

CITY OF OAKLAND

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

Agenda Report

2004 APR 28 PM 5:15

TO: Office of the City Manager
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: CMO/ADA Programs
DATE: May 11, 2004

SUBJECT: MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
ACTIVITY REPORT

SUMMARY

This is an informational report to update the City Council on the activities of the Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD). The attached report lists MCPD accomplishments for **July 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004** and includes a current committee roster.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

DISCUSSION

The Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities was established by City ordinance in 1980 to represent and address the issues of people with disabilities. Since 1990, the MCPD has acted as the City's designated advisory body for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. (The U.S. Department of Justice requires that cities establish a public advisory body to oversee implementation and monitoring of the ADA.)

The Commission has three active committees: ADA/504 and Housing; Education, Employment and Outreach; and Transportation and Mobility. These committees participate in nearly every aspect of City government and advocate for full inclusion of people with disabilities in City programs, activities and services. The MCPD works closely with the California Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, the Center for Independent Living, the Oakland Unified School District, and other state and local agencies to create opportunities for Oaklanders with disabilities.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christine Calabrese
City ADA Coordinator

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO
THE LIFE ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE:


Office of the City Manager

**MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
ACTIVITY REPORT
July 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004**

Administrative

- Election of officers for calendar year 2004
 - Chairperson
Nominations: Leng nominates Teixeira
Moore nominates Craig
Craig declines nomination
Teixeira accepts nomination
Vote [Ayes: 9: No: 0] Teixeira is re-elected.

 - Vice Chair
Nominations: Crosby nominates Craig
Craig nominates Finn
Craig accepts nomination
Finn accepts nomination
Vote: 6 for Craig, 3 for Finn. Craig is re-elected

- During the period beginning July 1, 2003 and ending March 31, 2004, four commissioners were appointed and two commissioners resigned, bringing the number of seated commissioners to eleven and the number of vacancies to four.

- Conducted outreach to local disability organizations and recruited individual applicants to the Commission.

- Discussion with Mayor Jerry Brown (January 5, 2004)
 1. Discussion of accessible, affordable housing issues. The Mayor and Commissioners discussed the economic realities that drive the housing market and limit the development of new accessible, affordable housing units. The Uptown Project is of particular concern, especially the East Bay Housing Organization's (EBHO) proposal to build a separate 70-unit, low income housing structure. The ADA/504 & Housing Committee informed the Mayor that

they are closely following the proposed relaxation of the City's condo conversion law.

2. Discussion of transportation and mobility issues. Christine Calabrese, City ADA Coordinator, discussed the upcoming citywide sidewalk condition survey, the lawsuit know as Barden v. Sacramento, and the Commission's role as the oversight body for ADA implementation. The Transportation and Mobility Committee intends to focus its attention on paratransit issues: there are many community concerns that East Bay Paratransit is providing unsafe, inferior services. Jeff Weiss, Senior Services Supervisor, discussed the City's Oakland Paratransit for the Elderly and Disabled program.
3. The Education, Outreach and Employment Committee discussed their efforts to help create job opportunities for people with disabilities in Oakland and to promote disability culture, such as their yearly Art of Disability events.

ADA and Housing Committee

- Provided oversight for the City's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Capital Improvement Program.
- Monitored expenditure of up to \$250,000 of ADA Transition Plan MIC funds (Project C88810) for a ADA Sidewalk Survey and Repair Project. The scope of the project will include drafting a citywide Curb Ramp and Sidewalk Transition Plan, as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The ADA Programs Division will complete the project in cooperation with the MCPD Transportation and Mobility Committee and the Public Works Agency.
- The City of Oakland is considering relaxing its condo conversion law (Oakland Municipal Code 16.36.070). While some housing advocates have already come out against any change in the City's current condo conversion rules, the Committee is holding a series of discussions prior to taking a position on this matter.
- At its March 2004 meeting, the Commission on Persons with Disabilities passed a motion approving the allocation of Fiscal Year 2003-'04 ADA Transition Plan Municipal Capital Improvement Funds as follows:

1. On-Call Curb Ramp Program: Approval of allocation of funds not to exceed \$25,000 to supplement the On Call Curb Ramp—Phase C project budget and allow the Public Works Agency to fulfill all current requests for curb ramps.
2. Bella Vista Park: Approval of allocation of funds not to exceed \$32, 064 to cover one half of the cost for a ramp to connect the park and elementary school and one half of the cost of new poured in place safety surfacing.

Transportation and Mobility Committee (TMC)

- Provided oversight and technical assistance to the City Manager's On-call Curb Ramp and Audible Pedestrian Signal Projects and the Public Works Agency's (PWA) Curb Ramp, Sidewalk Repair and Disabled Parking Zone Programs.
- Conducted extensive outreach to invite people from the disability community to TMC meetings and keep them informed of issues raised at meetings.
- Monitored the suspension of the Residential Disabled Parking Zone Program under the City's 2003-05 Policy Budget. Exemptions are allowed but eligibility criteria is much more stringent than the regular program. MCPD will continue to monitor this program to determine if the suspension should be lifted and what new eligibility criteria should be adopted.

Education, Employment and Outreach Committee [EEO].

- Co-sponsored the grand opening celebration of the Arroyo Viejo Inclusive Recreation Center with Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation, ADA Programs, and OPR Inclusive Recreation Office on July 24, 2003. The event was held in conjunction with the 13th Anniversary of the ADA and Council Member Brooks was in attendance.

- Held the second annual ‘Art of Disability Visual Arts’ event that showcased works by artists with disabilities in the Frank H. Ogawa Administrative Building Complex. Art of Disability Visual Arts Exhibit participants included: Creative Growth, NIAD, Stepping Stones, Center for Accessible Technology, and Toolworks. The exhibit was up from Monday, September 22nd through Friday, October 10th, 2003. A reception was held on Wednesday, September 24th in the City Hall Rotunda.
- The Commission and the ADA Programs Division cosponsored the Disability Rights Advocates 10th Anniversary Celebration (dinner) on Thursday, October 16, 2003. The joint sponsorship at the “Friend” level included a table for ten and acknowledgement in the dinner program.
- The Center for Accessible Technology assisted the ADA Programs Division to create an ADA programs web page for the City. The ADA Programs Web page was launched in October 2003.
- In October 2003, the Commission presented its annual awards for outstanding service to the City of Oakland and the Disability Community to:
 - A. Council Woman Jean Quan, City of Oakland District 4
 - B. Jan Garrett, Executive Director, Center for Independent Living
 - C. Leslyn Henry, Transition Partnership Coordinator, Oakland Unified School District
 - D. William Dycus, independent housing advocate
 - E. Scott Means, Inclusive Recreation Coordinator, Office of Parks and Recreation
- On March 20, 2004, the Commission held the second Art of Disability performance event at the Alice Arts Center. The World Institute on Disability cosponsored the event. Performers were Greg Walloch, Axis Dance and Leroy Moore.
- Commissioner Crosby met with Oakland Unified School District special education teachers in December to discuss possible applicants for the 13th Annual Governor’s Committee on Employment of Persons with Disabilities Youth Leadership Forum.

Commission Priorities for Calendar Year 2004

(Adopted at the Commission's yearly retreat in December 2003)

A. ADA/504 & Housing Committee Goals, *Chairperson Denis Craig*

1. Main housing goal for next year is to work on the uptown project and advocate for integration of accessible housing units, rather than separate accessible housing complexes.
2. Monitor proposed changes to the City's condominium conversion law
3. Monitor implementation of the Voluntary Compliance Agreement between the City and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.
4. Continued oversight of the CDBG-funded Access Improvement Program.
5. Continued ADA Transition Plan Project oversight, including the upcoming citywide sidewalk condition survey.
6. To receive quarterly reports from the Fire Services Agency on emergency preparedness programs, city building evacuation programs, and the 9-1-1 Registry Program.
7. To receive quarterly reports from the Office of Parks and Recreation Inclusive Recreation Coordinator on recreation issues and opportunities for persons with disabilities.

B. Transportation & Mobility Committee Report, *Chairperson Linda Teixeira*

1. Continued oversight of the Public Works Agency's curb ramp, audible pedestrian traffic signal, street and sidewalk improvement, traffic calming, and disabled parking zone programs.
2. Continued monitoring of Alameda County's ADA and the City's own paratransit programs.
3. Primary focus on issues related to transportation for people with disabilities in Oakland, especially paratransit services. Hold a consumers and provider forum, with the goal of improving accountability of transportation service providers to consumers with disabilities. Involve city and county officials and advocacy organizations, such as United Seniors

for Oakland and the Center for Independent Living, in resolving identified problems.

C. Education, Employment & Outreach (EEO) Committee Report,
Chairperson Lynne Cutler

1. Increase education of employers in Oakland to enhance employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Explain to employers the advantages of hiring people with disabilities. Put out a handbook? Work with the Equal Opportunity Programs Division. Obtain data regarding current employment of people with disabilities in the City of Oakland.
2. Explore state and private funding opportunities and incentives for City programs serving people with disabilities, especially youth.
3. Work further with the Oakland Fund for Children and Youth on increasing access to regular and special programs.
4. Facilitate the process of applying to the California Governor's Committee on Employment of Persons with Disabilities Youth Leadership Forum.
5. Work with the Workforce Investment Board to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
6. Organize yearly MCPD awards ceremony; improve nomination process.
7. Conduct outreach to other commissions (Commission on Aging, Youth Commission, Cultural Arts Commission). Also to City Craft and Cultural Arts staff.
8. MCPD presence at East Bay arts/disabilities festivals (staff a table, with a display and fliers) Example: Harambee.
9. Present another 'Art of Disability' performance event.
10. Present annual art exhibit in October.
11. Continue inviting guests to EEO meetings and establishing connections.

City of Oakland Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities

Committee Roster

March 2004

Chairperson: Linda Teixeira

Vice Chair: Denis Craig

	ADA/504 & Housing	Education, Employment & Outreach	Transportation & Mobility
Eva Aguillard			X
Lynne Cutler		X (Chair)	
Denis Craig	X (Chair)		
Nancy Crosby		X	
Estelle Eskenazi		X	
Chris Finn		X	
Henry Leng		X	
Alice Moore	X		X
Tamar Raine	X		X
Linda Teixeira	X		X (Chair)
Safi wa Nairobi	X	X	X
(Four Vacancies)			