

CITY OF OAKLAND

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

94612

Date: October 22, 2018

To: *Chair Lynette Gibson-McElhaney, Life Enrichment Committee*
Mayor Libby Schaaf
Sabrina Landreth, City Administrator

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

Re: Highlights of Activities of 2017-18 and 2018 Goals & Strategies

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 (PWD). 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. As of June 30, 2018, there were three vacancies on the Commission.

MCPD Recent Achievements

In the past year, the MCPD has been able to make significant contributions the development 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. The following highlights both information received by the Commission as well as guidance and outcomes the Commission has provided to the City and the community as a whole:

Input Received

- ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Status Update
- Mayor Schaaf attendance and input
- Identify liaisons with other city boards and commissions
- Homelessness update
- Bike Share update
- Heard from Deaf Bay Area Round Table
- ADA Self Evaluation and BlueDAG Update
- Outreach ad hoc committee develops new brochures
- OakDOT update on Vision Zero
- OakDOT update on Let's Bike Oakland
- OakDOT update on Oakland Walks – Pedestrian Plan
- OakDOT update on Telegraph Avenue Complete Streets project
- OakDOT update on Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles in the Taxi program
- OakDOT update on Accessibility in the Bike Share program

Guidance and Outcomes

- Provided guidance to OakDOT regarding protected bike lanes resulting in modified plans for Lakeside Green Streets Project
- Identified street lighting blocking accessible path of travel at Lakeside Green Streets Project resulting in removal and modification of street light locations.
- Continued active participation in MTC Bike Share Technical Advisory Commission resulting in ongoing commitment by City and MTC to develop a pilot Bike Share program with accessible transportation modes.

- Provided OakDOT with input regarding dockless scooter resolution resulting in inclusion of the need for each vendor to develop an accessibility plan within 90-days of receiving license to operate.
- Participated in Allen Temple Baptist Church Faith and Disability Summit.
- Participated in MS Walk 2018
- Participated in Aphasia Center of California Walk to Talk
- Video accessible MCPD public meetings
- Increased publication of MCPD Facebook page

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

We have reduced the number of meetings requiring cancellation because of lack of quorum from 2017, however reaching quorum is a monthly challenge. Recent new appointments to the MCPD positively indicates that this challenge is being mitigated.

ii) City Staff Turnover

During the reporting period, there has been 100 percent turnover in the City's ADA Programs Division.

- 1) This turnover has slowed the ability of the MCPD to address issues and obtain information requested of staff while new staff came "up to speed".
- 2) The new City staff is very capable of performing their duties and any learning curve challenges that were faced have been quickly mitigated.
- 3) In 2016 an outside consultancy (Michael Baker International) performed a gap analysis on appropriate staffing levels for the ADA Programs Division. Its analysis identified that the division should be staffed with four FTE to be able to provide an appropriate level of service at that time.

ADA Programs had four FTE in 2017. However, two long time staff abruptly left the division leaving it half staffed. Currently there are two FTE and vacancies in the division. The vacancies have not been prioritized for funding, posting and recruitment by DOT and CAO executive management. Because the division is

only partially staffed, response to MCPD requests have, at times, been delayed. We look forward to the ADA Programs Division being fully staffed as soon as possible.

MCPD's 2018 Strategic Goals

At our December, 2017 meeting, we developed an aggressive set of goals, strategies, and tactics for the 2018 calendar year. These goals are divided into five key areas:

1. Goal Area: Transportation

Objective 1.1: MCPD will work toward enhancing Bike Share access

Objective 1.2: MCPD will work toward maintaining/advancing the availability/accessibility of Oakland's stock of disabled parking spaces and will examine/address the abuse of disabled parking placards in Oakland.

Objective 1.3: MCPD will monitor accessibility of Oakland's fixed-route transit systems (e.g., BART, AC Transit)

Objective 1.4: MCPD will work toward improving reliability and customer service within East Bay Paratransit and other paratransit systems serving the City of Oakland.

Objective 1.5: MCPD will work toward enhancing Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) ability and motivation to serve PWD.

Objective 1.6: MCPD will continue to monitor and provide input into Oakland's "Complete Streets" Program

2. Goal Area: Policing and Safety

Objective 2.1: During calendar year 2018, MCPD will review the content and consider the adequacy of Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) provided to Oakland Police Department (OPD) officers, as it relates to individuals with disabilities, and draft a letter to the Mayor, City Council, and OPD with specific guidance or suggestions for alteration of the CIT if recommended by the MCPD.

Objective 2.2: MCPD will advocate for improved public safety services for the disability community in the event of emergencies and natural disasters.

3. Goal Area: Community Engagement

Objective 3.1: MCPD will reach out to the community to raise awareness regarding the existence and nature of MCPD.

Objective 3.2: MCPD will solicit community input regarding issues impacting PWD in Oakland.

4. Goal Area: Accessibility of City Programs/Services/Activities

Objective 4.1: MCPD will provide ongoing input to City staff regarding Oakland's ongoing development and implementation of its ADA Transition Plan.

Objective 4.2: MCPD will advocate for equitable prioritization of Measure KK funds for infrastructure improvements that serve the disabled community.

5. Goal Area: Housing

Objective 5.1: MCPD will advocate for equitable prioritization of Measure KK funds for infrastructure improvements that serve the disabled community.

Objective 5.2: Whereas the MCPD recognizes a high prevalence of homeless individuals living in Oakland are also PWD, often disconnected from services, and whereas the MCPD recognizes a responsibility to represent the voices of all PWD living in the city, the MCPD will collaborate with official activities and initiatives addressing homelessness in the city, with the objective to improve conditions for and/or reduce the number of PWD who are homeless in Oakland.

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
City of Oakland ADA Programs Division
One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
510-238-5219 (voice)
711 (CA Relay Service)