



## CITY OF OAKLAND

1 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA  
Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities  
Frank Sperling, Chair

94612

Date: October 2, 2017

To: *Chair Annie Campbell-Washington, Life Enrichment Committee*  
*Mayor Libby Schaaf*  
*Sabrina Landreth, City Administrator*

From: Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD)

**Re: Highlights of Activities of 2016-17 and 2017 Goals & Strategies**

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This informational report provides the City Council with a listing of the many projects and activities carried out by the MCPD. Along with the ADA Programs Division, these two groups form the basis of a comprehensive government program for inclusion of people with disabilities. Few other city governments nationally can claim this level of commitment to disability civil rights implementation. Oakland is recognized as a model city for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance and many of our policies and programs are emulated by other cities. Moreover, the progressive work of this small division and all-volunteer commission effectively reduces the City's exposure to disability discrimination claims and provides a mechanism for amicable and cost-effective resolution of complaints that do arise.

### **The MCPD**

The MCPD was established by City ordinance in 1980 to represent and address issues of people with disabilities. The commission has at least 51 percent representation by people with disabilities. The MCPD serves the following key roles in Oakland government:

- Advising the Mayor and City Council on matters affecting the disability community;
- Acting as the City's designated advisory body for ADA compliance;
- Providing advice and assistance to other City boards and commissions; and
- Participating at the local, state and national levels in the advancement of disability rights.

### **MCPD Membership**

Commissioners are representative of the diversity of Oakland and of the disability community, and are affiliated with organizations that are directly involved in supporting the disability community. There are eleven seats on the MCPD and at least six members must be present to constitute a quorum, as per the enabling ordinance. Historically, there has been a high degree of turnover of Commissioners. Currently, there is one vacancy on the Commission.

### **MCPD Recent Achievements**

In the past year, the MCPD has been able to make significant contributions the development

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and operation of City activities that affect persons with disabilities, and has facilitated numerous opportunities for Oakland to connect with its citizens with disabilities despite ongoing high membership turnover and the City's continuing financial challenges. Among its most significant accomplishments, the MCPD:

- Assisted in the development of a proposal to the Start Ups in Residence program which pairs start-ups with government entities to develop solutions to civic challenges. Their specific proposal is to develop a universal wayfinding app that will complement the recent Uptown Wayfinding Project but be scalable to other parts of the City.
- Participated in a San Francisco Board of Supervisors meeting regarding police training and interactions with persons with disabilities in which Oakland was mentioned as a model for its training practices. As a result, the MCPD engaged in a more detailed review of Oakland's police training initiatives.
- Tracked the ADA's self-evaluation project from its inception.
- Participated in the Bay Area Disability Alliance.
- Participated in discussions with Alameda County regarding the potential of establishing a Universal Design ordinance.
- Held several conversations with OPD regarding crisis intervention training with the purpose of improving police interactions with persons with disabilities.
- Received City Department Presentations from the following departments on Status of ADA compliance and potential recommendations for modifications:
  - Status of Oakland's Access Improvement Program and related programs for funding home modifications
  - Human Services Department
  - Parks and Recreation Department
  - Library Services, Oakland Public Library
  - Workforce Development Board
  - Department of Transportation –
  - Curb Ramp and Sidewalk Repair Program
  - On-street Disabled Parking Program
  - Emergency Management Services Division of the Oakland Fire Department - Emergency Preparedness and Integration of Persons with Disabilities and Other Access and Functional Needs in Planning and Response Overview
  - ADA Programs Division
- Held joint meeting with Oakland's Commission on Aging on mobility needs of seniors and persons with disabilities.
- Investigated potential negative impacts of various actions on MCPD Constituents. Communicated with appropriate agencies and legislators:
  - Issues surrounding quality of service of County Paratransit Program.
  - Availability of mobility modified Taxi service.
  - Availability of mobility modified Uber/Lyft service.
- Tracked select legislation to determine if and how there were any impacts to MCPD and its constituents.
  - Murphy Bill – potential negative impacts on Protection and Advocacy for the Mentally Ill (PAIMI Program).
  - Potential weakening of 48 inch wide sidewalk requirement (Letter sent to State Planning Commission).

- Oakland's Infrastructure Bond Measure (KK) – Provided comments on final language.
- Reviewed plans for Astro Tot Lot, approved Staff's request to provide supplemental funding for Tot Lot utilizing 2016 ADA CIP funds.
- Reviewed plans for FROG Park, McClymonds Park, and Brookfield Park. Approved Staff's request to provide supplemental funding utilizing 2016-17 ADA COP funds.
- Reviewed plans for Woodminster Amphitheater Phase II, and On-street disabled parking zone. Approved staff's request to provide supplemental funding utilizing 2016-17 ADA COP funds.
- Began development of enhanced prioritization criteria for all Tot Lot improvements. Currently working with staff to refine criteria.
- Reviewed plans for Bay Area Bikeshare and provided recommendation to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities. Subsequently, three MCPD Commissioners were appointed by Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to serve on the Bikeshare Technical Advisory Committee.
- Provided comments and direction for City of Oakland Taxi and Paratransit Programs and Availability of Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles for On- Demand Transportation RFP.
- Voiced concerns with Department of Transportation's Telegraph Avenue sheltered bikeway and Disability Access project. Ongoing issue, DOT to present to MCPD fourth quarter 2017.
- At MCPD request, Mayor's Office wrote letter in support of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.
- Participated in Allen Temple Baptist Church Faith and Disability Summit.
- Participated in MS Walk 2017.

### **MCPD Challenges**

During this reporting period, the MCPD has had challenges that could reduce its effectiveness and efficiency. We believe that the Commission has met these challenges and is well positioned to move forward to serve the Mayor and the City as required and requested.

These areas of challenge include:

#### **i) Membership on the Commission and Attendance at Meetings**

The beginning of 2017 saw three meetings cancelled or have delayed starts due to lack of quorum. By reducing the number of open positions concurrent with ensuring that each Commissioner is committed to fully participate in their role, we recently went from low-turnout meetings to 100 percent attendance.

#### **ii) Moving from a shotgun approach**

Rather than establishing committees and sub-committees to hear granular issues, MCPD has instead decided to institute the following 3-point program of administration:

- 1) Annually identify organizations internal to the City to provide updates to MCDP. Limit those presentations to 10 minutes (plus discussion and questions). If necessary, ad-hoc committees to be established to pursue, clarify, and report resolution of any issues.

- 2) Assign each MCPD Commissioner to act as liaison to a City Board or Commission. This will improve greater and more timely awareness of any issues that may be of interest/concern of MCPD.
- 3) Establish an ad-hoc Community Outreach Committee to review and as necessary update or develop collateral material relevant for MCPD event participation.

### **MCPD's 2017 Strategic Goals**

At our December 2016 meeting, we developed the following goals, strategies and tactics for the 2017 calendar year. These are taken verbatim from the December 2016 meeting minutes. Please note modifications that have been made as referenced in the above section:

1. Goal: Oakland's Transportation Options are usable by persons with disabilities, including emerging options such as bike share, Transportation Network Companies, and car share, based on best practices and legal requirements.
  - a. Objective: Bike Share is usable by persons with disabilities through the acquisition of adaptive bikes that are available as conveniently and in same manner as regular bikes.
    - i. Strategy: Work with Oakland's Department of Transportation (DOT) to make Bay Area Bike Share accessible to persons with disabilities in Oakland, including the acquisition of sufficient adaptive bikes.
    - ii. Strategy: Work with DOT to implement specific projects implementing Measure KK-funded, accelerated ADA Transition Plan improvements in the public right of way.
2. Goal: Improve Police Accountability with respect to persons with disabilities.
  - a. Objective: Identify areas for improvement in policies and training, and deliver recommendations to Oakland Police Department and the Mayor.
    - i. Strategy: Collect and analyze data on persons with disabilities in jail.
    - ii. Strategy: Establish relationships with Civilian Police Review Board, Police Commission, and Crisis Intervention Team program.
3. Goal: Improve MCPD presence and community engagement in civic processes, including increase in MCPD meeting attendance by members of the public.
  - a. Objective: Measurable increase in public participation in MCPD meetings and other civic engagement opportunities.
    - i. Strategy: Revitalize MCPD's Facebook presence.
    - ii. Strategy: Represent MCPD at two or more relevant outreach events in 2017.
    - iii. Strategy: Develop MCPD outreach materials.

- iv. Strategy: Identify and be present where persons with disabilities are located.
  - v. Strategy: conduct listening tour to gather information regarding the characteristics and needs of the disability community in Oakland.
  - vi. Strategy: monitor other boards and commissions and establish MCPD liaisons for key boards and commissions.
4. Goal: ADA Transition Plan Implementation and City Capital Improvements are prioritized using equity criteria including but not limited to neighborhood demographics such as household income, race, and other relevant equity considerations.
- a. Objective: Capital improvements that increase disability accessibility are equitably distributed citywide and emphasized in areas where there is the greatest impact on persons with disabilities and other historically underserved communities.
    - i. Strategy: Evaluate and recommend equity criteria for ADA capital improvements and the ADA Transition Plan update.
5. Goal: City programs are transparent with respect to disability access compliance and are modified and improved to better serve persons with disabilities.
- a. Objective: Deliver advice and technical assistance to specific, key programs that especially impact the lives of persons with disabilities (Economic and Workforce Development, Oakland Promise, for example) for improving inclusion of participants with disabilities.
    - i. Strategy: Identify model programs, best practices, and key city programs in need of service improvements with respect to increasing participation by persons with disabilities
    - ii. Strategy: Make disability-related data available from research, reports on key program performance, to Mayor by June 2017.
6. Goal: Establish relationships with local agencies to advance the rights of persons with disabilities.
- a. Objective: TBD.
    - i. Strategy: Schools, jails, courts, voter registration agencies, and other key public agencies are actively monitored for disability civil rights compliance.

Our commissioners remain passionate about making a difference in Oakland, and we look forward to your continued support in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Frank Sperling | Chairperson  
Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities