



**Commission on Disability
AGENDA
Special Meeting**

**Commission on Disability
Wednesday May 18, 2022 6:00 PM**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e) and the state declared emergency, this meeting of the Commission on Disability will be conducted exclusively through teleconference and Zoom videoconference. The COVID-19 state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and presents imminent risks to the health of attendees. Therefore, no physical meeting location will be available.

Public Works Engineering is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: My Meeting

Time: May 18, 2022 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82101497677?pwd=cHVaa0VON0RwM0FqbU9TVHBuaDM3QT09>

Meeting ID: 821 0149 7677

Passcode: 699511

One tap mobile

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Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcwRoF2ofG>

**To access the meeting remotely using the internet:
Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device
using the link listed on the agenda. If you do not wish**

for your name to appear on the screen, then use the drop down menu and click on "rename" to rename yourself to be anonymous. To request to speak, use the "raise hand" icon on the screen.

To join by phone: Dial 1-669-900-9128 and enter the Meeting ID on the agenda. If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, press *9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair.

A. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

- 1) Call to Order by Chair Freeman**
- 2) Roll Call by Secretary**
- 3) Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda.
(Up to 3 minutes per speaker)**
- 4) Approval of Draft Action Minutes of April 6, 2022***
- 5) Staff Update**
 - Chat**
 - Scooter Share Program**
- 6) Approval and Order of Agenda**

B. ACTION ITEMS

**The public may speak at the beginning of any item.
(Comments may be limited to 3 minutes per speaker)**

Commission will take a 5 minute break around 8pm.

C. DISCUSSION ITEMS

**The public may speak at the beginning of any item.
(Comments may be limited to 3 minutes per speaker)**

1. Vision 2050

City staff will present

2. Housing Element Update* (Freeman)**

3. Elevator Ordinance Revisions Update * (Walsh)**

4. Easy Does IT (Freeman)

5. Inclusive Disaster Registry (Walsh)

6. Commission Workplan for New Fiscal Year

**7. Accessibility of City of Berkeley Commission
Training Program**

8. Accessibility of Voicemail System

9. Increasing Public Participation in the COD

10. Berkeley Bike Plan

11. The ADA and City of Berkeley Programs and Services

12. ADA Pacific Center Training for Commissioners

Announcements

C. INFORMATION ITEMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

D. COMMUNICATIONS

1. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (from adopted work plan, referrals, etc.)

TBD

E. ADJOURNMENT: no later than 9:00pm

Agenda Posted: TBD

*** Indicates written material included in packet.**

**** Indicates material to be delivered at meeting.**

***** Indicates material previously mailed.**

A complete agenda packet is available for public review on the web at:

https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/Commissions/Commissions_Commission_on_Disability_Homepage.aspx

Available also at the main library, and Public Works, Engineering Division, 1947 Center Street, 4th Floor.

ADA Disclaimer



***“This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, or alternative formats, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6400 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.*”**

Communications Disclaimer

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communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission or committee for further information. Commission Secretary: Dominika Bednarska, Disability Services Specialist, 1947 Center St., 4th Floor, Berkeley, CA, 94704, Telephone (510) 981-6418, Fax: (510) 9817060 TDD: (510) 981-6347.

Email: DBednarska@cityofberkeley.info



**Commission on Disability
Draft Minutes
Regular Meeting**

**Commission on Disability
Wednesday April 6, 2022 6:00 PM**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e) and the state declared emergency, this meeting of the Commission on Disability will be conducted exclusively through teleconference and Zoom videoconference. The COVID-19 state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and presents imminent risks to the health of attendees. Therefore, no physical meeting location will be available.

Public Works Engineering is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

***Topic: Commission on Disability Regular Meeting
Time: Apr 6, 2022 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)***

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89060922035?pwd=K3UzZ>

[npVeHpQVWZxUWY4eXJ6SnRUZz09](#)

Meeting ID: 890 6092 2035

Passcode: 095059

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+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 890 6092 2035

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcE28nRLB>

A. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

- **Call to Order by Vice Chair Walsh @6:09 PM**
- **Roll Call by Secretary Vossler: present Walsh: present Freeman: present (left at 6:46pm) Singer: present**
- **Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda. 1 speaker (Up to 3 minutes per speaker)**

- **Approval of Draft Action Minutes of March 2, 2022*(Vossler, Freeman, ayes**
- **Staff Update**
 - **Chat**
 - **Item on Appointing More Commissioners**
 - **Editing Council templates**
 - **Upcoming speakers**
- **Approval and Order of Agenda (Freeman/Singer as amended, Freeman: aye, Walsh: aye, Vossler: aye, Singer: aye)**

B. ACTION ITEMS

The public may speak at the beginning of any item. (Comments may be limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

- **Election for Commission Chair Motion: Reelect Freeman Vossler, Second: Singer, Freeman: aye, Walsh: aye, Vossler: aye, Singer: aye**

Commission will take a 5 minute break around 8pm.

C. DISCUSSION ITEMS

The public may speak at the beginning of any item. (Comments may be limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

- **Housing Element Update*** (Freeman)**

- **Tabled Until Next Meeting**
- **Elevator Ordinance Revisions Update *** (Walsh)**

- **Easy Does IT (Freeman)**
- **For the June meeting, Walsh and Vossler will draft a recommendation for Easy Does It to be audited again.**

- **Inclusive Disaster Registry (Walsh)**

- **Commission Workplan for New Fiscal Year**
- **Tabled until next meeting**

- **Accessibility of City of Berkeley Commission Training Programs**

- **Accessibility of Voicemail System**
- **Tabled Until Next Meeting**

- **Increasing Public Participation in the COD**
- **Tabled Until Next Meeting**

Announcements

- **INFORMATION ITEMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**
- **COMMUNICATIONS**

1. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (from adopted work plan, referrals, etc.)

TBD

**E. ADJOURNMENT: no later than 8:02pm.
(Singer/Walsh, Freeman: aye, Walsh: aye,
Vossler: aye, Singer: aye**

Agenda Posted: TBD

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ns Commission on Disability Homepage.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/Commissions/Commissio
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relevant board, commission or committee for further information. **Commission Secretary: Dominika Bednarska, Disability Services Specialist, 1947 Center St., 4th Floor, Berkeley, CA, 94704, Telephone (510) 981-6418, Fax: (510) 9817060 TDD: (510) 981-6347. Email: DBednarska@cityofberkeley.info**

Blane Beckwith
2931 Ellis St.
Berkeley, CA 94703
(510) 841-6406

April 10, 2022

City of Berkeley Commission on Disability

Dear Commission:

Recently, my brother Mark and I were suspended from using the services of Easy Does It Emergency Service (EDI). We both feel this suspension is grossly unfair because we have no other resources to fall back on a case that our attendants don't show up for work or are ill and are unable to work.

The reason given for this suspension is that one of the EDI attendants started an argument, which became physical with our mother's caregiver. Our mother is 91 years old and has severe dementia due to Alzheimer's disease. He started the argument because he thought the television, she was playing, was too loud to enable him to hear me. Of course, he could have stayed in my bed where he was taking care of me, since I was the one who called him. At one point during the argument, he came toward her. At that point she grabbed a nearby vacuum cleaner and held it up to stop his advances towards her. During this time he was yelling at her and calling her a "fat bitch" as well as several other names. Two other people in the house were able to break them up. After that, I made him stay in my room and he finished caring for me and left the house.

Apparently, he reported the incident to his superiors at EDI. Later that afternoon, the Executive Director of EDI, Michelle Blackwell and the Program Manager, Ayanna Keaton, called us to inform us that we had been suspended from using EDI services. We argue with them about the suspension for a while, but they would not relent in their decision. A little suspension was for 30 days, but now it has become indefinite because of their demands.

Their demands were that our mother's caregiver could not be in the house when a member of the EDI staff was in a house to take care of us. We felt this was impossible because our mother needs her care here because she cannot take care of herself in her condition. They said it was a liability issue, because the agency could be held responsible if one of their staff was injured in our house.

Neither my brother or I are able to intervene in helping to stop this incident, especially since we are also disabled. Since forcing our mother's caregiver out of this house is not reasonable and impossible, why should my brother and I be punished for an incident that was started by an EDI employee?

This situation has put my brother Mark and I in a situation where we have no backup service to rely on. This puts our lives in a dangerous situation because of our disabilities. We feel they are not being reasonable in their demands. Replacing my mother's caregiver with someone else will be next to impossible, especially since it is now very hard to find a decent attendant with sufficient qualifications to care for an elder with Alzheimer's. It would also be very difficult to replace because of the current situation of hiring a new attendant. As you probably know, there is a serious shortage within the

disability community to find a new attendant. People don't want these jobs because of the low wages.

Besides that, it was not our fault that EDI attendant chose to start an argument with another caregiver that was also in the house. Please help us by making a recommendation to counsel that our suspension should be lifted and that we should be allowed to use EDI attendant again. The safety of our lives depend on it.

Sincerely yours,

Blane Beckwith.