



City of Arts & Innovation

Commission on Disabilities

TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS **DATE: JULY 18, 2016**
FROM: GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
SUBJECT: COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES WEBSITE EXPANSION

ISSUE:

The item for Commission on Disabilities consideration is expansion of the Commission on Disabilities website, Community Resource Agency section.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Commission discuss expansion of the Community Resource Agency list and format.

BACKGROUND:

The Commission on Disabilities' (COD) mission requires they identify the needs of persons with disabilities and create a public awareness of these needs in the areas of employment, housing, transportation, media, physical and communication accessibility and other areas. In 2013, as part of their community outreach, the COD developed a list of community resource agencies that could be linked to the City's COD website. These agencies are a resource to the community in locating disability related services. The website links that meet the City's Web Site Linking Policy have been included in the Community Resource List at <http://www.riversideca.gov/cod/>.

The COD would like to expand the Resource List to establish where parents of children with disabilities can get information. Many parents of newborn children or young children with disabilities do not know where to turn for help for their children. Parents also do not know how to navigate the educational system to get the help their children need. Further, when children with disabilities reach adulthood, many parents are at a loss about next steps in this transition at ages 18 to 22 years. The COD would like to establish a bridge and an outreach for these parents and adults with disabilities by creating positive relationships with school districts, Inland Regional Center and nonpublic agencies that provide services, i.e. Exceed (provide basic living skills training), Ability Counts (provider of meaningful vocational training and employment for individuals with developmental disabilities) and others.

A subcommittee has been formed to work on the website expansion project and will provide direction to the COD for development of additional community resources.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Submitted by: Monique Gordon, ADA Coordinator

Approved by: Carl Carey, General Services Director

Approved by: Marianna Marysheva-Martinez, Assistant City Manager