



**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES  
MINUTES  
Monday, April 12, 2010  
6:00 PM**

*FIFTH FLOOR LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL,  
3900 MAIN STREET, RIVERSIDE, 92522  
GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 951-826-5427*

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

*“The mission of the Commission on Disabilities is to promote greater awareness of, respect for, and the total participation of individuals with disabilities into all aspects of life.”*

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Roll Call: Chairperson Donald Hawecker, Debbie Keller, Paul Van Doren, James Stream, Gigi Welch, Virginia Werly, and Sharon Nakama

ABSENT (excused): Jack Brewer, Lesley Robinson, Ty Lawyer

Also in attendance was General Services Director Kris Martinez, Deputy City Attorney Neil Okazaki, and ADA Coordinator Monique Gordon.

2. **Introductions and Public Comment Period** - This is the portion of the meeting specifically set aside to invite your comments regarding any matter within the Commission’s jurisdiction. Individual audience participation is limited to 3 minutes.
  - a. Donna Kirchoff was in attendance from Inland Regional Service
  - b. Nica Masey was in attendance from Riverside Unified School District
  - c. Board and Commission orientation information was presented from the City Clerk
  - d. Discussion about adding a COD agenda Communications section to allow brief reports on meetings attended and to permit discussion on upcoming agenda items.
  - e. Structure of the COD Public Comment Period was briefly discussed.

3. Minutes for the meeting of March 8, 2010

M/S Werly/Keller and unanimous to approve the Minutes of March 8, 2010 as presented.

AYES – 7 (Hawecker, Keller, Van Doren, Stream, Welch, Werly, Nakama); NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0; ABSENT – 3 (Brewer, Robinson, Lawyer).

OLD BUSINESS

1. Downtown Public Parking and ADA Accessibility – Sub-Committee Update

There was no report from the subcommittee.

2. Sidewalk Obstruction by Trash Cans (Donald Hawecker)

Chairperson Hawecker had spoken with Public Works Field Operations Manager Jeff Smith and the enforcement process was outlined in detail. If a violation is reported, a letter is sent. If the violation continues, a door hanger is distributed to the resident. Also, if a collector reports the incident to his supervisor, the area is rechecked for compliance. Finally, with the 3<sup>rd</sup> notice, Jeff Smith will notify Code Enforcement and they will take enforcement action.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Lanterman Developmental Center – Proposed Closure (Debbie Keller)

Commissioner Keller presented this item to the COD and noted that she was speaking for those who could not speak for themselves. The Lanterman Developmental Center is located in Pomona, CA. For seventy years, Lanterman has housed and provided employment and career opportunities. Presently, nearly four hundred Californians, with acute developmental conditions like cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism and those who are developmentally disabled.

In mid-February, the California Department of Developmental Services announced that it was recommending the closure of Lanterman to the State Legislature. This item will be heard in the Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services on Thursday, April 29 and Wednesday, May 5, 2010.

Commissioner Keller noted that many family members have already spoken before the Legislature as part of the process of hearing from the community and parents who receive services from Lanterman. Ms. Keller was asking for volunteers to become involved in her commitment to oppose the facility closure and uphold the rights of residents who live there. Ms. Keller presented information on how the COD could contact legislators directly in support of the effort to keep Lanterman open.

Commissioner Stream noted that there are many obstacles to Lanterman remaining open because of the political and financial condition of the State.

The COD discussed how the group home situation would likely not work for many of the residents of Lanterman and others with severe disabilities. Commissioner Keller will provide updated information at the May 10, 2010 meeting.

2. Mayor's Night Out (Donald Hawecker)

Commissioner Hawecker noted that he and Lesley Robinson had attended the Mayor's Night Out of March 24, 2010 at Hyatt Elementary. He noted that there had been a good turnout.

3. Report on the Very Special Arts Faire (Sharon Nakama)

Sharon Nakama reported on the Fourth Very Special Arts Fair held at Ramona High School. She noted that the event has grown. Next year there will be changes in the venue to keep the event fresh and interesting, but it was good to see so many students and community members out in support of the event. She thanked the COD and other volunteers for their participation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- f. Downtown Parking Committee - third Wednesday of each month (April 21, 2010) at 3 PM in the City Hall Fifth Floor Conference Room.
- g. Riverside's Model Deaf Community Committee (MDCC), third Wednesday of the month (April 21, 2010) at 4:00 pm in the 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Small Conference Room.
- h. Loma Linda Universities PossAbilities Triathlon on Sunday, April 25, 2010 at 7 am at the Drayson Center, 25040 Stewart Street, Loma Linda.
- i. Mayor's Night Out, May 26, 2010, La Sierra-Ward 6 and 7, 6:30 pm at Collett Elementary, 10850 Collett Avenue
- j. Parking, Traffic and Streets Commission Downtown - first Wednesday of each month (May 5, 2010) at 5:30 PM in the Public Utilities Board Room.
- k. 2010 Neighborhood Conference, Saturday, June 5, 2010 from 7:30 am-5:00 pm at Cal Baptist University, 8432 Magnolia Avenue.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:02 pm