



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022, 1:00 P.M.

Department on Disability

Zoom Video Conference

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Myrna Cabanban

David Wolf

Iran Hopkins

Dr. Robert Bitonte

Richard Rothenberg

Alisa Schlesinger

Candace Cable

Robert Williams

Betty Wilson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability.

Ashley Rodriguez, Public Information Officer, Department on Disability.

Lourdes Sinibaldi, Director of Community Outreach, Referral and Education

Department on Disability.

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

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

Zenay Hayward, Neighborhood Services Policy Analyst, Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti

GUESTS:

Cynde Soto, Chair, Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

Kathleen Barajas, Vice-Chair, Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

Jared Rimer, Second, Vice-Chair, Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

ITEM NO. (1): FINDINGS TO CONTINUE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS PURSUANT TO AB 361

Determination in accordance with AB 361 Section 3(e)(3) that, while the state of emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic, as originally proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020, remains active and/or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, this commission has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and/or state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

Action Taken: The Commission on Disability approved the teleconference meetings pursuant to AB361.

ITEM NO. (2): APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the January 2022 and the Commission on Disability voted to approve them.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the minutes for January 12, 2022.

ITEM NO. (3): PUBLIC COMMENT

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (4): METRO - ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)

Guest speakers provided a presentation to the Commission on Disability on the Accessibility Advisory Committee on the current work and goals for 2022, and how the AAC can collaborate with the Commission in the future.

- I. Presentation is by Cynde Soto, Chair; Kathleen Barajas, Vice-Chair; and Jared Rimer, Second Vice-Chair, discussed the current work and goals for 2022 and how the AAC can collaborate with the Commission in the future. The committee is comprised of Metro customers who have disabilities or advocates that work with people with disabilities. They currently have 14 members and they all live and/or work throughout the LA County. The ACC solicit presentations and information from different Metro departments to learn about proposed programs and planning that are in development, give feedback on current accessibility issues, feedback on the plans that Metro is making, help with training through in-person visits, and by creating training videos. Committee members must be transit riders, living within Los Angeles County, and have a disability or work with people with disabilities. Many committee members are also members of other boards or to various agencies, committees, and groups and can reach out to independent living centers, L.A. County, the Braille Institute, Easter Seals, ACCOD, Access Services, Wayfindr, family services, and regional centers for resources. One of the AAC is undertaking involves with Dodger Express buses to making them more wheel chair friendly, working on speech-related impairments when riding Metro, and a website that was developed to teach sighted people how we as blind people travel. AAC has also recently done testing of tactile pathways, testing of NaviLens, work on Dodger express accessibility, wrap session division visits, braille and tactile signage testing, and integration of speech difficulty sensitivity information in to operator and in to operator training. The goals for ACC is to understand station maintenance procedures and bus maintenance procedures, examine how the agency can positively impact accessibility in those areas, continue collaboration with internal groups including the Metro Board of Directors and public Safety Advisory Council, advocate for increased use

of braille and tactile signage in and around access to transit, and advocate for better signage overall.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

ITEM NO. (5): UPDATE – 2021 HOMELESSNESS

Guest speakers provided the Commission on Disability will update on the services, projects, and data concerning homelessness in Los Angeles.

- I. Presentation is by Zenay Hayward, Neighborhood Services Policy Analyst, Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti and Lourdes Sinibaldi, Director of Community Outreach, Referral and Education Department on Disability. updated the Commission on the services, projects, and data concerning homelessness in Los Angeles. Currently, the Council offices are partnering up with nonprofits and service providers to be actively involved in the efforts to help with homelessness. Utilizing the DMD program, they were able to help one person with durable medical equipment and assisted with five people three weeks ago. When Zenay would go to the encampments, they found that a lot more people had disabilities and needed the DMD program. Since the partnership with the service providers and different Council Offices, they are able to triage services to provide people the items they may need to succeed, find housing, capturing reasonable accommodations, provide culturally appropriate outreach, support the ACO with the syringe exchange program, and provide recommendations to the LASA advisory board. She is also on call for the United Homelessness Response Center in the event that the teams need some assistance when they are encountering people with a disability that are homeless.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only

ITEM NO. (6): TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES (TNCS) ANALYSIS

- I. Presentation is by Post-Bar Legal Fellow Samuel Frank and V.P Commissioner Bitonte M.D. discussed the findings regarding TNCs data and the access due to the Disability community. Currently, the COD is

unable to access the funds, but are able to determine that there is an ongoing administrative proceeding and was able to collect some data that might be informative. Samuel looked through the TNCs data to answer these five questions: How long on average do users have to wait for the service to arrive? How many requests do you receive each day? What number, WAV questions -- what number and percent of those WAV requests do you respond to for? What number and percent of those do you receive a complete service? And What number of vehicles does your TNC have on the street? The answer to the questions one is the average users have to wait 16.5 minutes for the service to arrive in L.A. County. Samuel group questions two and four because the number of requests and the percentage of those request and there was an average of 264 request a day received in L.A. County and the percentage of the trips completed were 25% 2019 and above 50% in 2021. The answer for question three the number of those request you responded to was all of the request. The answer for question five the number of WAV on the street is on average were 432 WAV at any given hour. Based on looking at the data, the regulatory scheme was successful in WAV due to Metro asking questions, holding the TNC accountable, demanding higher standers, and suggest the \$.10 fee should be maintained or increased.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes

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

Ongoing update 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 and/or other department staff. The department's budget hearing is next week. DOD is currently prioritizing a second accessible specialist for remediation of documents and training thousands of City employees to do direct mediation, asking for a management analyst to manage programs and set up relationships, and asking for more money for overtime to cover special events. DOD will present the results to the City General Managers regarding of the self-evaluation program and create training to make sure City department are accessible to people with disabilities. DOD wanted to announce the celebration of life for Shari Duval. She was a fierce advocate, a dear friend of the department, and she worked with committees to ensure our community was accurately portrayed and represented by those with lived experience. Ashley Rodriguez, Public Information Officer updated the COD about the letter that will be releasing next week, the Office of the Lieutenant Government is drafting a letter expressing concerns with the district's appeal and

the LA Times is interviewing people associated with the case.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (8): 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. Stephen David Simon announced that Monday, February 14th, International Epilepsy Day. President Cabanban's new business is SB871 to close the personal loophole for vaccinations in school and SB277 and an update on SB277.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (9): ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:00 P.M.