

# CITY OF OAKLAND

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OAKLAND

## AGENDA REPORT

2008 FEB 28 PM 4:55

TO: Office of the City Administrator  
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly  
FROM: CAO/ADA Programs  
DATE: March 11, 2007

SUBJECT: COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2007

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### SUMMARY

In this report, the Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD) informs the City Council of its accomplishments in 2007 and its goals and objectives in 2008.

### FISCAL IMPACT

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

### DISCUSSION

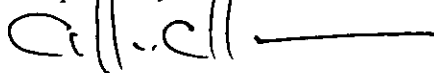
The Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities was established by City ordinance in 1980 to represent and address the issues of people with disabilities. Since 1990, the MCPD has acted as the City's designated advisory body for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. (The U.S. Department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

The Commission had three active committees in 2007: 1) Housing; 2) Education, Employment and Outreach; and 3) Transportation and Mobility. These committees participated in many aspects of City government and advocated 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 11, 2007



March 11, 2008

**LIFE ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE  
Oakland City Council**

**Subject: Commission on Persons with Disabilities Annual Report 2007**

Chairperson Chang and Members of the Committee:

The Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD) hereby reports on its activities for calendar year 2007 and its goals and objectives for 2008.

**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 governments in Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) implementation. Commission staff responds to numerous inquiries from other governmental agencies interested in emulating the commission and adopting City disability policies, practices and procedures.

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 extremely active and effective, participating in nearly every aspect of City government and advocating for full inclusion of people with disabilities in the community. We thankfully receive great support from City officials, thereby avoiding the struggles of other local bodies whose influence in oversight of programs and policies is more limited.

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 local government

programs and facilities and its potential for costly litigation, effective implementation and broad community support are central to a successful ADA 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 full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community. The MCPD works closely with community based organizations to provide mentorship, recognition and employment opportunities to persons with disabilities of all ages. By participation in celebrations of our City's rich heritage and in disability community events, the MCPD promotes a greater awareness of the issues, needs and cultural contributions of people with disabilities in Oakland. Each year, the MCPD conducts a series of events in commemoration of National Disability Awareness Month, such as its annual Youth in Action event (see below).

## **II. Calendar Year 2007 Activities**

### **1. ACCESS**

**Public Right of Way Improvement Programs:** The MCPD provides oversight and technical assistance to the Community and Economic Development Agency, Design and Construction Services Division (DCSD) Curb Ramp, Sidewalk Repair and Residential Disabled Parking Zone programs. The MCPD Transportation and Mobility Committee was very active in 2007, advocating for essential public right of way and transportation improvements and working with the DCSD, Oakland Police Department, BART, East Bay Paratransit and other local agencies.

ADA Programs staff is drafting a Sidewalk ADA Transition Plan for City Council consideration that catalogs, prioritizes, and documents improvements necessary to ensure equal access for pedestrians with disabilities. The primary goal of the Plan is to identify strategies to mitigate ADA barriers in the public right of way and thereby support Oakland's ongoing effort to achieve broad ADA compliance.

The Sidewalk Condition and ADA Survey inventoried ADA barriers including sidewalk damage, tree-related barriers (low wells, hanging limbs), obstructions, excessive travel direction and cross slopes, and sudden drop-offs. This Geographic Information System (GIS)-based inventory provides a detailed picture of non-compliance and allows for targeted use of funds earmarked for the creation of accessible pedestrian corridors or "paths of travel".

The draft Sidewalk ADA Transition Plan will include recommendations such as establishing an On-Call Sidewalk Repair Program for Persons with Disabilities, adopting a phased strategy to mitigate access barriers within the city's pedestrian corridors, and taking action steps to build institutional capacity for implementation of the plan. Further, the transition plan will recommend that the City reduce the identified ADA barriers by

prioritizing mitigation strategies according to the condition severity and survey-identified land use category.

The Commission on Persons with Disabilities has moved its oversight of City public right of way programs from committee to its monthly meeting agenda. This is to ensure fuller participation by the disability community in the review and support of these programs at this critical juncture.

**ADA Capital Improvement Program:** The MCPD also provides oversight for the ADA Transition Plan and ADA Accommodations Capital Improvement Projects. The ADA Transition Plan 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 ADA Accommodations project provides communications and physical access accommodations, such as Auxiliary Aids and Services, TTY machines, and technical assistance and training for city staff and contractors.

**Fiscal Year 2007-2008 ADA Capital Improvement Program Allocations**

<b>Description</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Auxiliary Aids and Services Programs	ALL	100,000	On Demand
Miscellaneous Contract Services	ALL	40,000	As Needed
Mosswood Park Play Surface	1	20,000	Community Request
Edoff Memorial Bandstand	3	250,000	Complaint Settlement
West Oakland Branch Library ADA	3	25,000	Staff Request
Woodminster Amphitheatre Improvements	4	50,000	Community Request
Cesar Chavez Park Play Surfacing	5	20,000	Community Request
Carter Gilmore Field ADA	6	41,000	Additional Work
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$546,000</b>	

**2. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

The nationwide increased security awareness and concern regarding catastrophic disaster preparedness, especially for special needs populations, has caused the disability community to make emergency preparedness a top priority. On May 21, 2007, the Transportation and Mobility Committee heard a presentation on a draft report regarding

Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities from Renee Domingo, Director of the Office of Emergency Services.

The MCPD established a working relationship with the American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter in 2007 and will collaborate with the Red Cross in 2008 to bring training and awareness to emergency services planners and providers and to the disability community.

### 3. YOUTH

The MCPD continued building its Youth In Action program, partnering with the Oakland Unified School District, Office of Parks and Recreation Inclusive Recreation Program, Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program, Lions Center for the Blind, Family Resource Center, California School for the Deaf, Stepping Stones Growth Center, the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Bay Area, and the Center for Independent Living to increase recognition and opportunities for youth with disabilities, ages 14-21.

Last year saw the third annual Youth in Action, Celebrating Future Leaders of the Disability Community awards program. The goal of this event is to identify and introduce to the disability community individuals aged 14 to 21 whose achievements and potential beyond secondary school make them candidates for leadership. Seventeen young people were honored and guest speakers included Jessica Lehman, member of Team USA, winners of the World Power Soccer Match, and Artist Leroy Moore. The program was held at the Lake Merritt Sailboat House with a light dinner prepared by the students of the McClymonds Culinary Academy.

### 4. 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*

- Certificates of appreciation and recognition from the Neighborhood Services Division (Aguillard)
- Certificates of appreciation from the Arroyo Viejo Park Walk Club, 2007 Senior Action Council and 100 Families of Oakland (Aguillard)
- Coordinator of Workability 1 Program, OUSD/State transitional program for youth with disabilities (Alexander)
- Youth in Action Mentor (Brand)
- Bay Area Disability Services Librarians Co-Chair (Cutler)
- Oakland Public Library Safety Committee Chair (Cutler)
- Attended CSUN, Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference, March 22-24, 2007. (Cutler)
- Coach for the USA National Power Soccer Team and Team USA, which won the first power soccer ball world championship (Finn)
- Commissioner for the Western United States of the National Association of Housing Rehabilitation Officers (Pittman)
- Oakland Housing Authority Board Vice-Chair (Pittman)

- Ryan White Care Committee Local Representative (housing for people with HIV/AIDS) (Pittman)
- American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter (Rosenblatt)
- Represented the Commission at the Healthy Living Festival (Rosenblatt and Cutler)
- Represented the Commission at the Art and Soul Festival (Rosenblatt)
- Mentor, 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Disability Mentoring Night, UC Berkeley, October 2007 (wa Nairobi)
- Producer, ArtSlam 2007 Audio for Access Advisor's Day at the de Young Museum of San Francisco, October 2007 (wa Nairobi)
- Coordinating Committee Member, ArtSlam 2007 for de Young Museum of San Francisco (wa Nairobi)
- Planning Committee Member, Black Disabled Arts Festival 2007, Rutgers University's Paul Robeson Gallery, Newark NJ (wa Nairobi)

### ***Membership***

- East Bay Chapter of the Lions Blind Center (Aguillard)
- Long-Term Care Planning Committee for Alameda County (Pelter)
- DAFA (Disaster Ambassadors for Animals) through the Berkeley Humane Society (Rosenblatt)
- Emergency Management Board (Teixeira and Cutler)

### ***Conferences and Events***

The ADA Road to Freedom, a 50-State bus tour and photographic exhibit chronicling the history of the grassroots "people's movement" leading to passage in 1990 of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), made its East Bay stop at Oakland City Hall on May 25, 2007. Tour organizer Jim Ward of ADA Watch and local leaders rallied the crowd to keep the promise of the ADA – freedom, inclusion, and opportunity for people with disabilities. The traveling exhibit features Tom Olin's stunning photographs of the struggle for disability rights, also on display at the Smithsonian Institute. The event was sponsored by Ed Roberts Campus and the City of Oakland.

For the fourth year in a row, commissioners participated in the City's annual Art & Soul Festival, providing information to the public and promoting upcoming MCPD events.

The Mayor and City Council passed a joint resolution on October 16, 2007, proclaiming October 2007 as Disability Awareness Month. Councilwoman Jean Quan, District 4, sponsored the resolution.

### ***Passings***

MCPD staff coordinated a mayoral proclamation honoring the life of Commissioner Gladys Hudson-Jones, who passed away on March 13, 2007. Niccolo DeLuca, Deputy City Administrator, presented the proclamation to the family of Gladys Hudson-Jones.

Longtime Bay Area human rights activist Jane Jackson, who spent a lifetime committed to many struggles, including the fight for disability civil rights, died in Santiago de Cuba, Cuba. She was 73.

### **III. Calendar Year 2008 Goals and Objectives**

#### ***Commission Goals***

1. Expand recruitment efforts with a focus on youth, ethnic diversity and broad representation of the disability community.
2. Continue mentoring and advocating for youth with disabilities, especially in the area of employment.
3. Provide educational and networking opportunities for the disability community and key internal and external agencies, especially in the areas of accessible housing, emergency preparedness, and transportation and mobility.
4. Promote accessible and affordable housing program for persons with disabilities in Oakland.
5. Continue to advocate for full inclusion of people with disabilities in local and regional emergency preparedness activities.
6. Work with City leaders and staff to adopt an ADA Sidewalk Transition Plan (sidewalks and curb ramps).
7. Continue oversight of City ADA Capital Improvement Programs and Public Right of Way Improvement Programs.
8. Update and brand (adopt a logo and standard look/format) MCPD and ADA Programs Divisions publications.
9. Engage and support artists with disabilities; provide venues for the display of accomplished performing and visual artists, such as AXIS Dance Company.
10. Advocate for the employment of people with disabilities at the local, regional and state levels.

#### ***Housing Committee Objectives***

- Joint Oakland Housing Authority (OHA)/Housing Committee workshop, which will explain the process of obtaining Section 8 and/or public housing for persons with disabilities. This workshop will be open to the general public and the City's Department of Human Services will be invited to participate in the workshop.
  - Workshop will explain what is the process, how to complete the process, how to fill out the forms, etc. This will be a very simple workshop.
- Have a representative council of senior and disabled facilities that will convene and formulate joint goals for accessible housing in the City:
  - Include non-ambulatory (wheelchairs, walkers)
  - Sight/sound impaired

- Disabled though disease
- Developmentally disabled
- Ensure that the Housing Committee has a presence at various health fairs.
- Lobby OHA to strongly include accessible housing in their projections; work for service-enhanced housing.
- Assemble a publication that will list information regarding accessible housing within the City and forward it via a mailing to potential applicants.

***Education, Employment and Outreach Committee (EEOC) Objectives***

- Incorporate employment issues into committee activities.
- Facilitate the process of local youth applying to the California Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities Youth Leadership Forum.
- Collaborate with other City boards and commissions (Commission on Aging, Youth Commission, and Cultural Arts Commission) and City Cultural Arts staff. Continue inviting guests to EEOC meetings, establishing connections.
- Co-ordinate MCPD presence at East Bay arts/disabilities/health/ emergency preparedness fairs.
- Present the annual Youth in Action event in October to celebrate youth leadership in the disability community.

Thank you for your continued support of the MCPD and of disability awareness and disability civil rights implementation in the City of Oakland.

Respectfully Submitted



Bob Pittman  
MCPD Chair

Prepared by:  
Christine Calabrese  
City ADA Coordinator and  
Staff to the Commission





**CITY OF OAKLAND**  
 Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities  
 Roster and Committee Assignments  
 February 2008

**Chairperson: Bob Pittman**  
**Vice Chair: Vacant**

	<b>Housing</b>	<b>Education/ Employment/ Outreach</b>	<b>Transportation/ Mobility (inactive)</b>
<b>Petrina Alexander</b>	X		
<b>Winnie Lu Anderson</b>		X	
<b>Eva Aguillard</b>	X		
<b>Kelvin Brand</b>		X	
<b>Lynne Cutler</b>		X (Co-Chair)	
<b>Chris Finn</b>		X	
<b>Bill Pelter</b>		X	
<b>Bob Pittman</b>	X (Chair)		
<b>Tamar Raine</b>	X		
<b>Lorraine Rosenblatt</b>		X (Co-Chair)	
<b>DeMarco Sims (inactive)</b>			
<b>Linda Teixeira</b>	X		
<b>Safi wa Nairobi</b>		X	