



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, September 9, 2020, 1:00P.M.

Department on Disability

Zoom Video Conference

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Myrna Cabanban

David Wolf

Dr. Robert Bitonte

Robert Williams

Iran Hopkins

Richard Rothenberg

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Betty Wilson

Alisa Schlesinger

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability

Richard Ray, Management Analyst, Department on Disability

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Chris Lee, Deputy City Attorney III, City Attorney's Office

Beatrice Girmala, Assistant Chief of Police and Director of Office of Support Services, Los Angeles Police Department

Julia Thayne, Associate Director of Transportation, Mayor's Office of Economic

ITEM NO. (1): APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

The Commission will review the minutes of the August 2020 meeting and vote to approve them.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the minutes for August 12, 2020, with a correction to remove Theresa de Vera from Commissioners Present.

ITEM NO. (2): PUBLIC COMMENT

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): LAW ENFORCEMENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Presentation from various City Departments and organizations from the greater Los Angeles area regarding Law Enforcement.

- I. Presentation is by Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability (DOD). Assistant Chief Beatrice Girmala was unable to attend due to a personal emergency. The training bulletins on interacting with the deaf and hard of hearing community and intellectual/developmental disabilities are being reviewed by DOD staff and an outside expert. They will be given to the Ad Hoc Committee on Law Enforcement Policy and Training. DOD was also provided with the police academy training materials that relate to disability, which will be provided to the ad hoc committee. Lastly, a community advisory panel will be held, likely in November, to meet with senior LAPD leadership. A range of individuals will be gathered to represent the diverse disability community across Los Angeles in order to share thoughts and concerns with LAPD.

- II. Presentation is by Richard Ray, Management Analyst, Department on Disability. He presented some services that the deaf and hard of hearing community need to improve communication access with law enforcement. Having services such as certified interpreters and tactile services for blind and deaf-blind individuals are important not only for emergency situations, but non-emergencies as well. New changes in technology and the shift from analog to digital technology have resulted

in many deaf people transitioning from using teletypewriters (TTY) to real-time text (RTT). Last year, California Assembly Bill No. 1168 was passed, which requires enabling SMS text messages and RTT to come through to 911. Recommendations will be made to LAPD to look into setting up RTT services. Video relay interpreting services are under the Information Technology Bureau, and testing is being done in several locations so that video relay interpreters can be provided if an interpreter cannot physically be onsite. Lastly, training that includes deaf culture and awareness and some basic gesture and sign language would be helpful as well.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (4): URBAN MOVEMENT LABS AND FUTURE PROJECTS WITH DOD

Presentation from the Mayor's Office regarding Urban Movement Labs. Urban Movement Labs is an initiative created to ensure a sustainable, equitable, and accessible future for transportation in Los Angeles. Presentation is by Julia Thayne, Associate Director of Transportation, Mayor's Office of Economic Development, Mobility Innovation.

One project the team is involved in is LAX FlyAway, a shuttle service throughout the City of LA to LAX. A year ago, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) decided to see what would be needed to expand the service. The team worked with LAWA to evaluate challenges and future steps. In two weeks, a virtual industry forum will be held to inform people what the future of LAX FlyAway might look like. The Warner Center is another project that was presented. It has involved a 9 month planning process to consider what the needs are for the area, innovate around challenges, and determine what is needed to start the design process. Pilot projects such as Kiwibot, an automated delivery robot, will be launched later in September and October.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (5): CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEPARTMENT

The Commission will discuss and vote on preparing a letter to City Council supporting and requesting priority (and ongoing) funding of the Department of Civil and Human Rights.

Action Taken: The Commission on Disability voted to request that the Department on Disability assist with preparing a letter of support for the new Civil and Human Rights Department.

ITEM NO. (6): AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATE(S)

Ongoing update on items being addressed by any of the Commission's established ad-hoc committees.

Commissioner Bitonte provided updates for the Ad Hoc Committee on Expanding Access to Benefits to Those Experiencing Homelessness. The latest document that he provided to the Commission is a report written by himself and his former legal interns Elizabeth Misirian and Maria Erlinda Santiago. He highlighted two citations. One shows that disability benefits do reduce days of homelessness. The second citation shows that disability benefits do not increase illicit drug use.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (7): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Discussion on items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues. Presentation is by Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability (DOD).

Furloughs are expected to affect DOD beginning the pay period of October 11th. The office will close October 23rd and every other Friday following until June 19th, 2021, unless there are any changes. The Department has been involved in addressing accessibility issues including sidewalk and parking concerns relating to the Al Fresco program. DOD continues to staff the Emergency Operations Center, and the ongoing fires are being monitored. Councilmember Rodriguez made a motion to City Council to recommend one million dollars of funding to support a continuation of the Meals to Angelenos with Disabilities service. The motion will go to full council soon. DOD is looking into paying for a program that would manage the administrative and delivery aspects of the service. The AIDS Coordinator's Office continues to work on the LA County Bar Program, which is a partnership that would provide a panel of attorneys to assist people with disabilities in legal issues. Lastly, ReelAbilities Film Festival (RAFFLA) is fast approaching. The festival will take place October 16th through 18th, and sponsor decks have been sent to the Commissioners for distribution to anyone interested

in supporting the event.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (8): NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Suggested items for the next regular meeting's agenda and announcements from Commissioners, DOD staff, and guests.

New topics were suggested for future meetings; voting and housing. Commissioner Cabanban announced that Access Services will be providing free trips to and from voting locations. She also announced that Lawrence Rolon has retired from LAWA. Stephen David Simon took a moment to remember former Chief of Staff Nicole Willett, who was killed in a kayaking accident two years ago on Labor Day weekend.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (9): ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 2:43 PM.