



Commission on Disability

INFORMATION CALENDAR

February 11, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Commission on Disability
 Submitted by: Alexis Ghenis, Chairperson, Commission on Disability
 Subject: Commission on Disability FY 2019-20 Annual Workplan

INTRODUCTION

Commissions were asked to submit an updated Workplan that aligns with the fiscal year. Motion: Singer, Second: Walsh, Ghenis: Aye, Leeder: Aye, Ramirez: Aye

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Commission on Disability Fiscal Year 2019-20 Annual Workplan is a Strategic Plan Priority Project, advancing our goal to champion and demonstrate social and racial equity.

Commission on Disability ▪ FY 2019-20 Annual Workplan

1. Improved Transportation and Mobility

Pursue “Navigable Cities” for all pathways used by people with disabilities (sidewalks, ramps, curb cuts, crosswalks, bike lanes, etc.), addressing topics including smooth construction and eliminating barriers (e.g. business signs, parked vehicles and scooters/bicycles). Research safety concerns, especially at intersections and other crosswalks, and propose relevant adjustments to City policies and infrastructure. Pursue policies to guarantee equal access to all transportation options and/or appropriate alternatives, including but not limited to paratransit, transportation network companies (TNCs), bicycle and scooter rentals (e.g. Ford GoBike, Lime, etc.), and taxis. Keep up-to-date on roadway/neighborhood redesigns that may affect pathways and/or parking; provide input to ensure full access for people with disabilities. Explore parking options and access, especially in city-owned or regulated garages and parking lots.

2. Public Input and Public Outreach for COD

Implement communication channels with other city Commissions; pursue “cross-membership” with other commissions, where COD members request to be appointed to other commissions with vacancies; prioritize commissions whose coverage affects people with disabilities (e.g. peace & justice, zero waste, planning, homelessness, etc.). Raise awareness of COD within the disability community and relevant stakeholders (e.g. neighborhood and business associations) and invite community members and stakeholders to attend COD meetings.

3. Disability Access in all Berkeley Policies and Processes

Ensure that City of Berkeley processes fully serve people with disabilities and that accessibility is considered in all policies. Develop templates for full City Council consent and action items to include impacts on accessibility and community members with disabilities. Improve accessibility of city websites, meeting spaces, and buildings (including directions/signage to accessible entrances).

4. Accessible and Affordable Housing

Explore the expansion and improved availability of accessible housing for people with disabilities, including going beyond baseline ADA access requirements in new construction (e.g. adding automatic door openers, units with roll-in showers and other universal access features, etc.). Also consider retrofits of existing buildings, whether single-family homes or multi-unit apartments/condominiums. Address affordability as a key factor for housing.

5. Homeless people with Disabilities

Support Berkeley's population of homeless residents with disabilities. Collaborate with local service providers to address disability-related needs, such as access to healthcare or repairs of medical equipment (wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, etc.). Improve quality and range of housing alternatives; provide input on recreational vehicle (RV) ordinances and availability of permanent or semi-permanent RV parking areas.

6. Emergency/Disaster Preparedness

Receive information and ongoing updates, participate and make recommendations as appropriate about Berkeley's BEACON and CERT programs.

7. Student Life and Disability Awareness

Improve communication and collaboration with Berkeley's many students with disabilities, providing community engagement and leadership opportunities and supports for independent living. Address all populations including students with disabilities in elementary through high school, Berkeley City College, UC Berkeley, and private entities.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

None.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION:

None.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Dominika Bednarska, Disability Services Specialist, Public Works, (510) 981 6418.