



**CITY OF OAKLAND**  
Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD)  
**Monday, November 19, 2012**

**Minutes**

- I. Called to order at 1:10 p.m.
  
- II. Roll Call
  - Quorum: Yes
  - See Exhibit A1
  
- III. Public Comments
  - None
  
- IV. Commissioner's Announcements
  - Commissioner Rosenblatt commented on the deterioration of sidewalks within the City and how their poor condition can adversely affect people with mobility issues and/or aides.
  - Ms. Calabrese provided the contact information for the Public Works Agency Call Center which coordinates repairs to the City infrastructure. The Call Center's online application is "SeeClickFix":  
<http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/PWA/Connect/ReportaProblem/index.htm>. Its voice line is (510) 615-5566.
  
- V. Approval of Minutes
  - July 9, 2012
    - Motion/Second: Commissioner Hurd/Commissioner Burns
    - Motion passed without objection: Three abstentions: Commissioners Blanks, Stevenson and Wright

## VI. Agenda Modification and Approval

- November 19, 2012
- No modifications.
- Motion/Second: Commissioner Jacobson/Commissioner Rosenblatt
- Motion passed without objection

## VII. Chair Report

- Chairperson Beard discussed the need for a full compliment of the MCPD. He reported that recruitment for the four remaining vacancies is ongoing and there is one potential candidate that will be scheduled for an interview.
- He welcomed the new commissioners Scott Blanks, Phyllis Stevenson, and Grace E. Wright to their first “official” MCPD meeting. (See Exhibit B). All commissioners provided brief self-introductions.
- Elections wrap-up. Chair Beard announced that State Proposition 30 passed. Its passage will prevent the trigger cuts in social services and education.
- The County Transportation Tax Measure B1 (it would have provided increased support for Paratransit) failed by less than 800 votes. (It required a 66.67% or a 2/3 passage; because it was a tax revenue measure.)

## VIII. Committee Reports

### A. Access Compliance Advisory Committee (ACAC), Stephen Beard, Chairperson

- Report back on East Bay Bus Rapid Transit Project, BRT Station Architecture Review. Had an excellent presentation from AC Transit with regards to the BRT station design. Commissioners asked great questions and received good answers from the architects regarding the station design. The architects expressed openness about the various concerns and issues that commissioners had with the layout of the BRT station.
- Update on BART Maintenance Issue; Denise Jacobson; Vice Chair reported that a few months ago she launched a series of complaints regarding the maintenance of the elevators at the BART stations. She has been in contact with Attorney Larry Paradis from DRA who had successfully settled a prior lawsuit with BART regarding a similar issue. Commissioner Jacobson

was advised to keep a regular log for a specific time period recording the maintenance of BART, its elevators and its consequences on persons with a disability. Subsequently, Commissioner Jacobson asked and has received support from other disability activists regarding this BART issue, who are also keeping such logs.

- Commissioner Beard appealed to commissioners to support Commissioner Jacobson regarding this BART issue. He emphasized that the more persons with disabilities collectively participate in this matter and other similar issues, the more effective they will be.
- Commissioner Blanks will put this issue on the list-serve for the Lions Center for the Blind.
- Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 21, 2012, 10:00 to 12:00 p.m., Hearing Room Three, One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza (City Hall)

B. Ad-hoc Outreach and Education Committee, Lorraine Rosenblatt, Chair reviewed the final expenses for the MCPD's Youth in Action event held on Wednesday, October 24, 2012, in Oakland City Hall, Hearing Room 3.

- Commissioner Rosenblatt expressed her appreciation to the volunteers from the commission and public that assisted with the production of the Youth In Action program. She named Commissioner Amy Burns, Commissioner Michelle Hernandez, and Michael Hernandez, who is Commissioner Hernandez' son, and her daughters Judith and Ruth Rosenblatt. She reported that the total expenditure was \$560. (Please review YIA Budget under Old Business in the December 10, 2012 packet).
  - She described the venue, Hearing Room 3 as being correctly setup; but acknowledged that a few participants were unhappy with the size of the venue (too small).
  - She thanked Commissioner Hernandez for arranging the donations of the finger food. Expressed her appreciation to Ruth Rosenblatt for creating and donating the cake, other baked goods and the Pete's Coffee. (Ruth owns *Cup(Cakes) Galore* and works for Pete's Coffee).
  - Commissioner Rosenblatt was able, through a contact of Commissioner Beard, to have a media person come to the event, who will write an article and post it to her blog. (This will be announced when it is available).

- The keynote speaker was former Commissioner and Chairperson, Chris Finn; he was able to totally connect with the event's participants with his motivational talk.
- Commissioner Rosenblatt further discussed the Youth In Action November 2012 event. She noted that Mayor Quan attended and spent a considerable amount of time interacting with participants.
- Commissioner Rosenblatt invited commissioners' comments and suggestions for the 2013 event.

## IX. Staff Reports

### A. ADA Programs Division Update

- Christine Calabrese provided a brief overview for the newer commissioners of the ADA Programs Division.
  - Ms. Calabrese briefly outlined her responsibilities and duties. She is the City ADA Title II Coordinator and staff for the MCPD. She also manages the East Bay Bus Rapid Transit Project for the Public Works Agency.
  - Ms. Calabrese introduced new ADA Programs staffer, Pamela Brain, who will assist with MCPD recruitment and membership. Ms. Brain will work on the MCPD ordinance change; the CFILC Settlement; the website and other ADA Programs activities as assigned, (we are glad to have Pam on board).
  - Ms. Calabrese reviewed Ms. Mitchell, ADA Administrative Assistant II responsibilities. In addition to her ADA Programs duties she prepares the agenda materials; coordinates Form 700 submissions, and other administrative items, plus a huge set of communications support activities for the MCPD (she's amazing).

Break 2:15 – 2:30 p.m.

## X. Old Business

- Final Plans for MCPD Annual Retreat, December 10, 2012, 11:30 am to 3:30 p.m.; the retreat will be held at a special location, the Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, located inside Lake Merritt Park. AC Transit Bus lines NL, 57, 12 serve the Garden Center.
- Karen Toto will be the moderator for the retreat. The retreat venue will be as listed above.

## XI. New Business

### A. Speakers Series

- Karen Mates, Executive Director Program for Exceptional Children, Oakland Unified School District, OUSD; reported on current issues for students with disabilities and their families and teachers within the City of Oakland.
- Ms Mates comes to Oakland from the Tamalpais Union High School District, where she served as Director of Special Education for the past dozen years. At Tamalpais Union, her leadership role encompassed all aspects of fiscal and compliance management, strategic advising on special education issues, and maintenance of critical partnerships with neighboring districts, county and local agencies,

While fulfilling this role, Ms. Mates advocated on behalf of staff, families and students. Among her accomplishments were the creation of a unique Assistive Technology Center, development of an early intervention program for minority students (which ultimately reduced minority referrals by 90%), establishment of a model support group for parents of at-risk students, and creation of a comprehensive post-secondary transition program for all students.

In sum, Ms. Mates brings to her new position substantial experience and demonstrated success as a special education teacher, leader, coordinator, partnership builder, and innovator in service to students. Karen's deep understanding of the challenges faced by low-income students with special needs and her commitment to creating equitable outcomes for these and all students make her a welcome addition to Oakland Unified.

- OUSD Special Education population is at 13%; while other comparable cities are at 11%. Special education categories include Autism, Deaf/Blind; Deaf; Emotional disturbed, etc., in all there are 13 categories that fall under the special education segment.
- 41% of the students in Special Education have Learning Disabilities of which 9% include those students with Autism.
- Resource specialists focus on children with learning disabilities.

- There are special day classes wherein 50% of the special education students are sheltered in.
- Non-public schools, such as Seneca, Spectrum, house roughly 6% of OUSD special education students.
  - Ms. Mates wishes to build capacity for these students at OUSD sites. She mentioned that OUSD special education expenses for the non-public schools range in the amount of \$14 million or 18.6% of its total annual budget.
- OUSD does have a “child find” responsibility.
- If a student has a special education designation, then the student does not have to take the California Exit Exam.
- Does not attribute “English as a second language” to the Learning Disabilities population.
- Estimated that there are 4 to 5 filings per month around special education.
- OUSD has hired a mediator in an attempt to avoid litigation that occurs around the special education program within OUSD. There is a plan to have an explanatory brochure available soon that will describe the special education program and process for OUSD.
- The MCPD and Ms. Mates discussed the Special Education program within the OUSD.

XII. Meeting Evaluation

- Very informative

XII. Agenda Items for Next Meeting,

- Annual Retreat, December 10, 2012

XIV. Adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

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NOTE: THE COMMISSION MAY TAKE ACTION ON ANY ITEM  
ON THE AGENDA

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Public Comments: To offer public comments at the MCPD meeting, please register with Adriana Mitchell, ADA Programs Assistant, before the start of the meeting. Public Comments is one of the first agenda items therefore, please, arrive by 12:45 p.m. Please note that the MCPD will not provide a detailed response to your comments but may schedule your issue for a future MCPD or committee meeting. The Public Comment period is

limited to 15 minutes and each individual speaker is limited to 5 minutes. If more than 3 public speakers register, however, then each speaker will be limited to 3 minutes. If more than 5 public speakers register, then each speaker will be limited to 2 minutes. Exceptions to these rules may be granted at the discretion of the Chairperson.

 This meeting is wheelchair accessible. To request materials in alternative formats, or to request an ASL interpreter, captioning or assistive listening device, please call Adriana Mitchell 238-5219 (V) or 238-2007 (TTY) at least three, 3, business days before the meeting. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting so persons who may experience chemical sensitivities can attend. Thank you.