



# COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES MINUTES Monday, May 1, 2017 5:30 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: 5:30 pm

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Roll Call: Chairperson Vivian Stancil, Sharron Lewis, Lisa Miller, Vivian Foust, Gregory Alexander, Albert Davis,

Tola Perkins arrived at 5:35.

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. Individual audience participation is limited to 3 minutes.

- a. Peter Benavidez, CEO of Blindness Support Services, urged the COD to lobby for Measure Z funds in the interest of the disability community.
- b. Chairperson Stancil visited the Camp Anza community - there was a need in the Veterans' community for services.

3. Minutes for the meetings of November 7, 2016, January 9, 2017 and March 6, 2017.

M/S Perkins/Alexander and unanimous to approve the minutes of November 7, 2016.

AYES – 7 (Stancil, Lewis, Miller, Foust, Alexander, Davis); NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0.

#### 4. RCC Workability Program Presentation (Career Opportunities) – Glenda Laguna, RCC

Vice-Chair Lewis recapped the reason for this presentation. Last year, the COD wanted to investigate the education / career paths of students with disabilities after they graduated from high school. What does the community college network have to offer these students?

Ms. Glenda Laguna, RCC Workability Program, noted that students coming out of high school are a large part of the Program population but they also have a large population of older, returning students. There are more older students than high school age students in the Program. About 10% of RCC students come to the Disability Resource Center (DRC) for services. The DRC offers:

- a. Accessible computers and software and instruction on how to use them.
- b. Counseling about accommodations needed for students to get through school and accommodations they will need in the workplace.
- c. Self advocacy skills related to employment.

Disabilities being served are everything from acquired brain injury, psychological disabilities, learning disabilities, physical disabilities. Most are learning and psychological disabilities. Students with disabilities lasting more than 45 days are eligible for services. Many of these students are also clients of the Department of Rehabilitation. Clients are primarily those who are also clients of the Department of Rehabilitation. Ms. Laguna's contract with RCC and DOR requires that she help these students be employable when they complete coursework at RCC.

Glenda does job development and seeks internships for the students while they are in school.

Glenda brought to the attention a former student with a low vision disability who completed an Associates Degree and applied to the City of Riverside for employment in September 2016. At first, this person (applicant) decided that even though she has low vision and needs the use of computer software or increased font size, the applicant decided to try testing without accommodations, which was a mistake.

About two weeks before the test, the applicant decided to request appropriate accommodations. She sent email and called the City Human Resources to request an accommodation, but never received a response. She called again about three days before the test, and again, received no response. On the day of the test, she asked staff who were checking people in for the test about her accommodation request, but they knew nothing about the accommodation request and could not provide accommodation for the test. The applicant was not able to complete the test in the allotted time without any accommodations.

Glenda noted this was the second time this had happened to one of her students and she was concerned about the City of Riverside. There have been no problems with Riverside County. The City needed to know what was happening concerning applicants with disabilities.

The COD thanked Glenda for her presentation and agreed to look into the accommodation issue with Human Resources.

5. Fair Housing Council Presentation -- Candice Harper

Candice Harper, Housing Specialist with the Fair Housing Council of Riverside County, Inc. will discuss housing discrimination concerning disabled residents. Per federal civil rights laws, there are seven protected classes: race, color, sex, national origin, familial status, disability and more. The state civil rights act has adopted 13 additional protected classes in California including: marital status, ancestry, sexual orientation, source of income, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, arbitrary factors, age, immigration status. The Mission is fair housing for everyone. Education on housing rights is one of the services provided by the Fair Housing Council.

6. Special Transportation Fare Increase from \$2 to \$3 Effective July 1, 2017

Ron Profeta, Transportation Manager, Parks, Recreation and Community Services, revisited the rate increase topic that was originally heard by the COD more than a year ago. Very soon, this item will go to City Council again for approval. He will return at least annually to provide progress reports on the program and program costs. Mr. Profeta asked for the COD's continued support.

7. Implement Revised Board and Commission Attendance Policy

Attendance Discussion: Lisa Miller will not be available in July due to prearranged vacation.

M/S Lewis/Stancil to excuse Lisa Miller from the July 10, 2017 meeting due to her annual vacation.

AYES – 7 (Stancil, Lewis, Miller, Foust, Alexander, Davis); NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0.

8. Election of Officers

Sharron Lewis was elected Chairperson and Tola Perkins was elected Vice-chair.

The COD unanimously approved Sharron Lewis as Chairperson and Tola Perkins as Vice-chair for 2017-18.

AYES – 7 (Stancil, Lewis, Miller, Foust, Alexander, Davis); NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0.

9. Measure Z Spending Priorities

- a. Services / Needs for Residents with Disabilities
- b. Homeless Services / Mental Health
- c. Street Maintenance / Road Improvement
- d. Public Safety

10.311 Call Center – ADA Related Service Statistics

11. Revision of the 2017 Meeting Calendar – July 3, 2017 to July 10, 2017

The COD agreed to meet on July 10 instead of July 3, 2017.

12. Items for future Commission on Disabilities consideration

- a. Boardwell Park / Stratton Center disabled / senior parking
- b. Riverside Youth Council Presentation
- c. COD Annual Event Calendar
- d. Homeless Services – statistics concerning homeless population
- e. Human Resources – accommodations and hiring process for potential disabled employees

13. The Transportation Board meets monthly at 5:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month (May 3, 2017) in the Art Pick Council Chamber, City Hall, 3900 Main Street.

14. Respite Event: A Night of Hope and Joy, Janet Goeske Center, May 9, 2017, between 6-8 pm (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday each month).

15. Mayor's Commission on Aging meets 1:00 p.m. the second Thursday of each month (May 11, 2017) in the Mayor's Ceremonial Room.

16. Inland Empire Disabilities Collaborative meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month (May 16, 2017) from 9:30am - 11:30am, at the Rustin Conference Center 2085 Rustin Ave, Riverside, CA 92507.

17. Riverside's Model Deaf Community Committee (MDCC), third Wednesday of the month (May 17, 2017) at 4:00 pm in the 6th Floor Small Conference Room.

13. Commission on Disabilities Report to City Council December 19, 2017

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be July 10, 2017.