



**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES  
MINUTES  
Monday, May 10, 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

City Clerk Colleen Nicol was present to swear in Keith Nelson as the newest member of the Commission on Disabilities.

1. Roll Call: Chairperson Donald Hawecker, Debbie Keller, Jack Brewer, Ty Lawyer, Lesley Robinson, James Stream, Gigi Welch, Virginia Werly and Keith Nelson.

ABSENT (excused): Van Doren, Sharon Nakama

Also in attendance were General Services Director Kris Martinez, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director Ralph Nunez, Senior Park Planner Andy Emery and ADA Coordinator Monique Gordon.

2. **Introductions and Public Comment Period** - This portion of the meeting is specifically set aside to invite your comments regarding any matter within the Commission's jurisdiction. Individual audience participation is limited to 3 minutes.
  - Donna Kirchoff was in attendance from Inland Regional Service
  - James Stream invited COD members to the Arc of Riverside County Membership Meeting on Wednesday, May 26 at 7pm at 8138 Mar Vista Court.

3. Minutes for the meeting of April 12, 2010

M/S Robinson/Lawyer and unanimous to approve the minutes of April 12, 2010 with corrections.

AYES – 9 (Hawecker, Keller, Brewer, Lawyer, Robinson, Stream, Welch, Werly, Nelson); NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0; ABSENT – 2 (Van Doren, Nakama).

## OLD BUSINESS

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

Concerning packet information on this subject, Commissioner Keller noted that it was important to hear all sides of an issue even if you do not agree. She noted that the Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services had heard this item on Thursday, April 29 and Wednesday, May 5, 2010. The Committee decided to keep the item open and no vote was taken on the closure of Lanterman Developmental Center. This item will remain open pending budget revisions scheduled for the end of May. This is an ongoing topic of conversation.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Fairmount Park Grand Opening – June 19, 2010 (Ralph Nunez)

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director Ralph Nunez provided an update concerning current status of the Fairmount Park project and the COD to the Universally Accessible Playground Grand Opening on June 19, 2010. Director Nunez thanked the COD for their contributions to the project.

### 2. RTA Bus Driver Sensitivity Training – Resource Expansion to all Disabilities (Virginia Werly)

Commissioner Werly noted that this type of sensitivity training was not just for RTA drivers but for all area bus drivers, since there was more than one provider contracting with RTA. Although each agency has various programs for their drivers, one of her goals was to provide a vehicle by which drivers can understand living with various disabilities, in order for drivers to be more sensitive to the needs of customers and think “outside the box” concerning specific transportation needs. As an individual agency RTA is seeking a systematic approach to engage individuals who were willing to share their story of disability and organizations like Blindness Support Services. The goal is to provide drivers with a broad spectrum of exposure via first person stories about living with disabilities. Various individuals and organizations have made themselves available to share their stories which will hopefully invoke compassion and empathy, that blend with superior service, for clients who might need a little more service in a slightly different way.

To this end, Ms. Werly is hoping to develop a resource directory of people and organizations that would be willing to form a partnership for the purpose of developing empathy training for disabled clients. Those who share their disability experience can share what it is like for them when the right amount of empathy is not received from drivers. There are drivers who love what they do and provide excellent service, just as there are mediocre drivers who fall short. She is looking for a systematic mechanism that would cover a large spectrum of client needs since there are a large number of people and organizations available to the COD.

### 3. Service Animal Brochures (Donald Hawecker)

A recommendation was made to update the COD public information to include a brochure on Service Animals and purchase other community outreach items for distribution to the public.

M/S Brewer/Robinson and unanimous to approve producing Service Animal brochures for distribution to the public.

AYES – 9 (Hawecker, Keller, Brewer, Lawyer, Robinson, Stream, Welch, Werly, Nelson); NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0; ABSENT – 2 (Van Doren, Nakama).

## COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

1. Brief reports on conferences, seminars, and meetings attended by COD members

Commissioner Robinson shared her experience as a candidate for Ms. Wheelchair California. She stated that disabilities do not limit you unless you let them.

Commissioner Nelson noted that on June 11 and 12, the Special Olympics basketball team will be competing in the Seven (7) Gold Metal championships. His team has never lost a game.

2. Items for future COD consideration

None.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Downtown Parking Committee - third Wednesday of each month (May 19, 2010) at 3 PM in the City Hall Fifth Floor Conference Room.
2. Riverside's Model Deaf Community Committee (MDCC), third Wednesday of the month (May 19, 2010) at 4:00 pm in the 7th Floor Small Conference Room.
3. Mayor's Night Out, May 26, 2010, La Sierra-Ward 6 and 7, 6:30 pm at Collett Elementary, 10850 Collett Avenue
4. Parking, Traffic and Streets Commission Downtown - first Wednesday of each month (May 5, 2010) at 5:30 PM in the Public Utilities Board Room.
5. 2010 Neighborhood Conference, Saturday, June 5, 2010 from 7:30 am-5:00 pm at Cal Baptist University, 8432 Magnolia Avenue.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:05 pm