



**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES  
AGENDA  
Monday, April 11, 2011  
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: 6:02 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Roll Call: Paul Van Doren, James Stream, Gigi Welch, Lesley Robinson, Virginia Werly, Jack Brewer, Ty Lawyer, Sharon Nakama, Keith Nelson

ABSENT: Hawecker, Keller (excused). The meeting was chaired by Vice-chair Ty Lawyer.

Also in attendance was 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. Commissioner Brewer apologized for his recent absences, due to the passing of his wife.
  - b. Resident Linda Lawyer was present.
  - c. Commissioner Welch noted that there are still medical practices that are not wheelchair accessible in other cities. She noted a dentist was serving disabled patients with no wheelchair access. Her research showed that any business accepting federal funds must provide wheelchair access patients.
3. Minutes for the meeting of February 14, 2011 and Minutes for the meeting of March 14, 2011

M/S Robinson/VanDoren and unanimous to approve the minutes of February 14, 2011 as corrected.

AYES – 7 (Van Doren, Stream, Welch, Robinson, Lawyer, Nakama, Nelson); NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 2 (Werly, Brewer); ABSENT – 2 (Hawecker, Keller)

M/S Robinson/Nelson and unanimous to approve the minutes of March 14, 2011 as corrected.

AYES – 4 (Stream, Welch, Robinson, Nelson) NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 5 (Van Doren, Werly, Lawyer, Nakama, Brewer); ABSENT - 2 (Hawecker, Keller)

The motion did not pass and these minutes will be carried to the May 9, 2011 meeting.

#### OLD BUSINESS

4. Riverside Demographics - 9.1% Disabled in Riverside (carried over from March 14, 2011 meeting)

The COD discussed that the noted demographic information is from 2009. 2010 census information is out and the Press Enterprise is starting to print various data in the news forms. The disabled community has grown significantly in the last decade and more resources should be dedicated to this community. The COD represents a significant portion of the population and the COD should emphasize this figure and make sure it is on the website. This number is probably low.

5. Effects of State budget cuts to Disabled Programs in Riverside (carried over from March 14, 2011 meeting)

It seems that in all versions of the state and federal budgets, drastic cuts have been made to programs that the disabled community. People should contact the state government in Sacramento to let their opinions be known. Public opinion and input is very important and could have great influence on how the budget is written and what programs and services are cut.

6. Subcommittee Meeting concerning Shane's Inspiration Program at Fairmount Park

Commissioner Stream noted the Parks Commission was in favor of this project and the first Play Date will be on May 21, 2011 between 10:30 am and 1 pm. Shane's Inspiration will provide the ARC of Riverside a "kit" that contains all the information needed for the event. The events will be run through a non-profit so that donations can be tax deductible. Sponsors are lined up to cover any expenses that arise and Bud's Tire and Wheel has graciously agreed to be the first sponsor.

The COD discussed releases to film participants at the Play Date and will discuss the filming of this topic further at the May 9 meeting.

#### NEW BUSINESS

7. Election of Officers

Chairperson Hawecker was re-elected for a second term as Chairperson and Ty Lawyer was re-elected as Vice-Chair.

The elections were unanimously approved.

#### COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

8. Brief reports on conferences, seminars, and meetings attended by COD members
  - a. Commissioner Robinson noted that she had attended the Blind Support Services transportation workshop on March 30, 2001 at the Janet Goeske Center and the meeting was very informative. She would like to invite Byron Mayhan, City Special Transportation Supervisor, to the next meeting so he can provide updated transportation information. She also discussed the TRIP program.

- b. Commissioner Nelson reported that Jayne Reid, State Council on Developmental Disabilities Area Board 12 will conduct an Employment First Action Meeting to discuss the employment summit scheduled for June 21, 2011.
  - c. Commissioner VanDoren noted that the COD would benefit from members attending the meetings of other boards and commissions. Attending other meetings would reinforce that the COD was available to discuss accessibility and other issues concerning disabled residents.
  - d. Commissioner Nakama noted that the Riverside Unified School District will present the Very Special Night 2 - On the Red Carpet. This event will be held at King High School on May 7, 2011 from 6–10 pm. This program is for students with severe disabilities. Participants will include the California School for the Deaf and The Project Team Adult program. Volunteers are always welcome.
  - e. Commissioner VanDoren noted that the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Wheelchair Basketball Fundraiser would be held at Poly High on May 21, 2011 at 3 pm. The Riverside Fire Fighters would play against the PossAbilities team, The Rolling Bears. He distributed fliers for the event.
  - f. Commissioner Nakama updated the COD on the Very Special Arts Fair turnout. The event was very successful with over 2,000 attendees.
  - g. Special Olympics, Friends of Ability Counts and others will hold a Carnival Day at the AYSO Fields on June 18, 2011. This fund raiser will be for the Special Olympics.
9. Items for future COD consideration
- a. PSA topic: Issues that affect the disabled community and how you can help – 5 minute spot on the government channel. Austin Carter, Video Production Manager, can also discuss this topic at the May 9, 2011 meeting.
  - b. Installation of lighted crosswalks for improved safety of disabled residents.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10. Riverside's Model Deaf Community Committee (MDCC), third Wednesday of the month (April 20, 2011) at 4:00 pm in the 7th Floor Small Conference Room.
- 11. Mayor's Commission on Aging meets 1:00 p.m. the second Thursday of each month (April 14, 2011) in the Mayor's Ceremonial Room
- 12. Mayor's Night Out next meets at 7 pm on May 25, 2011 in the Casa Blanca Neighborhood at Ysmael Villegas Community Center, 3091 Esperanza Street, Ward 4 Paul Davis.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:30 pm