



City of Oakland

Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD)
Monday, October 21, 2024 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Hearing Room 1, First Floor
One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza (City Hall), Oakland, CA 94612

Minutes

Commissioners: Anwar Baroudi (Chair), Benjamin Bartu (Vice Chair), Noah Smith, Jia Wilson, Fatimah Aure, Linda St. Julian, Thomas Cloyd, Linda Stevens, Raven Foote, Brittaney Creswell, Kaitlin Roh

Commission staff: Anh Nguyen-ADA Programs Division Manager, Mark Romoser-ADA Programs Division Program Analyst I

Presenters: Andrea Mok, Oakland Paratransit for the Elderly and Disabled; Sean Maher and Michael Enslow, CAO

Other attendees: Sheela Gunn, James Carter

Attendees on Zoom: Dawn Damiba, Ofurhe Igbinedion

Mark Romoser begins the meeting with a reminder of rules for in-person meetings:

- No food or open drink allowed in Hearing Room 1 to maintain a clean and professional environment.
- Drinks must be in a closed container to prevent any spills or accidents.
- When commissioners speak- please press the top red button that says “mic” and when you are finished, please press the button again.
- To ensure clarity and transparency, when commissioners speak, please state your name before speaking.
- When a member of the audience is speaking or commenting- please first state your name and any affiliations you may have.
- Restrooms are located outside Hearing Room 1, near the elevators.

Exhibit A

Chair Baroudi called the meeting to order at 5:34.

Roll Call

- At roll call, quorum was established with six of eleven commissioners present.

Commissioners	Present (x)
Anwar Baroudi (Chair)	X
Benjamin Bartu (Vice Chair)	Absent
Noah Smith	X
Jia Wilson	X
Linda St. Julian	X
Fatimah Aure	X
Thomas Cloyd	Absent (excused)
Linda Stevens	Absent (excused)
Raven Foote	X
Brittaney Creswell	Absent
Kaitlin Roh	Absent (excused)

Open Forum:

- Sheela Gunn mentioned that 2 homes were damaged in the Keller Fire, but there were no injuries. They added that Genasys Protect lets people find their evacuation zone, asked when we could start having hybrid meetings, and reminded everyone that the election is November 5.

Agenda Modification

- Chair Baroudi noted that the planned speakers from DOT canceled, and thus proposed to move Item 10, MCPD Strategic Plan Update, into its place on the agenda. Comm. Smith made a motion to do so and Comm. Aure seconded. The motion carried 6-0.

Approval Of Minutes

- Comm. Foote made a motion to approve the September 2024 minutes. Comm. Smith seconded. Motion was approved 6-0.

Exhibit A

Commissioner's Announcements

- Comm. Wilson introduced herself.
- Comm. Smith announced that this would be his last meeting, and addressed the issue of remote meetings.
- Chair Baroudi noted that the first application for remote access to meetings would trigger the process of making the hybrid meetings work. He added that AC Transit's ReAlign process did not result in cuts to the paratransit service area, but similar efforts in the future might. He mentioned that the San Francisco fire department is holding emergency drills on November 3 and welcomes participants.

MCPD Strategic Plan Update

- Mark Romoser and Chair Baroudi gave their presentation.
- Member of the public Sheela Gunn made some remarks about emergency preparedness. They attended the first meeting of a countywide access and functional needs committee, and told everyone to look for an invitation to future meetings. They also mentioned that the World Institute on Disability and TheCIL are creating a report on the state of Alameda County's emergency preparedness, and that more listening sessions would be part of this.

Oakland Paratransit for the Elderly and Disabled (OPED)

- Andrea Mok from OPED gave her presentation.
- Comm. St. Julian asked if the Emeryville program that also serves the portions of Oakland within the 94608 zip code extended to the neighboring 94609 zip code. Ms. Mok replied that it did not, but that OPED's other programs do.
- Comm. Smith asked if there were any income requirements for OPED services. Ms. Mok replied that there were none.
- Chair Baroudi asked if OPED was intended as a supplement to East Bay Paratransit. Ms. Mok replied that it was.
- Chair Baroudi asked about eligibility for OPED in cases where East Bay Paratransit provides services beyond the mandated ¾-mile distance from a bus route. Ms. Mok replied that they serve customers who tell OPED they are outside the paratransit service area.

Exhibit A

- Comm. St. Julian asked about the Emeryville program again. Ms. Mok suggested that she contact the city of Emeryville.
- Comm. Wilson asked how reliable OPED services were. Ms. Mok replied that OPED's contractor Friendly Cab, like other taxi services, is short on drivers. She mentioned that another OPED service, GoGo Grandparent, which relies on rideshare services such as Uber and Lyft, might be more reliable.
- Chair Baroudi noted that the paratransit service area cuts which were averted were not in Oakland.

City website accessibility

- Sean Maher and Michael Enslow gave their presentation.
- Comm. Smith noted that progress had been made in terms of access, and asked about outreach and technical expertise. Mr. Enslow replied that he was working with the city's community engagement working group. Comm. Smith requested more outreach outside the city.
- Comm. Wilson asked about the accessibility of Word and PDF documents. Mr. Enslow replied that the forms on the city website would soon be moving to a new platform, OpenForms. Comm. Wilson asked whether forms worked with screen readers. Mr. Enslow replied that OpenForms works with screen readers, but PDF does not.
- Chair Baroudi asked if there were best practices for formatting pages for screen readers. Mr. Enslow replied that web pages can be structured with headers and subheaders, images can be tagged with alt text, and tools to enhance readability are available.
- Chair Baroudi asked about details of the quality assurance testing process. Mr. Enslow replied that the vendors the city has used in the past were successful and inexpensive, so he plans to continue using them. He added that the QA process was relatively easy, involving him testing the various pages on a range of different computers.
- Chair Baroudi asked about comprehensive testing on various operating systems and different versions of each. Mr. Enslow replied that the city's information technology department is not involved in that level of testing, and that the developer, Granicus, is responsible for access. He added that they have used simulators to test different operating systems, but that actually using different machines gives better results.
- Chair Baroudi asked about the timeline for conversion to OpenForms. Mr. Enslow replied that that would be determined by the results of the

Exhibit A

audit described in the presentation, and that the city has a number of public-facing web services. Chair Baroudi then asked whether there would be a public testing period. Mr. Enslow replied that they were working with Granicus on setting that up.

- Mr. Maher asked Comm. Smith for his recommendations for other groups to be involved in user testing, and that they're not waiting for the audit to be done before beginning the conversion to OpenForms..
- Member of the public Sheela Gunn mentioned that their computer has no mouse and no screen, and asked if those configurations were being tested. They mentioned that people who are blind or visually impaired use a number of assistive technologies, like screen readers, Braille displays, magnification, captions, and descriptions of pictures (which should not be generated by AI). They noted that software packages like Granicus, Veoci, and ArcGIS all had barriers to access, that Adobe Signature is inaccessible, that technical support seldom if ever has knowledge of access issues, and added that the city's deadline for electronic comments is 24 hours before a meeting, as opposed to 10 minutes before for comments on paper. They stated that user testers were needed. Chair Baroudi agreed.

Staff Updates and Announcements

- Mark Romoser mentioned that there were no announcements this month.

Future Agenda Items

- Mark Romoser noted that next month's agenda included presentations by Comm. Stevens about Regional Center of the East Bay, Sheraden Nicholau about the state developmental disabilities council, and Joanna Winter about Oakland's general plan.

Comm. Aure made a motion to adjourn. Comm. Smith seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:56.