



# COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES MINUTES Monday, July 6, 2015 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."*

CALL TO ORDER: 5:32 pm

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Roll Call: Chairperson Pro-tem Keith Nelson, Antha Ward, Robin Treen, Sharron Lewis, Richard Olquin, Donna Flores, Vivian Foust.

ABSENT: Donald Hawecker (unexcused); Vivian Stancil, Marsha Gonzalez, Lisa Miller (excused)

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

City Clerk Coleen Nicol swore in the newest Commission on Disabilities (COD) Commioner Donna Flores. City Clerk Coleen Nicol left the meeting directly after the swearing in.

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. Charlie Foust was in attendance with Commissioner Foust.
- b. Debbie Guthrie, Riverside Sports Commission, was in attendance to present item #6 concerning the Riverside Host Town Status – Special Olympic World GamesTeam Sweden.

3. Minutes for the meetings of May 4, 2015.

Minutes were approved as presented.

AYES – 7; NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0; ABSENT – 4 (Hawecker, Stancil, Gonzalez, Miller)

## OLD BUSINESS

### 4. Video Features Update – Increasing Employment Opportunities for persons with disabilities

This project has been delayed and the COD must consider how to proceed with the project or alter the project's scope. Commissioner Nelson noted that there had been drastic changes in the employment group landscape and the services provided have drastically changed. He noted that the Regional Center is working on alternative employment strategies, the ARC of Riverside has a 3 year backlog and Al Schwartz is starting a new work program. The current strategy in the work program community is micro-enterprises such as fruit stands, pottery for special occasions or other self sufficient enterprises. This includes the Inland Regional Center update.

Commissioner Olquin noted that the project's problem was that companies within the City of Riverside need to be used. The problem seemed to be the need for specific consumers and the roadblock seemed to be finding an individual and moving forward. He noted that the COD had the capacity to produce the PSAs that would be seen on GTV, similar to infomercials. He suggested highlighting individuals or organizations that have current resources or updated information.

Commissioner Nelson noted that he knew a high functioning couple that would work, if they were interested. This couple drives, are married, are independent, work, eat, shop and play in Riverside.

Vice-Chair Treen suggested that the COD nominate some people or organizations to focus the PSAs on and move forward. The focus of the PSA would be the employer; we want to inform the employer that there is a group of workers available that would be advantageous to their businesses. He wants to nominate a friend who is sight impaired and previously received disability payments. This friend was trained through the Department of Rehabilitation and is now employed.

The outcome of this project will be seen on Channel 3 (GTV) in a 3 part series, (1) the work program, (2) 2-3 followups showing individuals who work, live, play in Riverside and (3) showing the success of the employer through this employment track along with the normalization of workers with disabilities. Including information about the Department of Rehabilitation, business and worker would be important to include.

The assignment is for the COD to bring back definitive stories and people to the September 21 meeting and this project be moved forward with steps two and three and find the employee, with a variety of disabilities, and employer's stories. Name, contact information an outline for prospective individual or organization that the COD can consider.

In response to a question by Commissioner Olquin about if the focus should be on the DOR, since they are the integral resource between the consumer and the employer,

### 5. City Special Transportation Provides Transportation Services to Seniors and Residents with Disabilities (Byron Mayhan, Special Transportation Supervisor)

The Special Transportation Supervisor was not able to attend. This item will be held over to the November 2, 2015 meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 6. The Riverside Sports Commission requests support for Riverside Host Town Status – Special Olympic World Games Team Sweden

Debbie Guthrie, Riverside Sports Commission, presented the City of Riverside Host Town Status for the Special Olympic World Games for Team Sweden. She noted that 92 athletes from Team Sweden (Team) would be preparing for the Special Olympic World Games in Los Angeles. She outlined the schedule of activities for the Team who would be arriving on July 21, 2015. The Team would be staying at the California School for the Deaf, who provided a deeply discounted rate and the Sports Commission is providing funds to cover the costs for housing, meals and other necessary items. The idea was to provide the Team with a cultural experience that gets them to know a bit about Riverside. There would be information about Riverside culture along with concurrent tours of a fire station, the Art Museum, the Metro Museum and the Mission Inn would provide a quick tour. There will also be a Main Street Parade to showcase 500 special Olympians from Team USA and Team Sweden.

#### COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

##### 7. 311 Call Center – ADA Related Service Statistics 42:01

Noted by the COD

##### 8. Items for future COD consideration

###### a. Update concerning the illegal sale of disabled placards at swapmeets.

The COD requested an update on the topic of disabled parking placards being illegally sold at Riverside swapmeets. Commissioner Nelson outlined the steps taken to contact the Riverside Police Department on this topic. The process included contacting the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) who have jurisdiction over the parking placards. Commissioner Nelson visited the DMV with the complaint form filled out and was informed that only specific cases received responses by the DMV in response to an investigation. For instance, if a specific complaint by the DMV about a person seen selling placards at a specific time and location, the illegal sale would be investigated and information reported to whoever submitted the complaint; otherwise there will be no updates concerning the complaint. Of note is the DMV explained that they were aware of the illegal sale of disabled placards - this is a problem state-wide and they were investigating swapmeets off and on.

Police Chief Diaz noted that he would look into this matter. Chief Diaz noted that they had received no complaints and that officers regularly patrolled the swapmeets looking for various stolen goods.

In response to Commissioner Lewis' question about the best way to report on this and other illegal activity, Commissioner Treen noted that the 311 application on your smart phone with a photo would likely be the best, fastest and most efficient way to report illegal activity in the City.

###### b. Veteran's Preference Policy

Commissioner Olquin previously requested a copy of the Veteran's Preference Policy. He also asked if the City had a requirement to hire persons with disabilities, i.e. a certain percentage. What recruitment efforts does the City have for persons with disabilities? It is his understanding from conversations with specific people who serve on various boards and

commissions that the City may not be viewed as disability friendly in their hiring practices. One such person is now head of the EDD office on Iowa in Riverside.

Commissioner Treen noted that he previously held a position on the Human Relations Board and for 8 years and he knows that there is no mandate to hire persons with disabilities because the disabled community is not large enough to warrant a specific hiring designation.

Commissioner Olquin requested that someone from Human Resources come in to discuss their hiring process for persons with disabilities and the City's policy for attendance at various job fairs and hiring events in the City, since the City is usually absent from these events. The request also includes a request for explanation of the City's hiring process; is the process friendly to seniors and persons with disabilities?

Commissioner Lewis asked if Human Resources have statistics on employee disability similar to ethnicity statistics. It is the COD's desire for persons with disabilities to feel comfortable applying for jobs in this great City of Riverside. If the conversation is uncomfortable, that's ok, improvements can be made in the process. The COD will ask questions, and will not attack the City but work collaboratively to improve the process. We want to be able to promote that City employment is open to everyone.

Commissioner Ward noted that the Superior Courts have done a fantastic job of changing their entire negative perspective; if you go to the Courts, you see wheelchairs, deaf presence and others, where 10 years ago no disability would have been visible. The City HR could reference the Courts in an effort to change the perspective of the disability community. The Department of Rehabilitation will pay the costs of accommodations for employees who are disabled.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

These events were noted by the COD.

9. Mayor's Commission on Aging meets 1:00 p.m. the second Thursday of each month (July 9, 2015) in the Mayor's Ceremonial Room.
10. Inland Empire Disabilities Collaborative meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 9:30am - 11:30am, July 21, 2015 at Braille Institute, 850 E. Foothill Blvd, Rialto, CA.
11. Riverside's Model Deaf Community Committee (MDCC), third Wednesday of the month (July 15, 2015) at 4:00 pm in the 6th Floor Small Conference Room.
12. Mayor's Night Out – Tuesday, July 7, 2015 at La Sierra Park, 5215 La Sierra Avenue, Riverside 92505 at 6:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT: 7:55 pm.