(TNCs\)](#)

[Ad Hoc Committee #4 - Accessible Infrastructure and Communication](#)

[Ad Hoc Committee #5 - Housing Equity](#)

## Ad Hoc Committee #1 - Commission Bylaws and Advocacy

### Ad Hoc Committee Members

- President Tagawa
- Commissioner Cabanban

### Objectives and Action Items

1. Recommend revisions to the Commission Bylaws
  - **Status:** Complete
2. Recommend inclusive language for use by the Commission on Disability and Citywide use
  - Help compile language to recommend for use in the guidelines
  - Draft recommendations for consideration by the Commission
  - **Status:** Complete
3. Draft a letter to the Mayor expressing concerns regarding the previous fiscal year budget cuts to the Department on Disability and recommend increasing the budget
  - Meet with the Department on Disability to understand critical needs
  - Draft the letter to the Mayor
  - **Status:** Complete. Letter sent to the Budget and Finance Committee regarding DOD's FY 25-26 proposed budget.
4. Presentation by Disability Rights California and Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF) on what they are working on and how COD can contribute
  - **Status:** Complete. DREDF presented in November.

### Work Plan Updates

#### October

- President Tagawa appointed herself and Commissioner Cabanban to the Commission Bylaws and Advocacy ad hoc committee
- The ad hoc committee finalized its objectives and action items

#### November

- The Commission received a presentation from DREDF about DREDF's work where it intersects municipal policy, legal advocacy and support, and the Parent Training

and Information Center (PTI), as well as additional resources and news from DREDF

#### December

- December Meeting Cancelled

#### January

- No update provided

#### February

- The Committee drafted a letter to Deputy Mayor Shockley requesting that City Officials, Offices, and department used standardized Disability inclusive language and provided three options for Disability inclusive language for the Commission to select to attach to the letter.
- The Commission approved the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation to send a letter to Deputy Mayor Shockley requesting that City Officials, Offices, and departments use standardized Disability inclusive language, with the United Nations Inclusive Language Guidelines attached, and asked that the Department to transmit it on their behalf.

#### March

- The ad hoc committee reported that they completed the draft of their proposed revisions to the Commission Bylaws.

#### April

- The ad hoc committee presented the draft of its proposed revisions of the Commission Bylaws during the April meeting. After discussion, the Commission referred the bylaws back to the ad hoc committee for additional changes.

#### May

- Commissioner Cabanban reported the Commission's updated Bylaws were approved with amendments during the May 15th Commission meeting.
- President Tagawa sent a letter via email to the Budget and Finance Committee regarding DOD's FY 25-26 proposed budget.

#### June

- June Meeting Cancelled

## Ad Hoc Committee #2 - Disability Culture and Legacy

### Ad Hoc Committee Members

- Commissioner Cable (Chair)
- Commissioner Hopkins (Co-Chair)
- Commissioner Cabanban
- Commissioner Williams

### Purpose

Create systemic change that builds the visibility and lasting legacy of persons with Disabilities and the Paralympic Games in the City of Los Angeles.

### Objectives and Action Items

1. Recommend that a City street be named after the Paralympics
  - Research the process of naming a street in Los Angeles
  - Choose a name
  - **Status:** Complete. The Commission informally made the recommendation and the Office of Major Events has indicated they are planning to pursue it.
2. Explore opportunities to recognize Betty Wilson, including possibly establishing an annual award for Disability advocacy in her name.
  - Permanent Structure Naming and Award (What kind of award will it be? Trophy, Plaque, Funds?)
  - Establish how and who will give the award
  - Have the Department give/organize awards through the City as collaborative
  - Establish criteria for award
  - **Status:** In Progress. Consider for inclusion in FY 2025-2026
3. Collaborate with the Department of Cultural Affairs to recommend creating a mural celebrating Disability culture.
  - Request a presentation from the Department of Cultural Affairs to discuss where the COD can collaborate.
  - Suggest mural be made celebrating Disability culture
  - **Status:** In Progress. Consider for inclusion in FY 2025-2026

## **Work Plan Updates**

### October

- President Tagawa appointed Commissioners Cable, Hopkins, Cabanban, and Williams to the Disability Culture and Legacy ad hoc committee
- The ad hoc committee finalized its objectives and action items

### November

- No update provided

### December

- December Meeting Cancelled

### January

- No update provided

### February

- No update provided

### March

- No update provided

### April

- The ad hoc committee reported that it has been researching the process for naming a street, office, or building after former Commissioner Betty Wilson.
- The commission received a presentation from the Department of Cultural Affairs about its programs and efforts to advance accessibility and inclusion in collaboration with the disability community.

### May

- Commissioner Cable discussed with staff from the Department of Cultural Affairs the possibility of creating a mural celebrating disability culture and informed the Commission that DCA is interested in working with the Commission on the mural.

### June

- June Meeting Cancelled

## **Ad Hoc Committee #3 - Aviation and Transportation Network Companies (TNCs)**

### **Ad Hoc Committee Members**

- Commissioner Barrios
- Commissioner Cabanban
- Commissioner Acevedo

### **Objectives and Action Items**

1. Request a presentation from LAWA and/or Metro on transportation services into LAWA including but not limited to:
  - Plan for persons with mobility issues from home to the airport and back
  - Plan for World Cup and LA28 Games and routes
  - Plan for the future LAWA/METRO joint project and each facility
  - **Status:** Complete
2. Conduct one or more site visits of various locations associated with the joint LAWA METRO project, the Automated People Mover (APM) and recent Downtown Los Angeles renovations and new stations
  - **Status:** Not Complete. Consider for inclusion in FY 2025-2026
3. Collaborate with the Disability Access and Accommodation Advisory Committee (DAAAC) to address access issues at the airport
  - **Status:** Not Complete. Consider for inclusion in FY 2025-2026
4. Request that Waymo present to the Commission about the accessibility of their services in follow up to preliminary information gathered at a prior meeting.
  - **Status:** Complete. Waymo presented to the ad hoc committee, but will not present to the full Commission
5. Request a presentation by LA DOT on accessible transportation options
  - **Status:** Complete.

### **Work Plan Updates**

#### October

- President Tagawa appointed Commissioners Barrios, Cabanban, and Acevedo to the Aviation and Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) ad hoc committee

#### November

- The ad hoc committee reported that it requested a presentation from Waymo, however Waymo stated that they are only able to present to committee, not the full commission in a public meeting

December

- December Meeting Cancelled

January

- No update provided

February

- The Commission received a presentation from Metro about accessible transportation for the 2026 World Cup and 2028 Olympics and Paralympics, and the plan for the LAX/Metro Transit Center and how it connects to the LAX Automated People Mover Train System.

March

- No update provided

April

- The ad hoc committee reported that the LAX airport arrivals and departures now have well marked accessible parking areas and commended the members of the LAWA Airport Access Advisory Committee for their work on this issue.

May

- No update provided

June

- June Meeting Cancelled

## **Ad Hoc Committee #4 - Accessible Infrastructure and Communication**

### **Ad Hoc Committee Members**

- Commissioner Barrios
- Commissioner Cable

### **Purpose**

To advise and contribute to the City of Los Angeles infrastructure and communication initiatives on the embracement of access and opportunities for everyone.

### **Objectives and Action Items**

1. Recommend the City adopt Atkinson HyperLegible font as the City's standard business font used for all public information
  - Request presentation from the Braille Institute on history and background of accessible fonts for implementation to City of Los Angeles
  - Draft a letter to the Mayor's office and council requesting the use of Atkinson Hyperlegible font for the entire City of Los Angeles
  - **Status:** Not Complete. Consider for inclusion in FY 2025-2026 Work Plan.
2. Make recommendations to improve physical accessibility at City Hall
  - Obtain a list of accessibility barriers at City Hall from Commissioner Barrios and request necessary changes
  - Research the process for requesting and funding accessibility improvements at City Hall
  - Request a copy of the accessibility evaluation of City Hall performed as part of the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan
  - Determine applicability of CROWN Act to City facilities
  - Meet with a representative from the Board of Public Works to discuss the Board's work related to accessibility of City facilities
  - **Status:** In-Progress. Consider for inclusion in FY 2025-2026 Work Plan.
3. Recommend Spanish translation for Commission meeting items and materials
  - Research if Spanish translation of Commission materials is feasible and technically possible, including but not limited to:
    - Spanish captions during meetings
    - Whether Spanish translation and captions are provided at City Council meetings



- **Status:** Not Complete. Consider for inclusion in FY 2025-2026 Work Plan.
- 4. Research the feasibility of creating a media campaign promoting the need for sidewalk infrastructure improvements in advance of the LA28 Games, then make recommendations as appropriate.
  - Request a presentation about updates to the LA28 Games infrastructure accessibility plan, then make recommendations as appropriate
  - Research what is necessary for the City of LA to make a public service announcement
  - Determine which City department is the lead on public/pedestrian paths of travel for the LA28 Games, FIFA World Cup, and other major events
  - Determine how the Commission can amplify the reopening of Willits Case for the need of accessibility infrastructure in the City of LA during the LA28 Games.
  - **Status:** Not Complete. Consider for inclusion in FY 2025-2026 Work Plan.
- 5. Request a presentation from Throne Labs about their services and accessibility
  - **Status:** Complete

## Work Plan Updates

### October

- President Tagawa appointed Commissioners Barrios and Cable to the Accessible Infrastructure and Communication ad hoc committee
- The ad hoc committee finalized its purpose, objectives and action items
- The Commissioners received a presentation during the Commission meeting from Throne Labs explaining their services in smart accessible bathrooms

### November

- No update provided

### December

- December Meeting Cancelled

### January

- The ad hoc committee reported that the accessibility barriers they reported at City Hall have been addressed by the General Services Department, with the exception of making the door on the accessible stalls self-closing because the necessary part is on backorder.

- President Tagawa informed the Commission and the ad hoc committee that the General Services Department has submitted a FY 25-26 budget request that will support the Department's capacity to address Disability access and that they would appreciate support from the Commission. President Tagawa asked the ad hoc committee to meet with staff prior to the next meeting for more information so the Commission can submit a letter of support as part of the budget process.

#### February

- The Ad Hoc Committee drafted a letter of support for the General Services Department's Preventative Maintenance Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Package Request.
- The Commission approved the Ad Hoc Committee's draft letter and asked that the Department transmit it to the Budget and Finance Committee on their behalf.

#### March

- No update provided

#### April

- No update provided

#### May

- No update provided

#### June

- June Meeting Cancelled

#### **Status**

## Ad Hoc Committee #5 - Housing Equity

### Ad Hoc Committee Members

- President Tagawa
- Commissioner Bitonte

### Objectives and Action Items

1. Establish a partnership with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to prioritize individuals with disabilities on housing lists
  - **Status:** Not Complete. Consider for inclusion in FY 2025-2026 Work Plan.
2. Draft a recommendation to the City for awareness, inclusion, and advocacy to support individuals with disabilities who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
  - Request a presentation on the status of the Inside Safe program as it relates to accessibility and services to individuals with disabilities.
  - Request presentation from LA Housing Dept. regarding Accessible Housing Program (AHP) Requirements
  - Request a presentation by LAHSA or other LA City entity that can provide data about the number of individuals with disabilities experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Los Angeles.
  - Request a presentation by LAHSA or other LA City entity that can provide data about the amount of funding allocated towards individuals with disabilities experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Los Angeles.
  - **Status:** Not Complete. Consider for inclusion in FY 2025-2026 Work Plan.
3. Recommend the Federal government establish a mobile SSI pilot program
  - Draft a recommendation to the City for awareness and support of the project.
  - **Status:** Not Complete. Consider for inclusion in FY 2025-2026 Work Plan.

### Work Plan Updates

#### October

- President Tagawa appointed herself and Commissioner Bitonte to the Housing Equity Committee

#### November

- No update provided

December

- December Meeting Cancelled

January

- Commissioner Bitonte reported that he researched and compiled his past records related to the mobile SSI program and will share that information with the ad hoc committee for review.

February

- No update provided

March

- No update provided

April

- Commissioner Bitonte reported that he provided Department staff with copies of prior Commission documents about the mobile SSI program. President Tagawa requested that the ad hoc committee draft a recommendation about the mobile SSI program for Commission consideration at an upcoming meeting and noted that the documents should be included in the agenda packet for that meeting.

May

- No update provided

June

- June Meeting Cancelled

## **Presentation Schedule**

FY 2024-2025

### September

- Meeting cancelled

### October

- Presentation from the Los Angeles Disabilities & Aging Collaborative
  - Hector Ochoa, Director of College Transitions, Southern California Regional Services for Independent Living (SCRS - IL)
  - Zenay Hayward, Housing and Homelessness Coordinator, DOD
- Presentation from Throne Labs about their services and accessibility
  - Jessica Henzelman, Co-founder and COO
  - Daniel Brumbaugh, Account Executive

### November

- Presentation from the Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department
  - Kim Kasreliovich, Assistant General Manager
- Presentation from Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)
  - Nicole Bohn, Executive Director

### December

- December Meeting cancelled

### January

- Presentation from California Mentor East Los Angeles Family Home Agency (FHA) about their services
  - Danika Rosales, Program Recruiter
- Presentation from the Department on Disability about the Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Program
  - Lourdes Sinibaldi, CORE Division Director

### February

- Presentation from Metro about accessible transportation for the 2026 World Cup and 2028 Olympics and Paralympics, and the plan for the LAX/Metro Transit Center and how it connects to the LAX Automated People Mover Train System (*confirmed*)

- Benjamin Alcazar, Office of Civil Rights / Racial Equity / Diversity & Inclusion, Office of Chief of Staff
- Hector Gutierrez, Senior Manager, Office of Strategic Innovation, LA Metro

#### March

- Presentation from LAWA on the Plan for the LAX Automated People Mover Train System and its connection to the LAX/Metro Transit Center, with an emphasis on accessibility for people with disabilities (*confirmed*)
  - Cassandra Heredia, LAWA ADA Coordinator
  - Presentation Rescheduled - Date (TBD)

#### April

- Presentation by the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) regarding how the Department and Commission on Disability can collaborate
  - Juan Garcia, DCA's Acting Director of Marketing and Development as well as Public Information Director

#### May

- Presentation by Disability Disaster Access & Resources (DDAR) about the services and information they provide to constituents with disabilities
  - Micheal Martinez, DDAR Coordinator (Central Los Angeles/Santa Clarita Valley) Disability Disaster Access & Resources (DDAR) CALIF-ILC (Communities Actively Living Independent & Free)
- Presentation by Independent Living Center about the services and information they provide to constituents with disabilities.
  - Lilly Sanchez, Program Director, Communities Actively Living Independent & Free (CALIF)

#### June

- June Meeting Cancelled

#### July

- Presentation by the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (in lieu of a Regional Center) about the Council's services and impacts of recent funding and legislative changes.

**FY 2024-2025 Attendance**  
**City of Los Angeles Commission on Disability**

| Commissioner                  | Jul | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | % Attended |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| Akiko Tagawa, President       | P   | P   | C    | P   | P   | C   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | C   | 100%       |
| Mary Grace A. Barrios, 1st VP | P   | P   | C    | A   | A   | C   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | C   | 78%        |
| Myrna Cabanban, 2nd VP        | P   | P   | C    | P   | P   | C   | P   | P   | A   | P   | P   | C   | 89%        |
| Candace Cable, Secretary      | P   | P   | C    | P   | P   | C   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | C   | 100%       |
| Jorge E. Acevedo              | P   | P   | C    | A   | P   | C   | A   | P   | P   | P   | P   | C   | 78%        |
| Robert Bitonte                | A   | P   | C    | P   | P   | C   | P   | A   | P   | P   | P   | C   | 78%        |
| Iran Hopkins                  | P   | P   | C    | P   | P   | C   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | C   | 100%       |
| Alisa Schlesinger             | P   | P   | C    | A   | P   | C   | P   | P   | P   | P   | P   | C   | 89%        |
| Robert Williams               | P   | P   | C    | P   | A   | C   | A   | P   | P   | P   | P   | C   | 78%        |

**Key****P = Present****A = Absent****C = Cancelled**

**The following Bylaws were adopted by the Commission on Disability on May 15, 2025 for the conduct of the Commission's business.**

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**BYLAWS OF  
THE COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**

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**ARTICLE I - GENERAL**

The name of this commission is the Commission on Disability, hereafter referred to as the Commission. The Commission is created within the government of the City of Los Angeles (the City).

**ARTICLE II - PURPOSE AND POWERS**

**Section 2.01 General Purpose**

The Commission shall provide a forum for the identification and discussion of difficulties encountered by persons with disabilities in our society, and shall make recommendations to the Mayor and the City Council on measures which Federal, State and local governments may undertake to ensure that persons with disabilities may participate without any hindrance in community life.



## **Section 2.02 Enumerated Powers and Duties:**

The Commission is empowered to and shall:

1. Advise the Mayor, the City Council and the Department on Disability on the needs and challenges of persons with disabilities in the City of Los Angeles.
2. Hold public hearings at least once a year as a regular or special meeting to take testimony from persons with disabilities and others regarding issues impacting the lives of persons with disabilities in the City of Los Angeles, and report the Commission's findings and recommendations to the Mayor and the City Council.
3. Monitor the program mandates of the Department on Disability and make recommendations to the Mayor and the City Council on program and policy initiatives to improve the service of the Department to the Disability community and provide persons with disabilities in the City of Los Angeles a better opportunity and ability to pursue activities of daily living without discrimination.
4. Review and make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on funding disability access for City programs and services.
5. Maintain active liaisons with Disability community stakeholders interested in the problems facing persons with disabilities.
6. Promote greater awareness of Disability culture, as well as civic and community engagement of persons with disabilities.

7. Investigate and report to the Mayor and the City Council instances of discrimination based on disability, as well as ableism and attitudinal barriers in areas including housing, transportation, employment, recreation, public information, health and social services, civil and human rights, and legislation.
8. Perform specific studies and surveys on the needs of persons with disabilities when requested by the Mayor and/or the City Council.
9. Submit an annual report to the Mayor and the City Council on the activities of the Commission.

## **ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 3.01 General**

The members of the Commission shall have no liability for dues or assessments. The rights and privileges of all members shall be equal.

### **Section 3.02 Number of Members**

The Commission is composed of nine (9) members in accordance with Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 8.242 (a).

### **Section 3.03 Appointment of Members**

The Commission members shall be appointed, and may be removed in accordance with Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 8.242 (b).

### **Section 3.04 Term of Office**

Each Commissioner's term of office is five years, beginning on the first day of July following the expiration of the prior term in accordance with Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 8.242 (c).

Each member, including a member appointed to fill a vacancy, shall hold office until expiration of the term for which they are appointed and until a successor has been appointed.

### **Section 3.05 Attendance**

Commission members are expected to attend Commission meetings and other committee meetings to which they have been assigned.

Commission members will be counted as absent if they are not present at Commission meetings. A Commission member who is distracted from participating in the Commission meeting due to using mobile devices for business unrelated to the Commission may also be considered absent.

Commission members who have unexcused absences for two (2) consecutive meetings, or three total meetings within a calendar year, may be considered inactive and be recommended for removal.

The Commission President is responsible for determining whether an absence is excused. Except in extenuating circumstances, Commissioners must notify the Commission President and/or Commission Liaison of the absence prior to the meeting for the absence to be eligible to be considered as excused.

The Commission Liaison is responsible for recording Commission member attendance.

### **Section 3.06 Commissioner Representation**

No Commissioner shall purport to represent or speak on behalf of the Commission without prior approval by the Commission President or the majority of the Commission.

### **Section 3.07 Resignation**

Any member of the Commission may resign by notifying the Commission President or the Secretary in writing.

## **ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS**

### **Section 4.01 General**

The officers of the Commission shall be a President and Vice President.

The Commission may, from time to time, appoint such other officers with titles, authority and duties as the Commission may designate by amendment to these bylaws.

### **Section 4.02 President**

The Commission President shall supervise and control all business affairs of the Commission. The Commission President shall preside at all meetings of the Commission and advise the officers and the Commission on matters

of general policy, and perform such other duties as may be assigned to the Commission President from time to time by the Commission.

### **Section 4.03 Vice President**

The Commission Vice President shall assume the role of the Commission President in the event of the Commission President's absence.

In the event the Vice President is not available to assume the role of the Commission President in the event of the Commission President's absence, the Commission President, or the Commission Vice President if the Commission President is not available, may appoint another Commissioner to act on the Commission President's behalf. Such appointments shall be specific and limited only to temporary duties necessary to continue the work of the Commission in the absence of the Commission President and Vice-President.

### **Section 4.04 Secretary**

Duties of the Commission Secretary shall be performed by City staff appointed to serve as the Commission Liaison and is therefore not an elected position. The Commission Liaison shall certify and keep these original bylaws as amended or otherwise altered to date; keep the minutes of all meetings of the Commission including authorization of special meetings, attendance, number of members present, and the official proceedings of the Commission; see that all advance notices are duly given in accordance with the bylaws and as required by law; be custodian of the official Commission records; and in general, perform all the duties of the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to the Commission Liaison by the Commission President.

#### **Section 4.05 Elections of Officers**

Elections shall be held during the Commission's July meeting each year, unless the meeting is rescheduled, but the Commission may fill the unexpired term of any vacancy occurring in the office of President or Vice-President at any meeting. Newly elected officers shall begin their term at the conclusion of the meeting at which they are elected.

#### **Section 4.06 Terms of Office**

Each officer shall serve for a period of one year subject to removal pursuant to Section 4.08, or until a successor is elected. Officers are eligible for re-election.

#### **Section 4.07 Resignation of Officers**

Any officer may resign his/her office at any time by giving written notice to the Commission President or Commission Liaison. Any resignation shall take effect on the date specified in the notice, or the date the notice is received if a date is not specified in the notice. Acceptance of the resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

#### **Section 4.08 Removal of Officers**

Commission members at any regular meeting or special meeting of the Commission may remove any officer, with or without cause, upon a majority vote of the quorum then present. Any commissioner may request to place an action for removal of any officer on a regular or special meeting agenda, and such item must be placed on the Commission's next meeting agenda.

## **Section 4.09 Compensation and Expenses**

Officers shall serve without salary and, by resolution of the Commission, may be paid or reimbursed for expenses arising out of their services as officers.

## **ARTICLE V - COMMITTEES**

### **Section 5.01 General Powers and Limitations**

The Commission President shall have the power at any time to create, appoint members to, determine the scope of work of, and discharge any ad hoc committee. No ad hoc committee shall consist of more than a quorum of Commissioners. All ad hoc committees are authorized only to make recommendations for final decision or action by the Commission.

## **ARTICLE VI - VOTING**

### **Section 6.01 General**

Each Commission member shall be entitled to one (1) vote. All voting is by roll-call, except adjournment. Commissioners who are absent from a meeting may not vote by proxy.

### **Section 6.02 Quorum**

For the conduct of all business, a quorum of the Commission shall consist of a majority of its sitting members in accordance with Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 8.242.

### **Section 6.03 Conflict of Interest**

No Commission member shall vote on, participate directly or indirectly in the consideration of, or in any way attempt to influence other members on any matter directly bearing on services to be provided by that member or any organization which the member directly represents, or on any matter which would financially benefit the member, or any organization the member represents. In the event such a potential conflict of interest does arise, the member shall be required to disclose such interest, which shall be recorded in the official records (minutes) prior to the vote.

## **ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS**

### **Section 7.01 General**

The Commission shall meet once each month. All meetings shall be open to the public pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act. The commission may from time to time cancel or reschedule meetings.

### **Section 7.02 Regular Meetings**



Regular meetings of the Commission will be held once per month at 2:00 PM on the Third Thursday of the month at the meeting room of the Board of Public Works, or as the Commission President designates. Regular meeting notice must be provided at least 72 hours prior to the meeting in accordance with the Brown Act. The Commission may amend the regular meeting time and/or location pursuant to Article VIII of these bylaws.

### **Section 7.03 Special Meetings**

Special meetings of the Commission may be called by the Commission President or any three (3) members of the Commission, provided the notice of the meeting is posted in accordance with the Brown Act and notification is given 24 hours prior to the meeting. The purpose of the meeting must be specified by the meeting agenda.

### **Section 7.04 Annual Meeting**

The meeting of the Commission in August of each year shall be known as the Annual Meeting and held for the purpose of establishing the Commission's annual workplan, determining the scope, number, and membership of ad hoc committees, receiving Department updates and for the transaction of such other business as may come before the meeting.

## **ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS**

These bylaws of the Commission may be altered, amended or repealed and new bylaws adopted by the vote of a majority of the Commissioners holding office.

## **ARTICLE IX - GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Section 9.01 Parliamentary Procedures**

When parliamentary procedures are not covered by the bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall prevail.

### **Section 9.02 Precedence**

Nothing in these bylaws shall be construed to take precedence over federal laws or regulations, California laws or regulations, or local laws or regulations.