



# COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES MINUTES

Monday, October 15, 2007  
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.”*

State law restricts the Commission on Disabilities from taking action on an item unless it has been included on an agenda and posted at least 72 hours in advance of a meeting or unless the matter falls within one of the narrow exceptions. Consequently, any item not listed on this agenda will normally have to be delayed until the item can be made part of a posted agenda.

CALL TO ORDER: 6:07 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Roll Call: Chairperson Paul Van Doren, Vice-Chair Gigi Welch, James Stream, Gene Brosious, Susanne Puffer, Linda Garcia, Debbie Keller, Lesley Robinson, and Donald Hawecker

ABSENT (excused): Susanne Puffer, Linda Garcia, Debbie Keller

Also in attendance were Residents Ty & Linda Lawyer, Resident John Lonberg, Antha Ward & Dan Bishop from Quick Caption, Deputy City Attorney Neil Okazaki, Administrative Services Manager Susan Cox 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.
  - A. Ms. Ward noted that she and Mr. Bishop were following up on the Closed Captioning approved by the City Council. The Governmental Affairs committee and staff recommended reprogramming of the 2007 Public, Educational, and Government grant funds of \$11,000 to provide closed captioning of City Council's evening meetings. They were directed to contact the City Clerk's office for additional information.
  - B. Ty & Linda Lawyer presented top priorities from an October 10, 2007 Parks and Recreation community meeting regarding the Universally Accessible Playground at Fairmount Park. The top priorities are a list of equipment and themes to be presented for inclusion in the upcoming play structures. The current list is not final and can still change.

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The City of Riverside wishes to make all of its public meetings accessible to the public. Upon request, this agenda will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Any person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in a meeting, should direct such request to the City's ADA Coordinator at (951) 826-5427 or TDD at (951) 826-5439 at least 48 hours before the meeting, if possible. A Sign language interpreter will be made available upon request.

The COD requested additional information from Parks and Recreation:

- A. The COD would like a more detailed description of universally accessible parks
- B. The COD was under the impression that Andulka Park is to receive a universally accessible playground structure. Are there still plans for Andulka Park to also receive a universally accessible play structure?

It was noted that although there is some funding available for the universally accessible play structure at Fairmont Park, private funding will also be sought to complete the project.

### 3. Minutes for the meeting of September 10, 2007

Resident Linda Lawyer noted the correction on page 1 in the attendance section that Mr. Lawyer's first name is Ty and not Todd.

M/S Robinson/Welch and unanimous to approve the minutes as corrected.

AYES – 6 (Van Doren, Welch, Stream, Brosious, Robinson, Hawecker); NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0; ABSENT 3 (Puffer, Garcia, Keller).

### OLD BUSINESS

#### A. COD Utility Bill Insert mailing delayed until December 2007

Noted by the COD. The COD appreciated that Public Utilities offered to distribute the COD Bill Insert at upcoming public events.

#### B. Trashcan Sidewalk Obstruction –Code Enforcement Courtesy Reminder

The Code Enforcement Department prepared a draft courtesy reminder to address the issue of trash containers obstructing public sidewalks. Code Enforcement requested that the COD review and comment on the courtesy reminder before distribution.

Deputy City Attorney Neil Okazaki commented that 51 volunteers have been selected and would spend time educating the public on the issue instead of simply distributing tickets.

In response to a question Commissioner Hawecker had concerning a resident blocking the sidewalk instead of the bicycle lane in front of her house, Deputy City Attorney Okazaki advised that the Municipal Code is clear that sidewalks are not to be blocked. Mr. Okazaki went on to note that the volunteers were enthusiastic about their upcoming duties. He noted that for the most part, it is possible that violations are not knowingly committed and public education on this issue would be more effective in the long run.

Chairperson Van Doren noted that the courtesy reminder was not necessarily strong enough to fit the violation, especially when vehicles blocked sidewalks.

Deputy City Attorney Okazaki noted that one difficulty is that Parking Services is overseen by the Public Works Department and trash cans blocking sidewalks is overseen by Code Enforcement. Tracking the success of the courtesy reminder project would be an important component of this effort.

Administrative Services Manager Cox suggested that a vehicle be added to the courtesy reminder.

The COD asked what happens when someone continues to violate a parking or trash container Code? What are the citation and towing guidelines?

- A. Is there a vehicle code that covers the fact that a vehicle has not moved in a while?

B. What is the Code that covers garbage collection staff who move cans onto sidewalks?

Vice-Chair Welch asked about the Public Works services provided for the disabled where refuse truck drivers will move trash containers into the curb and place them away after the trash is removed. ADA Coordinator Monique Gordon will investigate and advise the COD. Ask about the "diamond" placed in front of homes for extra trash services

In response to a comment from Commissioner Hawecker concerning the fact that Code Enforcement staff was not able to investigate same day calls because they work from a daily manifest schedule, Administrative Services Manager Cox suggested that Parking Services and Code Enforcement address the COD at the same time to discuss this issue.

Resident Lonberg noted that Code Enforcement staff is not around in the evenings when parking violators are most visible, and noted that several Police Department volunteer groups are available who could help with sidewalk parking violations so that sworn PD personnel are not involved.

C. Approved Special Transportation No-Show Policy

Chairperson Van Doren noted that he was not happy with the latest version of the No-Show Policy and requested that a subcommittee be constructed to produce recommendations to City Council. Vice-chair Welch suggested that this item be tabled until more COD members are in attendance.

The COD No-Show Policy Subcommittee shall be comprised of Donald Hawecker, Lesley Robinson and Paul Van Doren. Resident Lonberg will be invited to the subcommittee meetings. Commissioner Stream noted that violations of law that are in policy should be discussed.

In response to a question from Commissioner Stream concerning how there be a strong no-show policy if riders can simply say that missing the ride was out of my control, Mr. Van Doren responded that the no-shows needed to be addressed.

Resident Lonberg noted that there are a few people that are major violators and this should not be a "no-scare all" policy.

Chair-person Van Doren noted that riders hate violators because it disrupts service for others. He noted that the current Policy was not very clear and that there were a number of inconsistencies.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Closed Captioning of evening City Council meetings

At the October 2, 2007 City Council meeting, the Governmental Affairs committee and staff recommended reprogramming of 2007 Public, Educational, and Government grant funds of \$11,000 to provide closed captioning of City Council's evening meetings. It was noted by the COD that this recommendation was approved, but this service probably still needed to be bid by way of the Purchasing Division. For current information on this item, please contact the City Clerk's office.

B. Accessibility Enhancements to the City's Web Site.

Noted by the COD. Browsealoud is a website accessibility enhancement that reads web pages aloud for people who find it difficult to read online. Reading large amounts of text on screen can be difficult for those with literacy and visual impairments.

C. Public Works Survey of Disabled Access to City Parking Lots and Garages

**This item will be carried over to the November 19, 2007 meeting of the COD.**

D. Terms of Office

**This item will be carried over to the November 19, 2007 meeting of the COD.**

E. Discussion Question: What is the "H" Word? Is use of the word **Handicapped** politically correct?

**This item will be carried over to the November 19, 2007 meeting of the COD.**

F. 2008 Meeting Schedule for the Commission on Disabilities.

Noted by the COD.

G. Work Item: Oral Report to City Council concerning the following material:

- a. Significant subject matter which occupied the COD's attention during the past year,
- b. Principal tasks which lie ahead over the next year, and
- c. Seek Council guidance on initiatives through which the Committee can enhance service to City residents.

**This item will be carried over to the November 19, 2007 meeting of the COD.**

ADJOURNMENT: 7:35 pm