



News from Office of the Mayor

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**Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities
Receives Disability Access and Employment Commendation**

Oakland is recognized for its accomplishments on the ADA 20th Anniversary

Oakland, CA – On July 26, 2010, the Community Resources for Independent Living (CRIL) will present the Oakland Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities with a "Disability Access and Employment Commendation" in recognition of the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act into law.

Oakland's disability commission will be honored with an "ADA Business Certificate" presented to a business or agency that greatly contributes to the advancement of improved access and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities residing in Alameda County.

"The CRIL award encourages us to recommit ourselves during these tough economic times to ensuring that people with disabilities can continue to lead independent lives. It is the Commission's desire to join with leaders in Oakland and surrounding municipalities to encourage and strengthen networks between job creators and people with disabilities," said Michael Moore, Chairperson of the Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities.

Since 1980, the Commission has played a key role in making Oakland a model city for the implementation of disability civil rights laws. With at least 51% representation by individuals with disabilities, the Commission advises, reviews and comments on all City activities affecting persons with disabilities and otherwise promotes total integration of individuals with disabilities into the community.

Sandi Soliday, Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council Coordinator, explains why she nominated the Commission to receive the commendation, "Oakland's disability commission and ADA programs office provide a wonderful model of a public entity working with people with disabilities and advocating for them. They operate on such a high standard of inclusion and community access for the disability community."

CRIL, along with the Center for Independent Living (CIL) and the City of Hayward, are hosting an ADA 20th Anniversary Festival on Monday, July 26, 2010 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm, Hayward City Hall Plaza, 777 B Street, Hayward, CA. For more information go to: www.cril-online.org