



## **COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**

### **MINUTES**

Wednesday, July 14, 2021, 1:00P.M.

Department on Disability

Zoom Video Conference

#### **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Myrna Cabanban

David Wolf

Iran Hopkins

Dr. Robert Bitonte

Candace Cable

Richard Rothenberg

Alisa Schlesinger

Robert Williams

#### **COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

Betty Wilson

#### **DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:**

Jaime Pacheco-Orozco, Assistant Executive Director, Department on Disability

#### **OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:**

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

**GUESTS:**

Joseph Okpaku, Chief Policy Officer of Booster Fuels  
Eric Hanson, D.O.

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

The Commission will review the minutes of the June 2021 meeting and vote to approve them.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the minutes for June 9, 2021.

**ITEM NO. (2): PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (3): LONG TERM MEDICAL IMPACTS FROM COVID-19**

Guest speakers provided the Commission with information from local government, City and County experts and programs, including community-based organizations working to provide resources and access for the diverse unhoused community of Greater Los Angeles.

- I. Eric Hanson, D.O. and other speakers discussed COVID-19 and individuals with long-term or persistent medical issues, health advocacy, and the Disability Community. Mr. Hanson had done several series of webinars involving the utilization of multiple specialists across fields, such as respiratory, neurology, infectious disease and other aspects in healthcare related to COVID. Since then, he has continuously gathered information about studies that have been done on long-term COVID. The most recent development on terminology is post-acute sequelae SARS-CoV-2 infection (PASC), which are cases with symptoms persisting for four weeks or more from the time of COVID infection. Mr. Hanson also discussed a study conducted in Wuhan, China suggesting that 30% of COVID infected patients had persistent symptoms that were lasting three to four months out. The majority of the illness that were persisting after the COVID infection were neurologic manifestations, such as the loss of taste

and smell, brain fog, persistent vertigo, and central nervous system effects. The second most common are respiratory difficulties, such as having persistent shortness of breath, hypoxic hypoxia, and ambulate for long distances without getting winded. Mr. Hanson discussed that most of the COVID-19 related State Disability Insurance claims would be related to chronic fatigue, saying they cannot get up anymore, cannot go in to work, too fatigued and it has all been since COVID, cannot do what they used to do, or get winded after walking 50 feet. Patients also have a prolonged inflammatory response with the introduction of COVID-19 replicating in their body and producing different protein markers. People clear the protein very easily, but doctors are seeing signs of persisting levels of proteins, specifically the spike proteins, suggesting that they are responsible for a large portion of the inflammatory reaction. This causes patients to have respiratory failure, the need to be on the ventilator, and then have persistent or systemic symptoms that go on for longer. The increase of spike proteins can also be tied into some of the reactions that result with the vaccinations, especially in younger individuals with the proteins staying in the body longer. That may be why some people claim that after they get vaccinated, they have continued muscle aches, joint pains, or multisystem inflammatory disorders in kids. Doctors will need to be more educated on this subject matter because there is so little information out there to be able to quantify the level of disability and the quantify the validity of the disability to help patients.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (4): AB 905 – MOBILE FUELING ON-DEMAND TANK VEHICLES: PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

Guest speakers provided the Commission with information about AB 905, which seeks to provide an alternative, mobile fueling option to Californians.

- I. Joseph Okpaku, Chief Policy Officer of Booster Fuels, Inc. will discuss AB 905, which seeks to provide an alternative, mobile fueling option to Californians. Booster was created after the founder Frank Minecroft noticed that planes tend to get their fuel delivered to them and asked why this cannot be one of the methods of fuel delivery to consumers? Their business model is an app-based service where a person will go to your location to fuel your vehicle and will do so at a price that is commensurate with the five closest gasoline stations. The person can

have their car locked, leave the gas tank open, and request a boost through the app. The service is also significantly better for the environment because the typical gas supply chain where gas gets pumped through a pipeline, dumped in to a big tractor trailer, transported to a gas station, pumped to an underground storage tank, and then up in to the pump and to the vehicle. Booster Fuels has mini tankers that able to cut out several links of the typical supply chain because their tanker is big enough to get the gasoline from the same terminals and is small enough to navigate any typical city street bypassing the gas station entirely. Booster Fuels also eliminates the underground storage tanks, which have a long history of leakage and the pollution of the ground and water. Booster Fuels also is a service station on wheels, where fully-trained employees who are both driving the tankers and delivering the fuel uses special nozzles that reduce spillage, reducing chances of spills and vapor that are released in to the atmosphere than you would be with the typical gas station model. Booster Fuels saw very positive feedback through the app from people with disabilities because of the challenges of procuring fuel at typical gas stations. Currently they operate only in the Bay Area because of an exemption to current rules of the South Coast Air District that do not allow for mobile air fueling. With AB-905, the goal is to change the existing rules and expand on the mobile app-based gas services for Boater Fuels.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

#### **ITEM NO. (5): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ongoing update on items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues. Presentation was conducted by Jaime Pacheco-Orozco, Assistant Executive Director, Department on Disability. The Department on Disability is helping during the June 30<sup>th</sup> explosion in South L.A. by dispatching a sign language interpreter to the site to provide information to people who are hard of hearing or deaf and helping families looking for housing or any other resources. The department also helped an elderly couple who were both blind, had preexisting medical conditions, and needed housing by looked into getting into a hotel that could accommodate them and a hospital bed. The department completed the process for securing the HIV prevention contracts and sent them to the Mayor's Office for his signature. The department provided training to City wide staff on the department's accessibility remediation training to ensure that documents are accessible. The department will be hosing the Disability Access of Functional Needs coalition meeting on August 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss

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emergency response and to prepare City departments on how to respond to concerns in emergency situations for the disability community. The department has been working in the inclusive sidewalk initiative to improve data collection about adjustable sidewalks, mobility transportation, and the most accessible routes destinations.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

## **ITEM NO. (6): COMMISSION ELECTION – JULY**

The Commission Election will commence with final nominations and self-nominations for the following positions: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, followed by an Open Election vote for the positions.

- I. The Commission Election Process will begin with Nominations and Self-Nominations for the following positions: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary. The Commission on Disability opened the nominations and voted on the positions.

Action Taken: Commission on Disability appointed Myrna Cabanban for President, David Wolf for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Robert Bitonte for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, and Robert Williams for Secretary.

## **ITEM NO. (7): NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Items for the next regular meeting's agenda and announcements from Commissioners, DOD staff, and guests, as well as follow-up items from this or previous commission meetings to be presented at the next meeting. ReelAbilities will be held on the weekend of October 14<sup>th</sup> and will run Friday night through Sunday using a virtual platform and looking into an in-person event for Friday night. Commissioner Schlesinger would like get the support from the Commission on Disability with the Ezra Network that provides a large number of wrap-around services, such as filling for Social Security forms and other forms, using a mobile model. The Commission on Disability would like to acknowledge the birthdays of Commissioner Wolf, Commissioner Cable, and Stephen David Simon. The Commission on Disability would like be more aware of the legislative process within the State and in the U.S to be able to make recommendations for further action.

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No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

**ITEM NO. (8): ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:15 P.M.