

**DRAFT MINUTES**

DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, January 12, 2009, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
200 East Santa Clara Street, Room T-550  
San Jose, California

**Commissioners Present:** Chair Otila Salazar-Torres, Vice-Chair Emma Eljas, Commissioners Erik Kaeding, Paiman Komeilizadeh, Daniel Newell, Jackie O'Donnell, Susie Souza, James Westman and Chris Wright, Commissioners Emeritus Susan Espinoza and Karl Vidt

**Commissioners Absent:** Commissioner Mary Brown, Commissioner Emeritus Aaron Morrow

**Staff Present:** S. Wing (ADA Coordinator), S. Holm (Office of Councilmember Pyle)

**1. Call to Order/Orders of the Day & Agenda Approval**

Upon the motion of Commissioner Eljas, seconded by Commissioner Komeilizadeh, the Orders of the Day and Agenda were approved unanimously.

**2. Approval of November 10, 2008 Minutes**

The draft Minutes were amended by Commissioner Kaeding. Upon the motion of Commissioner O'Donnell, seconded by Commissioner Westman, the December 8, 2008 Minutes, as amended, were approved unanimously.

**3. Open Forum**

Commissioner Emeritus Espinoza reported on the lack of responsiveness and assistance from the Registrar of Voters when she was helping a friend who is visually impaired to vote. She thought the voting staff did very little to provide her friend any type of accommodation. The response from the management has been slow and incomplete. It was suggested that Ms. Espinoza draft a letter from the DAC to the Registrar of Voters that could be considered at the next DAC meeting.

**4. Council Liaison Report**

Ms. Holm reminded the Commission that the District 10 disaster preparedness event is scheduled for April 25, 2009, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Pioneer High School.

**5. Chairperson Report**

Chairperson Salazar-Torres welcomed the new members of the DAC to their first meeting and both new and current DAC members introduced themselves to each other.

Mrs. Salazar-Torres also reported on the invitation from the City Clerk's office for two members of the DAC to participate in the Board and Commission structural improvement process meetings. She said she would attend the meeting and invited other DAC members to join her. Mr. Vidt and Ms. Wright volunteered to attend also.

Mrs. Salazar-Torres also reported on the meeting with Airport staff to review the new ticket counters that are planned for installation in the new airport. Ms. O'Donnell, Mr. Vidt and Mr. Wing also were present and generally felt it was a good opportunity to provide input to the Airport on the accessibility of the ticket counters.

**6. Santa Clara County Advisory Commission for Persons With Disabilities Liaison Report**

No report

**7. Senior Commission Liaison Report**

No report

**8. Report on Standing Commission Items**

**a. Emergency/Disaster Planning for Persons with Disabilities** – Mr. Wing reported we are still waiting for the final draft of the "San Jose Disaster Shelter Annex for Vulnerable Populations." He also reported there is an effort being initiated by all participating agencies in the Bay Area region to update the regional emergency preparedness plans which will include a mass care and shelter plan for people with special needs. San Jose will be a major participant in this effort.

**b. "Strategic Plan, Services for Persons with Disabilities" Advisory Board** – The purpose of this board and its relationship to the City's Therapeutic Services programs was described briefly. The next meeting should be in February.

**c. VTA and Paratransit Service Issues** – Vice-Chair Eljas reported the VTA will be holding community meetings to obtain input on potential route changes. A meeting schedule will be provided to DAC members.

**9. ADA Coordinator Report –**

**a. Update on excessive street crowning** – Mr. Wing informed the DAC that the DOT will be surveying streets and intersections in the downtown area and other areas to be determined to verify what intersections have excessive street crowns. DOT will also consider reducing street crowns as part of a street resurfacing project depending on the severity of the street crown and the potential use by people with mobility impairments and other factors.

**b. Inclusionary Housing proposal update** – Mr. Wing reported that the City Council adopted the Inclusionary Housing policy on 12/9/08 and directed staff to draft an ordinance and come back with information on several different aspects of the

policy. This is a very complex issue as demonstrated by the fact that in addition to the staff memo concerning this issue, there were three other memos from the Mayor and City Council members. It was suggested that Commissioner Kaeding serve as the liaison for the DAC on this issue and have further discussions with Housing Commission staff on any issues that may be relevant to the DAC's support of this policy.

**10. Announcements** - There were no announcements

**11. Agenda Development**

- Employment issues for people with disabilities (for the COW)
- Curb Ramp - Pedestrian Plan update
- Voter accessibility
- Building Codes and Disabled Access Advisory Board report
- Budget report

The meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.