

CITY OF OAKLAND

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: CAO/ADA Programs
DATE: March 13, 2007

SUBJECT: COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
ANNUAL REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2006

SUMMARY

This report informs the City Council on activities of the Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD) in 2006.

FISCAL IMPACT

This report is informational and, as such, does not have any fiscal impact.

DISCUSSION

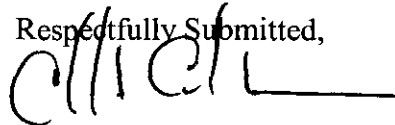
The Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities was established by City ordinance in 1980 to represent and address the issues of people with disabilities. Since 1990, the MCPD has acted as the City's designated advisory body for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. *(The U.S. Department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

The Commission has three active committees: 1) Housing; 2) Education, Employment and Outreach; and 3) Transportation and Mobility. These committees participate in many aspects of City government and advocate for full inclusion of people with disabilities in City programs, activities and services.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

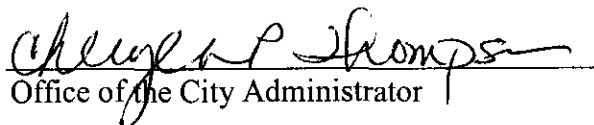
Staff requests that the City Council accept this informational report.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christine Calabrese
City ADA Coordinator

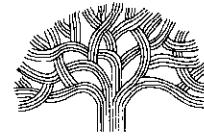
FORWARDED TO THE
LIFE ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE



Office of the City Administrator

Item No. _____
Life Enrichment Committee
March 13, 2007

CITY OF OAKLAND



MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES 1 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA OAKLAND CA 94612

March 13, 2006

LIFE ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE Oakland City Council

Subject: Annual Report of the Commission on Persons with Disabilities

Chairperson Chang and Members of the Committee:

The Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD) hereby reports on its activities for calendar year 2006.

I. Introduction

The Bay Area is the birthplace of the U.S. disability rights movement and a number of prominent disability advocacy organizations are located in Oakland, such as the Center for Independent Living, World Institute on Disability, and Lions Center for the Blind. In keeping with this legacy, the City of Oakland is a leader among Bay Area city governments in Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) implementation. Further, many of our programs are emulated by other jurisdictions.

The Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD) was established by City ordinance in 1980 to represent and address issues of people with disabilities. The MCPD has at least 51% representation by people with disabilities. Commissioners are living with a range of disabilities, including blindness, deafness, visual impairment, hearing impairment, paralysis, other mobility impairment, HIV/AIDS, breast cancer, Cerebral Palsy, and Multiple Sclerosis. Representatives of the Oakland Public Library, Red Cross, United Cerebral Palsy, Oakland Housing Authority, Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program, and United Seniors of Oakland sit on the commission.

The MCPD is one of only a handful of city-based commissions in California that receive support from local government, thereby avoiding the struggles of unsupported bodies whose influence in oversight of programs and policies is more limited. The Commission has three active committees: 1) Housing; 2) Education, Employment and Outreach; and 3) Transportation and Mobility. MCPD committees participate in nearly every aspect of Oakland's government, advocating for full inclusion of people with disabilities in City programs, activities, and services.

The MCPD is the City's designated advisory body for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. Because of the law's focus on accessibility to city programs and facilities and its potential for costly litigation, effective implementation and community support have been central to a successful program. The MCPD works in close partnership with the ADA Programs Division in the Office of the City Administrator. This relationship spans over two decades and is key to the City's success in the disability rights and compliance arenas.

The Commission devotes many resources to advocating for youth with disabilities, celebrating disability art and culture, and honoring disability rights advocates. The MCPD works closely with the Oakland Unified School District and other community based organizations to provide mentorship, recognition and employment opportunities to young people with disabilities through its Youth In Action program. By participation in celebrations of our city's rich heritage as well as special presentations of disabled artists, the MCPD promotes a greater awareness of artistic talent and cultural contributions of disabled persons. Each year, the MCPD conducts a series of events in commemoration of National Disability Awareness Month, such as our annual awards ceremony.

II. Calendar Year 2006 Activities

1. ACCESS

Public Right of Way Improvement Programs: The MCPD provides oversight and technical assistance to the Public Works Agency (PWA) Curb Ramp, Sidewalk Repair and Residential Disabled Parking Zone programs. The Transportation and Mobility Committee is very active, advocating for essential public right of way and transportation improvements and working with the PWA, Oakland Police Department, BART, East Bay Paratransit and other local agencies.

To better address ADA requirements for the City's entire street and sidewalk system, the ADA Programs Division is drafting a Public Right of Way Transition Plan. The Plan will catalog, prioritize and document repairs necessary to ensure access for pedestrians with disabilities. In order to complete this plan, staff is coordinating a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based survey of all city sidewalks, similar to the Citywide Curb Ramp Survey completed in 2002. Like the curb ramp database, map-based citywide sidewalk inventory will be of great use to the City, beyond the planning of ADA improvements.

ADA Transition Plan Program: This project provides physical access to City buildings and facilities for persons with disabilities by removing architectural barriers identified in the City's federally mandated ADA Transition Plan. The Transition Plan covers over 200 City buildings and facilities and substantial improvements have been made at more than 100 of these locations since 1997.

The program's successes are widely recognized by the disability community and regulatory agencies. Past Transition Plan projects include major renovations at the

Oakland Museum, Main Library, and Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts, construction of the Arroyo Viejo Inclusive Recreation Center, and numerous improvements at park and recreation facilities, such as aquatic wheelchair lifts, rubberized play surfacing, accessible / specialized play equipment, and recreational trail access. Current projects are as follows:

Fiscal Year 2006-2007 ADA Transition Plan Allocations

Fund	Project	Description	CD	Revised	Status
5200	C2742xx	ADA Public Right of Way Repair	ALL	\$47,029	Ongoing
5200	C2742xx	Contingency	ALL	\$50,000	As-needed
5200	C2742xx	Linden Park Play Surface	1	\$60,000	Complete
5200	C2742xx	Rockridge Greenbelt Supplemental	1	\$5,517	Complete
5200	C2742xx	Raimondi Field / Mini-Park	3	\$100,000	Design
5200	C2742xx	Woodminster Amphitheatre Ramp	4	\$30,000	Complete
5200	C2742xx	Peralta Hacienda Hist. Park	5	\$50,000	20% Match
5200	C2742xx	Carter Gilmore Field ADA	6	\$75,000	Pre-bid
5200	C2742xx	Arroyo Viejo Play Surface	6	\$125,000	Design/Build
5200	C2742xx	Sheffield Village Supplemental	7	\$90,000	Delayed
			Total	\$632,546	

ADA Accommodations Projects

- Studio One Adaptive Technology and Furnishings
- Rockridge Temescal Greenbelt Public Art interpretive kiosk
- Adaptive Technology installations at the Oakland Public Library’s Main, Martin Luther King and 81st Avenue branches.

2. YOUTH

The MCPD continued building its Youth In Action program, collaborating with the Oakland Unified School District, Office of Parks and Recreation Inclusive Recreation Program, Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program, Lion Center for the Blind, Family Resource Center, Harambee, and the Center for Independent Living to increase recognition and opportunities for youth with disabilities, ages 14-21.

Last year saw the second annual Youth in Action, Celebrating Future Leaders of the Disability Community program. The goal of this event is to identify and introduce to the disability community individuals whose achievements and potential beyond secondary school make them candidates for leadership. Two ceremonies honored students: graduating seniors were honored with a reception at City Hall and a larger group of high school students received recognition at special event in October.

The Youth In Action reception was held at Arroyo Viejo Recreation Center, providing an opportunity for friends, family and supporters to celebrate the achievement of their children. Fifteen young people were honored for their promise as leaders and their present ongoing efforts worthy of recognition. Catering was provided by McClymonds High School Culinary Arts Academy. Congresswoman Barbara Lee provided congressional certificates for all honorees.

In June 2006, the Commission presented certificates of achievement to graduating high school seniors enrolled in the school district's Workability Program. These individuals, while perhaps not standing out in the larger student body, demonstrate great personal achievement, self-advocacy and success in transitioning to adult life.

- Mirian Avila, Life Academy High School. Mirian received academic support in the Resource Specialist Program. Mirian is now attending Merritt College, having received scholarships to support her dream of becoming a nurse.
- Shauna McKneely, Oakland Technical High School. Shauna was a Special Day Class student when she enrolled at Oakland Tech in the ninth grade but, due to her determination, efforts and hard work, she was transitioned into the mainstream program and made the honor roll.
- Michelle Reynolds, Dewey High School. Michelle, who has learning disability, earned a 4.0 grade point average and had 95% positive attendance during her last semester. This was an exceptional achievement for Michelle who has struggled throughout high school balancing her schoolwork and responsibilities as a young mother. Michelle is now attending Merritt Community College and pursuing a career as a Certified Nursing Assistant.
- Marquise Stevenson, BEST High School, McClymonds Educational Complex. Marquise, who has a learning disability, participated in the Culinary Arts Academy at McClymonds for three years. He was successful in passing the California Exit Exam and was accepted to various colleges within the California State University system.

3. ADVOCACY

Commissioners represent the City and the issues of people with disabilities in a variety of individual endeavors that enhance and inform the MCPD's collective activities.

Leadership

- Bay Area Disability Services Librarians Co-Chair (Cutler)
- BART Access Subcommittee Chair (Aguillard)
- Commissioner-In-charge of National Association of Housing Rehabilitation Officers (Pittman)
- Eastmont Town Center Improvement TMC Subcommittee Chair (Aguillard)
- KPFA, 94.1 F.M, Co-Producer of "Fathers with Disabilities" (wa Nairobi)
- Oakland Housing Authority Board Vice-Chair (Pittman)

- ❑ Ryan White Care Committee Local Representative (housing for people with HIV/AIDS) (Pittman)
- ❑ USA National Power Soccer Team Coach (Finn)
- ❑ Youth in Action Mentor (Brand)

Membership

- ❑ AC Transit Accessibility Board (non-voting) (Hudson-Jones)
- ❑ Alameda County Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (Teixeira)
- ❑ Emergency Management Board (Teixeira)
- ❑ Long-Term Care Planning Committee for Alameda County (Pelter)

Conferences and Events

- ❑ Boston Public Library Association Conference, “Serving Patrons with Learning Disabilities” (Cutler)
- ❑ California Alliance for Retired Americans Conference in San Jose, October 26 through 28, 2006 (Aguillard)
- ❑ California Centers for Independent Living Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities Workshop in Sacramento on December 11, 2006 (Rosenblatt)
- ❑ California Library Association conference on disability accommodations (Cutler)
- ❑ Developmental Disabilities Councils of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties Joint Annual Dinner Meeting on May 31, 2006 (Aguillard)
- ❑ International conference on HIV, disabilities, and aging in Miami, Florida during the week of January 9, 2006 (Pittman)
- ❑ National Institute on Disability Research and Rehabilitation, NIDRR, ADA Symposium in St. Louis in April 2006 (Cutler)
- ❑ US Department of Labor Workforce Innovation Conference in Anaheim (Aguillard and Teixeira)

4. NATIONAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

For the third year in a row, the Commission participated in the City's annual Art & Soul Festival, providing information to the public and promoting upcoming Disability Awareness Month events.

The Commission sponsored a Frank Ogawa Plaza noontime performance by the critically acclaimed AXIS Dance Company. Dancers performed before an audience and passers-by estimated at around 150. It is the second time that this company, which is based at the Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts, has performed at a Commission event. Oakland Magazine featured the event on its back page saying, “Lanet Parker, a 28-year-old African American woman, lingers after the performance, letting it all sink in. “Wow, I’ve just watched someone in a wheelchair perform a beautiful dance, and I have never seen that before.” A tear glistens on her cheek. “I was looking around and seeing other disabled people in the audience swinging and moving with them. I am not (disabled), but I got so emotional about it.”

The MCPD recognized a record number of agencies and individuals with awards for outstanding service to the City of Oakland and the disability community. Honorees were:

Public Official

- Assemblywoman Dion Aroner

Advocacy Organization

- Coastal Conservancy
- Pushing Limits Collective, KPFA Radio

Cultural Arts Organization

- AXIS Dance Company

Cultural Artist

- Mr. Charles Curtis Blackwell

Disability Advocate

- Commissioner Bob Pittman
- Ms. Deanna Pankow, Family Resource Network, Resource Counselor
- Mr. Dick Stein, Adults with Disabilities Program, Oakland Adult Education & Career Program Administrator
- Mr. George Smith, former MCPD Commissioner
- Ms. Jeanne Korn

City Associate

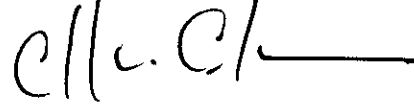
- Ms. Christine Calabrese, City ADA Coordinator in the Office of the City Administrator
- Ms. Karen Harris, Neighborhood Services Coordinator in the Oakland Police Department
- Mr. Lyle Oehler, Capital Improvement Project Coordinator in the Public Works Agency
- Mr. Jason Patton, Oakland Pedestrian Safety Project Coordinator

III. Calendar Year 2007 Goals

1. Recruit new commissioners and advocate for a full and diverse MCPD roster.
2. Become better informed about emerging disability rights issues and the activities of other civil groups and agencies that advocate for people with disabilities.
3. Work closely with the new administration to advance City policies, programs and services for people with disabilities.
4. Advocate for full funding of essential City disability programs, activities and services during the fiscal year 2007-2009 budget process.
5. Become better advocates for housing for people with disabilities, especially as it relates to City economic development activities and to homelessness with in Oakland's disabled population.
6. Expand MCPD youth advocacy activities, especially in the area of employment.

7. Address emergency preparedness concerns for persons with disabilities, making certain that City emergency services continue to take into account the special needs of our community.
8. Reach out to other City boards and commissions whose jurisdiction may include issues of importance or interest for persons with disabilities.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Calabrese', with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Christine Calabrese
City ADA Coordinator and
Staff to the Commission

Attached: Current Commission Roster

CITY OF OAKLAND
 Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities
 Roster and Committee Assignments
 March 2007

Chairperson: Linda Teixeira
 Vice Chair: Tamar Raine

	Housing	Education, Employment, & Outreach	Transportation & Mobility
Petrina Alexander		X	
Eva Aguillard	X		X (Chair)
Kelvin Brand		X	
Lynne Cutler		X (Co-Chair)	
Chris Finn		X	
Gladys Hudson-Jones	X		X
Alice Moore			
Bill Pelter		X	
Bob Pittman	X		
Tamar Raine	X		X
Lorraine Rosenblatt		X (Co-Chair)	
Linda Teixeira	X(Chair)		X
Safi wa Nairobi		X	
3 VACANCIES			