



[Commission Name]

INFORMATION CALENDAR

June 25, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Commission on Disability
Submitted by: Alexis Ghenis, Chairperson, Commission on Disability
Subject: 2019 Commission on Disability Work Plan

INTRODUCTION

Below is the 2019 Work Plan for the Commission on Disability.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Commission on Disability - 2019 Annual Work Plan. Motion to approve and submit annual work plan on April 3, 2019. Motion made by Leeder and seconded by Smith. Ayes: Weiss, Ghenis, Smith, Ramirez, Singer; Noes: none; Abstain: none.

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 Commission on Disability (COD)

Implement communication channels with other city Commissions; pursue “crossmembership” 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. Host one “town hall” event in mid-late 2019, either in place of or in addition to the regularly-scheduled monthly COD meeting.

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. Address the recent extended staff vacancy for Berkeley's ADA coordinator and collaborate with city staff to avoid such extended vacancies in the future. 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.

8. Service Animals Welcome in Berkeley

Educate, advocate and advise Council/staff on full implementation including Business Improvement District (BID) training, production and distribution of Service Animals Welcome signs and annual distribution of informational materials to all Business License Holders.

- Relates to the Strategic Goal of championing and demonstrating social equity for people with disabilities.

CONTACT PERSON

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