



Commission on Disability

ACTION CALENDAR
January 24, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Commission on Disability
 Submitted by: Martha Singer, Chairperson, Commission on Disability
 Subject: Change Template for City Consent or Action Calendar Items to Include Access and Universal Design Considerations

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that the submission template for City of Berkeley Council Consent and Action items include accessibility as a consideration for all items submitted.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Minimal staff time would be needed to update the template; potential cost and time savings from early consideration of accessibility would offset any cost.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The current template for City of Berkeley Council Action and Consent items emphasizes consideration of fiscal impact and environmental sustainability but does not include the consideration of accessibility for persons with disabilities.

BACKGROUND

The Commission on Disability at its October 5, 2016 meeting took action to recommend to the City Council that the submission templates for Action and Consent items include accessibility as consideration for all items submitted. There was a unanimous approval to submit the report:

M/S/C, Weiss/Graham). Ayes: Graham; Leeder; Singer; Walsh; Weiss; Naves: None; Absent: Murray; Upadhyay

The City currently uses a template for submission of Council Action and Consent items. The current template specifically asks for fiscal impact and environmental sustainability on every proposal.

Because of the extreme diversity of individuals with disabilities, including mobility, vision, hearing, and less visible disabilities, many Council items and policy changes have unintended consequences that may impact their inclusion in the life of the community.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Urban projects that pre-plan for individuals with disabilities and the aging of the population are more likely to last longer without modification.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Recent examples of issues that have been discussed in Commission on Disability have included overlap with nearly every area of civic life. Sidewalk obstructions including signs, vegetation, and bicyclists on sidewalks have impact on individuals with mobility issues, hearing and vision issues, and the aging, but also impact children, the use of strollers and the general use of common areas. Transportation issues include limitations in access to taxis and the availability of parking for disabled individuals. Housing issues include limitations in accessible housing, limitations in accessible affordable housing, and cost and responsibility of accommodations in apartment buildings. These are only examples of recent Berkeley issues.

A review of the 2016 List Of Prioritized City Council Referrals shows many of the issues that Council and staff find important have overlap with issues of interest to persons with disabilities, such as housing (for example item 1,2,3), but may not have specific provisions to address accessibility (for example items 9, 25, 29). The best time to include discussion of impact on individuals with disability is prior to submission.

Including a single question on each Council item submission regarding accessibility for individuals with disabilities would enable Berkeley to again be a leader in accessibility and independent living.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

While some Berkeley commissions have mandates for certain representation on them, for example, to include a Landmarks Preservation commissioner or Civic Arts commissioner, it is not possible to populate each advisory body with a representative for disabled individuals, and we feel by asking the question early on in each proposal to the Council that improved dialogue and action for inclusion of individuals will be more likely to occur.

CITY MANAGER

See Companion Report.

CONTACT PERSON

Kenneth Emeziem, Acting Secretary of Commission on Disability, Department of Public Works, 981-6444

Attachments:

1: Proposed template for Consent and Action Items.



Commission on Disability

[CONSENT OR ACTION]
CALENDAR
[Meeting Date (MM dd,
yyyy)]

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: [Commission Name]
Submitted by: [Name of Commission Chairperson], Chairperson, [Commission]
Subject: [Click **Here** and Type the Title. (No underline and not all caps.)]

RECOMMENDATION

Approve...
or Direct...
or Conduct a public hearing and upon conclusion...
or other recommendation.

SUMMARY ***[This section is included only if report exceeds three pages.]***

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

IMPACT ON ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND OTHERS

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

[Title of Report]

CALENDAR

Macrobutton NoMacro [Meeting Date (MM dd, yyyy)]

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager [TYPE ONE] concurs with / takes no position on the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report. [OR] Refer to the budget process.

Note: If the City Manager does not (a) concur, (b) takes any other position, or (c) refer to the budget process, a council action report must be prepared. Indicate under the CITY MANAGER heading, "See companion report."

CONTACT PERSON

[Name], [Title], [Department], [Phone Number]

Attachments: [Delete if there are NO Attachments]

1: [Title or Description of Attachment]

2: [Title or Description of Attachment]