

**Commission on Disability
Minutes
Wednesday, January 13, 2010**

1. Roll call. Present: Commissioner Ed Gold
Commissioner Gabriela Castello-Kramer
Commissioner Denise Trahan
Commissioner Simi Litvak
Commissioner Giovana Giscome
Commissioner Peter Mendoza
Commissioner Madelyn Stelmach

Absent: None

Commissioners Mendoza, Litvak and Castello-Kramer arrived at 6:38 p.m.

3. Approval of Draft Minutes (January 13, 2010), A motion was made to accept the minutes as written, Commissioners Gold/Trahan, Ayes: Commissioners Gold, Trahan, Stelmach and Giscome, No's: None, Abstain: None

4. Public comment. There was no public comment

5. Announcements from Commissioners and or Staff.

Commissioner Trahan talked about the speed humps issue going to the Council recently.

Commissioner Gold expressed his displeasure at the State funding situation.

Commissioner Mendoza had trouble back in November when the Police stopped his attendant from going to his residence during a power outage which closed the street. He has gone to the Police review Commission for assistance.

6. Update and Discussion on Berkeley Paratransit Services, Gene Biggins, Associate Management Analyst, Department of Housing and Community Services. There will be a budget reduction in the Paratransit program next year, and the housing department is looking for ideas on why's to save money. Ideas included raising the age limit from 70 to 72 for eligibility, increase funding for East Bay Paratransit and reduce taxi scrip, and to put the complaint number on the city web site as well as on the scrip booklets.

7. Presentation and Discussion on Smoking in Common Areas of Multi-Unit Housing.

The City is developing a policy banning smoking in rental housing units and public housing. The proposal is for 90% smoke free units, but there is a push for 100% smoke free. Smoking will also be allowed on balconies so caregivers can continue caring for kids without having to leave the apartment. Apartments for people who are homeless will be exempt. Commissioner Mendoza wanted to know the definition of the word "nuisance" in regards to smoking and to have this issue reagendaized for February.

8. Continued Discussion of Berkeley's Pool Bond Initiative, Madelyn Stelmach. This issue is going to Council soon with a proposal for new bond that have funds for operating costs as well.

9. Continued Discussion of Berkeley's Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities, Commissioner Simi Litvak.
Discussed the progress of the group in relation to the CFILC settlement.

10. Discussion of Memo from the Peace & Justice Commission Regarding the UN Human Rights Treaty Reports, The Peace and Justice Commission was seeking people from the Commission on Disability who could assist in completing reports on the status of civil rights from a disability perspective. Commissioners Giscome and Castello-Kramer expressed an interest.

11. Discussion of New State Law, AB 144, Related to Disabled Parking Placard Enforcement, Madelyn Stelmach. AB 144 allows for a municipality to raise the fines on illegal placard use while changing the enforcement from a police officer to a parking control officer, making it easier to enforce. A motion was made to send a council item asking the city to implement the necessary ordinance changes in order to adopt the provisions of AB 144 as well as add an educational component for doctors who hand out the placards and a recertification process, Commissioners Mendoza/Litvak, Ayes: Mendoza, Litvak, Stelmach, Trahan, Giscome, No's: none, Abstain: none. Commissioner Gold left at 8:15, Commissioner Castillo-Kramer left at 8:55.

Adjourn 9:05