



**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
MINUTES
Monday, March 4, 2019
5:30 PM**

*FIFTH FLOOR LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL,
3900 MAIN STREET, RIVERSIDE, 92522
GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 951-826-5427*

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

City Clerk presented the Oath of Office to Kittie Aleman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Roll Call: Chairperson Sharron Lewis, Albert Davis, Sr., Ryan Nelson, Antonia Quezada, Kimberly Lopez, John Krick, Kittie Alman.

Gregory Alexander arrived at 5:45 pm

ABSENT: Tola Perkins (excused).

Also in attendance were General Services Director Carl Carey, City Clerk Colleen Nicol and ADA Coordinator Monique Gordon.

2. **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.

None.

PRESENTATIONS

3. Presentation from the Riverside Clergy Association President about homelessness and how faith-based organizations can provide resources and assistance

Pastor Paul Munford (Pastor), President of the Riverside Clergy Association introduced his son-in-law, Sean Mill, Chairman of the Riverside Planning Commission, and running for City Council of the 5th Ward. Pastor also introduced Ms. Karen Lull, executive of the Light House Social Service Centers with a background in homelessness and veterans. Pastor Munford is pastor of New Joy Baptist Church in Riverside.

Pastor noted that the faith community is very concerned about the homeless problem in the City and he described some of his first-hand experiences with homelessness. He noted that every segment of the City would be needed to end homelessness and provide resources: government, business, faith community and donors. More shelters are needed along with compassion. The problem demands that compassion is expressed with people who are homeless. Mental health, pain and hurt are expressed with people who are homeless. The faith community would like to partner with the COD, but they need help with addressing homelessness, a homeless resource package.

The resource package, or kit, needs to provide information about places: homeless shelters, when they are open, who qualifies to enter. Where can homeless people receive food, what times these places are open and any qualifications for people receiving services. Where can they receive medical help, job assistance, transportation. These are basic things he is asked by homeless people and he does not have a good answer. The faith community needs to be equipped and empowered. Any information the COD has in assisting homelessness, the faith community needs to have. This or something similar, it needs to be advertised.

The police can also play an active part in the homeless situation. Police are valuable for residents and homeless. He wanted to suggest that the police department serve as a homeless resource. With the homeless kit, list all the services available for homeless persons. This information could be kept in police vehicles since they see homeless people every day. Everyone must get on board to eradicate homelessness, focus on the problem and believe that the problem can be resolved. Development of these resource packages would show concern, care and hope. He suggested that after the resource kit was created, the faith community be invited to hear what resources are available and team with the COD. Funding will also need to be provided for shelter.

He also suggested that the COD set up a homeless listening post where the homeless can call a particular number, like 911, where people who are homeless can call for help and find out what is available. This line would help in serving the homeless population.

Commissioner Lewis noted that these discussions were leading to the COD chairing a community forum on homelessness and disabilities. Having churches and leaders in the community come and connect the dots.

4. Presentation from the Volunteers for Veterans Foundation to create awareness about providing assistance to all active and retired veterans and those in transition to civilian life awaiting Veterans Administration benefits

Volunteers for Veterans (VV) is a non-profit organization who help individual veterans with every day needs, such first and last month's rent, food, clothes, car repair, utilities and other every day needs. They help vets get off the street and also work to prevent them from becoming homeless. VV also help normalize situations for veterans such as housing and furnishing the apartments and help instill dignity.

VV would be willing to partner with the City of Riverside to help financially in some way to end homelessness for veterans. She noted statewide foundations that list food banks, and other resources that are already available.

DISCUSSION CALENDAR

This portion of the Commission on Disabilities Agenda is for all matters where staff and public participation is anticipated. Individual audience participation is limited to 3 minutes.

5. Election of Officers.

Dr. Gregory Alexander was elected as the new chairperson and Kimberly Lopez is the new vice-chair.

6. Board and Commission Attendance Policy concerning the March 4, 2019 meeting: N/A

7. 2018-19 Workplan Development and Goals

She needs all photos of speakers over the last year a new group photo and website photos. Former COD Commissioner Dr. Keith Nelson volunteered to bring his camera to the May meeting and take a group photo.

8. Minutes for the meeting of January 7, 2019

M/S Foust/Nelson and unanimous to accept the minutes of January 7, 2019 as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS

9. Brief reports on conferences, seminars, meetings attended by Commission on Disabilities Members.

Chairperson Lewis noted that she attended a meeting hosting Irvanyon Germany, members of the Green Party Environmentalists who are looking for ways to improve their city.

Chairperson Lewis also attended the Mayor's multi-cultural group representing the COD.

Chairperson Lewis also noted that she had been elected First Vice President of the Riverside Coalition NAACP.

Gregory Alexander II noted that the Residents for Responsible Representation meets to discuss hot topics. The current discussions are about the Riverside Police Department.

Commissioner Davis noted that he attended the dedication ceremony for transitional housing at the Grove Community Church. He also attended the State of the City represented by the State of the City.

Items for Future Consideration:

1. Presentations about employment and disabled youth. Invite Parks and Recreation.
2. Update of employment PSA.
3. Update of brochures.
4. Make COD members available to provide presentations for other groups.
5. Going before Council to let them know what is happening with the COD – Quarterly?
6. Agenda item to discuss how the COD can be more public.
7. Presentation by Blindness Support Services – Toni Quesada.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:20 pm

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be May 6, 2019.