



Regular Meeting

City of Los Angeles Commission on Disability

Thursday, September 18, 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

Dial by phone: 1 (669) 444-9171

Meeting ID: 896 4264 0290

Real-Time Captioning: bit.ly/streamtext-lacdod

Commissioners

Akiko Tagawa, President
Myrna Cabanban, Vice President
Jorge E. Acevedo, Commissioner
Mary Grace A. Barrios, Commissioner
Robert Bitonte, Commissioner
Iran Hopkins, Commissioner
Alisa Schlesinger, 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.

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.

Meeting Agenda

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

Item is for **Action**.

Item Two (2) - Multiple Agenda Item Public Comment

Item is for **Information**.

Item Three (3) - Approval of the August 21, 2025 Special Annual Meeting Minutes

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

Item Four (4) - Presentation by Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) on the plan for the LAX Automated People Mover Train System with an emphasis on accessibility for people with disabilities.

Item is for **Information**.

Item Five (5) - Review and Approval of the Commission on Disability FY 2025-2026 Work Plan

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

Item Six (6) - Department on Disability Executive Director's Report

Item is for **Information**.

Item Seven (7) - Announcements

Item is for **Discussion**.

Item Eight (8) - Adjournment

Item is for **Action**.



Special Annual Meeting Minutes

City of Los Angeles Commission on Disability

Thursday, August 21, 2025

1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

California Community Foundation
Joan Palevsky Center for the Future of Los Angeles
717 W. Temple St., Los Angeles 90012
Room 226

Zoom Video Conference

Commissioners Present

Akiko Tagawa, President
Myrna Cabanban, Vice President
Jorge E. Acevedo, Commissioner
Robert Bitonte, Commissioner
Iran Hopkins, Commissioner
Alisa Schlesinger, Commissioner
Robert Williams, Commissioner
Vacant, 9th Commission Position

Commissioners Absent

Mary Grace A. Barrios, Commissioner

City Staff Present

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability

Alison Everett, Assistant Executive Director, Department on Disability

Heather Aubry, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office

Kayvon Wroten, Department on Disability

Salina Goytia, Department on Disability

Peter Soto, Department on Disability

Matan Koch, Department on Disability

Ashley Rodriguez, Department on Disability

Ricky Rosales, Department on Disability

Lourdes Sinibaldi, Department on Disability

Ian Thompson, Department on Disability

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

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) - Multiple Agenda Item Public Comment

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

- Public Comment was made by various parties regarding Scientology:
 - Their negative philosophy about persons living with disabilities.
 - Inaccessible public parking even with placards at the Scientology Center on L. Ron Hubbard Way.
 - Public right of way barriers.
 - The permits issued to this organization.
 - Damage caused by the organization through unfair labor practices.
- Public comment was made regarding the Commission's new public comment procedure, specifically the preference that public comment be allowed after each item. Also mentioned was displeasure with the Board of Public Works' public comment procedure.

- Public comment was made about the City of Los Angeles' budget, fraud, and lack of transparency.
- Public comment was made regarding the Metro system and the elevators, specifically their need to be operable at all times.

Commissioner Bitonte inquired if discussion on the new public comment procedure could be had, with council advising that a discussion with the DOD GM or AGM be had for further information on the new policy.

No action taken, information purposes only.

Item Three (3) - Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes

Executive Director Simon noted that a new, streamlined version of the minutes will be implemented for the August minutes for approval at the September meeting.

The Commission reviewed the July 2025 regular meeting minutes.

Action Taken: Commissioner Hopkins moved, and Commissioner Williams seconded, the motion to approve the minutes of the July 2025 regular meeting as amended. The motion passed.

Item Four (4) - Review and Approval of the Commission on Disability FY 2024-2025 Report of Accomplishments

The Commission reviewed the Commission on Disability FY 2024-2025 Report of Accomplishments.

Action Taken: Commissioner Williams moved and Commissioner Bitonte seconded the motion to approve the Commission on Disability FY 2024-2025 Report of Accomplishments. The motion passed.

**Item Five (5) - Presentation by the Department on Disability (DOD)
about its Divisions, Services, and Annual Work Plan**

Department on Disability staff presented on the Department's mission, services, staffing, Fiscal Year 2024-2025 accomplishments, and Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Work Plan. Questions and comments from the Commissioners followed.

Commissioner Bitonte asked how many applications for CORE were completed by the department and how many were not completed because of insufficient resources.

Lourdes Sinibaldi responded that denials are strictly under the purview of the Department of Water and Power and provided an overview of the process between DWP, DOA, and DOD. She spotlighted that the denial decision is not under the control of the DOD and offered to provide further data on the process and possible reasons for denials. She also highlighted some alternative approaches by other service providers.

Commissioner Bitonte noted the need and use of well tracked metrics.

Executive Director Stephen David Simon spoke to the increased metric tracking and the soon to be available greater data.

No action taken, information purposes only.

**Item Six (6) - Review and Approval of the Commission on Disability
FY 2025-26 Meeting Calendar**

The Commission reviewed the proposed dates of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 meeting calendar of the Commission.

Action Taken: Commissioner Williams moved, and Commissioner Bitonte seconded the approval of the FY 2025-26 Meeting Calendar. The motion passed unanimously.

Item Seven (7) - Establish the Commission on Disability FY 2025-2026 Work Plan

The Commission discussed potential items for inclusion in its FY 2025-2026 Work Plan, including objectives, action items, ad hoc committees, and presentations.

The Commission President established and appointed members to the following ad hoc committees:

- **Ad Hoc #1 - LA28 Games Support**
 - **Members:**
 - Commissioner Acevedo (Chair), Commissioner Hopkins, President Tagawa
 - **Presentations requested:**
 - Presentation by Games Mobility Plan (OME)
 - **Preliminary objectives/action items:**
 - Development of Press Release form
 - Monitoring of the process of naming a street after a Paralympian
- **Ad Hoc #2 - Disability Cultural Affairs**
 - **Members:**
 - Vice President Cabanban (Chair), Commissioner Hopkins, Commissioner Williams, President Tagawa
 - **Presentations requested:**
 - Presentation from the Department of Cultural Affairs
 - Reinvite the body responsible for the LA 2028 Games.
 - **Preliminary objectives/action items:**
 - Establish an annual Betty Wilson award to recognize persons with disabilities, and their accomplishments.
 - Develop nominations process for recipient
 - Establish a criteria for the award
 - Recommend Atkinson Hyperlegible font to the City
 - Send recommendation to Mayor
 - Recommend the creation of a Paralympic Mural
 - Send recommendation to Mayor
- **Ad Hoc #3 - Healthcare and Social Security Access**

- Members: Commissioner Bitonte (Chair), Commissioner Schlesinger, Commissioner Williams
- Presentations requested:
 - Presentation from a Healthcare provider to cover the denial process
- Preliminary objectives/action items
 - Re- Adopt the previous policy
 - Create a Letter to the Mayor seeking support
- Ad Hoc #4 - Affordable and Accessible Housing
 - Members: Vice President Cabanban (Chair), President Tagawa, Commissioner Acevedo
 - Presentations requested:
 - Presentation from LAHD
 - Presentation from LAHSA
 - Preliminary objectives/action items
 - Recommend additional funding considerations towards people with Disabilities who are experiencing homelessness.

Commission Hopkins recommends that when we have presentations we seek multiple jurisdictional representatives to provide a more holistic view of any issue.

Action Taken: President Tagawa motioned that the Commission formalize the work plan as written by committees, have committees meet prior to the next COD Meeting, and finalize the work plan by September 8th, 2025. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion for approval. The motion passed.

DOD Staff will distribute the work plan draft by Tuesday, September 2nd, 2025.

Item Eight (8) - Department on Disability Executive Director's Report

The Department on Disability Executive Director, Stephen David Simon, provided the following information as part of his Executive Director's Report:

- Noted a revised process of capturing Department and data and metrics has been implemented, updated information will be made available in the coming months.
- Noted that a new budget letter is expected in the next month including the Mayor's goals and targets for the coming year.
- Noted DOD participated in the following event:

- ADA 35th Anniversary Press Conference on July 25th, hosted by the Mayor's Office. The Mayor signed the [Host City Games Accessibility Commitment](#), which was distributed to all City general managers.
- Noted the changes in the DOD staff supporting the Commission and within the DOD.
- Noted the Olympics and Paralympics for the City of Los Angeles will be treated with equal importance and recognition.

No action taken, information purposes only.

Item Nine (9) - Announcements

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

- President Tagawa noted that she will not be present at the September COD Meeting.
- President Tagawa also noted that September 4th is the 2028 Games regional transportation summit.
- Commissioner Hopkins requested that the Commission agendaize a discussion on the changes in the Public Comment procedure.

No action taken, information purposes only.

Item Ten (10) - Adjournment

Action Taken: Commissioner Hopkins moved that we adjourn, and Commissioner Williams seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:59 P.M.



City of Los Angeles Commission on Disability

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Work Plan DRAFT

The Commission on Disability provides a forum for the identification and discussion of difficulties encountered by Disabled persons in our society, and makes 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 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 2025-2026 Ad Hoc Committees

[Ad Hoc Committee #1 - LA28 Games Support](#)

[Ad Hoc Committee #2 - Disability Cultural Impact](#)

[Ad Hoc Committee #3 - Healthcare and Social Security Access](#)

[Ad Hoc Committee #4 - Affordable and Accessible Housing](#)

Ad Hoc Committee #1 - LA28 Games Support

Ad Hoc Committee Members

- Commissioner Acevedo (Chair)
- Commissioner Hopkins
- President Tagawa

Objectives and Action Items

1. Recommend template language for City press releases that uses inclusive language.
2. Monitor the progress of naming a street after the Paralympics, including requesting an update from the Office of Major Events.
3. Provide a representative from the Commission to serve on the City's Major Events Accessibility Advisory Committee and provide updates on the activities of that Committee at each Commission meeting.

Presentations requested related to Ad Hoc Committee #1

- Presentation by the Office of Major Events about the Games Mobility Plan.

Ad Hoc Committee #2 - Disability Cultural Impact

Ad Hoc Committee Members

- Vice President Cabanban (Chair)
- Commissioner Hopkins
- Commissioner Williams
- President Tagawa

Objectives and Action Items

1. Establish an annual Betty Wilson award to recognize persons with disabilities, and their accomplishments, including developing award criteria and a nomination process.
 - Award Purpose: To increase disability awareness and honor those who have made significant contributions to the City of Los Angeles. The Betty Wilson Humanitarian Award of Excellence is an annual award to honor an individual/individuals or company in recognition of their dedication and efforts in advancing the community of people with Disability.
2. Submit a recommendation to the Mayor that the City adopt Atkinson Hyperlegible as the City's primary font.
3. Work with the Office of Major Events Accessibility chief to submit a recommendation to the Mayor that the City create a Mural celebrating the Paralympics.

Presentations requested related to Ad Hoc Committee #2

- Presentation from the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) about the process to install a mural.

Ad Hoc Committee #3 - Healthcare and Social Security Access

Ad Hoc Committee Members

- Commissioner Bitonte (Chair)
- Commissioner Schlesinger
- Commissioner Williams

Objectives and Action Items

1. Review and recommend the Commission readopt the previous [policy memorandum](#) issued by the Commission regarding the provision of a mobile Social Security Disability Office.
2. Submit a recommendation to the Mayor that the City support the development of a mobile Social Security Disability Office.

Presentations requested related to Ad Hoc Committee #3

- Presentation from a Healthcare provider about the healthcare benefit denial process and the types of disabilities that are most frequently denied.

Ad Hoc Committee #4 - Affordable and Accessible Housing

Ad Hoc Committee Members

- Vice President Cabanban (Chair)
- President Tagawa
- Commissioner Acevedo

Objectives and Action Items

1. Submit a recommendation to the Mayor regarding the allocation of additional funding to support people with disabilities who are experiencing homelessness.
2. Make a recommendation to the Mayor that the City adopt the policy of referring to affordable housing as “affordable accessible housing”.
3. Submit a recommendation to council offices regarding possible strategies to support people with disabilities who are experiencing homelessness.

Presentations requested related to Ad Hoc Committee #4

- Presentation from the Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD) about an update and overview of the Accessible Housing Program (AHP), noting how funding allocations are determined for these programs and what factors influence the process.
- Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) about people with disabilities experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles.

Presentation Schedule

FY 2025-2026

September 2025

- Regular Meeting -

October 2025

- Regular Meeting

November 2025

- Regular Meeting

December 2025

- Meeting Cancelled

January 2026

- Regular Meeting

February 2026

- Regular Meeting

March 2026

- Public Hearing

April 2026

- Regular Meeting

May 2026

- Regular Meeting

June 2026

- Officer Nominations

July 2026

- Officer Elections

Requested Presentations

1. Office of Major Events (OME)

- About the Games Mobility Plan.

2. Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

- About the process to install a mural.

3. A Healthcare provider

- About the healthcare benefit denial process and the types of disabilities that are most frequently denied.

4. Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD)

- About an update and overview of the Accessible Housing Program (AHP). Also noting how funding allocations are determined for these programs and what factors influence the process.

5. Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)

- About people with disabilities experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles.