



**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
MINUTES
Monday, June 13, 2011
6:00 PM**

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

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, Gigi Welch, Lesley Robinson, Virginia Werly, Jack Brewer, Ty Lawyer, Sharon Nakama

Keith Nelson arrived at 6:03.

ABSENT: James Stream (excused)

Also present were General Services Director Kris Martinez, Deputy City Attorney Neil Okazaki, Special Transportation Supervisor Byron Mayhan, 311 Center Supervisor Donna Arrechea, 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. Linda Lawyer – Resident
 - b. Greg Damewood – Board of Mental Health and advocate for the disabled.
 - c. Miguel Lujano, IEHP Disability Community Representative. Mr. Lujano provided information about mandatory enrollment, an important change to Medi-Cal enrollment. This change is affecting thousands of people on Medi-Cal and the hope of IEHP is that the number of people who are automatically enrolled into a health plan will be limited. IEHP wants individuals to at least have a say in which plan they will be choosing or get educated about the exemptions that are available. There are some people who cannot join a health plan for medical reasons; these people may not be receiving the notices about the change. Mr. Lujano requested the opportunity to formally present information to the COD at the July meeting.
 - d. Commissioner Brewer noted that his granddaughter, who has Down syndrome, is having success in television and film.
 - e. Karen Wright submitted an email for public comment that noted her opinion about the City’s policy on construction and curb cut configurations. The Deputy Public Works Director has

addressed this issue before the COD and the City Council. The way that the curb cuts are currently installed meet ADA compliance.

3. Minutes for the meeting of May 9, 2011

M/S Lawyer/Van Doren to approve the minutes as corrected:

AYES – 9 (Hawecker, Keller, Van Doren, Welch, Robinson, Lawyer, Nakama, Nelson); NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 1 (Werly, Brewer); ABSENT – 1 (Stream)

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Special Transportation for Seniors and those with Disabilities (Byron Mayhan)

Special Transportation Supervisor Mayhan discussed the services his organization provides for the City. Special Transportation has been in operation for more than 30 years and works closely with RTA who services Riverside County. Special Transit operates 30 buses, which all have wheelchair lifts and operate 362 days per year. There are between 500-600 rides per day plus 100-150 rides on Saturday and Sunday. In 2009-10, 650,000 miles have been traveled without an accident or injury. There has been a huge investment in safety training and customer service. To qualify for transportation services, you must be at least aged 60 or more or 60 or more and disabled. Medical certification of a disability, either permanent or temporary, is required. The cost is \$2 each trip. ADA certification is tracked by RTA. Qualified riders will be taken anywhere within the City. The hours of operation are 8 am to 5 pm and RTA picks up before and after hours. There are escorts on and off the bus.

The COD also discussed the level of first aid available for passengers and various connection points that Special Transportation services. The COD expressed their appreciation for the compassion and patience that the drivers show to the riders.

5. Employment Opportunities for the Disabled (Jane Reid, Community Program Specialist/Advocate State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Area Board 12)

This item has been postponed due to State budget cuts.

6. Access and other Disability issues reported through the 311 Call Center (Donna Arrechea, 311 Center Supervisor)

311 Center Supervisor Donna Arrechea presented information about the Center and the services they provide. The Center is open 7 days per week from 7 am to 7 pm M-F and 8 am to 5 pm Sat and Sun. All employees are able to provide a lot of information about the City and City services. They take a lot of service requests; anything from trash pickups to potholes, disability specific issues, such as wheelchair ramps needed of that need repair, special transportation information and more. Ms. Arrechea also provides a monthly report on specific items of interest to the COD. Last year the 311 Call Center took over 200,000 calls and the data on these calls is tracked.

Requests for jobs are often sent to Public Works and the work ticket is prioritized on a capital improvement list based on need and availability of funds.

Commissioner Van Doren thanked Ms. Arrechea for the service her team provides and asked her to contact the COD if she finds that there are issues where the COD can help.

7. New Charter Review Committee Members

This information was noted by the COD.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

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

Commissioner Nakama thanked various individuals and entities for support of the first Play Date at Fairmount Park on May 21, 2011. This event will be held monthly and will improve over time. Word of mouth will likely be the main form of marketing.

Commissioner Nelson noted that the Tip-a-Cop fundraising event was successful.

Commissioner Keller noted that she had attended the Neighborhood Conference this year.

Commissioner noted that the Riverside PD helped fundraise at the Roadhouse Grill. There were State Games and Riverside won its 10th gold medal. Commissioner Nelson and his team were inducted into the Riverside Hall of Fame. The Special Olympics team also won gold in swimming and botchy ball. He noted his appreciation for the City's help with pool facilities and transportation.

Commissioner Nakama noted that she had attended the Arc of Riverside County's annual banquet at the Riverside Marriott and it was a wonderful event. Marnie Norris, who helped implement Shane's Inspiration, was awarded the Value of One award.

Chairperson Hawecker noted that the Public Works Department had come through his neighborhood and repaired or replaced all of the sidewalk and curb cut deficiencies.

Commissioner Van Doren noted that the Mayors Commission on Aging would be happy to have a COD member attend their meetings on a regular basis. The next meeting is in September and they meet on the 2nd Thursday.

Commissioner Werly noted that RTA had received funding from RCTC for senior mobility travel training for seniors and disabled persons in western Riverside County. This training will be for 2 fiscal year periods. There will be one-on-one training for disabled and group training for seniors and students. This training will hopefully ease the burden on fixed route services and relegate any savings to areas of high need.

9. Items for future COD consideration

UPCOMING EVENTS

10. Special Olympics, Friends of Ability Counts and others will hold a Carnival Day at AYSO Fields on June 18, 2011. This fund raiser will be for the Special Olympics.

This event was postponed until further notice.

11. Mayor's Commission on Aging meets 1:00 p.m. the second Thursday of each month (July 14, 2011) in the Mayor's Ceremonial Room
12. Riverside's Model Deaf Community Committee (MDCC), third Wednesday of the month (June 15, 2011) at 4:00 pm in the 7th Floor Small Conference Room.
13. Mayor's Night Out next meets at 7 pm on August 21, 2011, Community Settlement Association, 4366 Bermuda Avenue, Ward 2.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:19 pm.