



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, August 12, 2020, 1:00P.M.

Department on Disability

Zoom Video Conference

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Myrna Cabanban
David Wolf
Dr. Robert Bitonte
Robert Williams
Richard Rothenberg
Iran Hopkins
Alisa Schlesinger
Betty Wilson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY:

Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Chris Lee, Deputy City Attorney III, City Attorney's Office

Kristal Gunn, Management Assistant, Housing and Community Investment Department

GUESTS:

Jeff Klein, Manager of Civic Engagement, Community Relations, and Legislation, Los Angeles County Registrar's Office

Susan Lapsley, Deputy Secretary of State, California

ITEM NO. (1): APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

The Commission will review the minutes of the July 2020 meeting and vote to approve them.

Action Taken: The Commission approved the minutes for July 8, 2020.

ITEM NO. (2): PUBLIC COMMENT

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (3): DISABILITY AND ACCESSIBLE VOTING AND ENGAGEMENT

Presentations from government offices regarding various aspects of accessible elections in the Los Angeles Area.

- I. Presentation is by Jeff Klein, Manager of Civic Engagement, Community Relations, and Legislation, Los Angeles County Registrar's Office. There are over 5.5 million registered voters in Los Angeles County, and all voters will receive vote by mail ballots for the November election. The plan is to have 800 vote centers that will offer in-person services, all of which will follow State and Public Health guidelines for social distancing and sanitation. There will be 75 vote

centers open for 11 days, and some other vote centers will open 4 days prior to the election. Ballot marking devices at vote centers include an audio headset and different text size and contrast settings to provide an accessible voting experience.

The vote by mail drop box program will be expanded, with a goal number of 380 to 400 drop boxes available so voters have multiple opportunities to return their ballot. Ballots can also be sent through the postal service. On September 24th, sample ballot booklets will be sent out. Vote by mail ballots will be sent October 5th. If voters register past that date or need a replacement ballot, they can still receive a ballot as long as they register by the October 19th deadline. Voters can track their ballots online. Remote Accessible Vote By Mail allows voters to mark their ballots on a computer if needed, print their ballot, and send by mail.

- II. Presentation is by Susan Lapsley, Deputy Secretary of State, California. At the beginning of March, the State established a working group to discuss what the November election would be like during the pandemic. They proposed several recommendations to the Governor and Secretary of State, including vote by mail for all Californians and to have in person and drop box minimums. About 75 percent of Californians already vote by mail. The State is having weekly calls with the United States Postal Service to discuss ongoing concerns with the postal service as items continue to come up in the press.

An issue for the State is that finding vote center locations and poll workers has been a challenge. A task force has been launched to help recruit locations and workers, and there is an online form to sign up. A large portion of necessary personal protective equipment will be provided to counties, in collaboration with the State Office of Emergency Services and local Californian businesses.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (4): THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT DEPARTMENT OF LOS ANGELES (HCIDLA) AND THE ACCESSIBLE HOUSING PROGRAM (AcHP) PRESENTATION AND FEEDBACK

Presentation from AcHP division of HCIDLA regarding accessibility features within Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and City funded properties. Presentation is by Kristal Gunn, Management Assistant, Housing and Community Investment Department.

The goal of the AcHP survey was to enhance the accessibility program by finding out what specific needs the disability community has in regards to housing. The Commission previously provided feedback on how to disseminate the survey and how to reframe items. After receiving comments from HUD, HCIDLA has created a second survey which will focus on specific features that would be most helpful for individuals needing them. A working group was created to collaborate on the new draft, and Carey Stone and Richard Ray from the Department on Disability have also been involved. Some concerns are the length of the survey and keeping it as user-friendly and easy to understand as possible. HCIDLA is looking for individuals who are interested in participating in the working group.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (5): CREATION OF AD HOC COMMITTEE – LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICY AND ENGAGEMENT

The Commission will vote on creating an Ad Hoc committee to work with the Department on Disability and other stakeholders regarding law enforcement policy and engagement as it pertains to interactions with persons with disabilities.

Action Taken, the Commission voted to create the ad hoc committee on Law Enforcement Policy and Engagement.

ITEM NO. (6): CREATION OF AD HOC COMMITTEE – EXPANDING ACCESS TO BENEFITS TO THOSE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

The Commission will vote on creating an Ad Hoc committee to work with the Department on Disability and other stakeholders regarding its plan to create a more accessible and streamlined process for persons with disabilities experiencing homelessness to be connected with SSI benefits.

Action Taken, the Commission voted to create the ad hoc committee on

Expanding Access to Benefits to Those Experiencing Homelessness.

ITEM NO. (7): EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Discussion on items relating to Department activities, metrics, budget, planning, and/or other relevant issues. Presentation is by Stephen David Simon, Executive Director, Department on Disability (DOD).

ReelAbilities Film Festival Los Angeles (RAFFLA) planning continues to move forward for the 2020 all-virtual festival, which will run October 16th to 18th. The sponsor deck has been completed and following RAFFLA Steering Committee input, it will be ready to send out to potential sponsors. If Commissioners have ideas on doing outreach to potential sponsors or getting the word out to the public, they can make suggestions to DOD staff or Commissioner Schlesinger.

The City remains at a high alert level due to COVID-19, and the Department is still fully active while staff telecommute. Personal protective equipment has been obtained for staff and community partners. DOD is working with the Mayor's Offices of other cities to partner with them on acquiring materials. The Meals to Angelenos program ended on July 17th, but DOD is looking for ways to restart the program since food insecurity is still an issue.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (8): NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Suggested items for the next regular meeting's agenda and announcements from Commissioners, DOD staff, and guests.

President Cabanban recommends that the new ad hoc committees keep in contact with DOD regarding their functions. DOD will provide background information needed for the ad hoc committees. DOD is communicating with HCID regarding updates on the Rental Assistance Program, which will be given as a presentation during a future Commission meeting. President Cabanban also asked if DOD could reach out to large banks for support on the Meals to Angelenos program. DOD has been working with Citi and will request that someone from the economic empowerment project report to the Commission at a future meeting. The Commission would like to thank Citi for

the support they have already given.

No Action Taken, Information Purposes Only.

ITEM NO. (9): ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 2:49 P.M.