City of Oakland  
Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD)  
Monday, September 18, 2017  

Minutes  

I. Call to Order: 5:39 p.m.  

II. Roll Call  
   - 5 Commissioners present: Garner, Gregory, Hong, Sperling, Zisser  
   - Commissioners Contreras and Young arrived at 5:52pm  

III. Public Comments  
   - None  

IV. Commissioner’s Announcements  
   - Vice Chair Zisser announced that he will be leaving the Commission because he will be relocating for his new job as Independent Police Auditor for City of San Jose.  

V. Chair Report; Frank Sperling, Chair  

VI. Approval of August 2017 Minutes  
   - No modification; minutes approved unanimously  

VII. Agenda Modification and Approval  
   - Modified to move up the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Project Special Meeting Planning discussion.  

VIII. New Business
A. Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Project MCPD
   Special Meeting Planning; Frank Sperling, Chair

   • Commission agreed to an ad hoc committee
     meeting October 2 at 5:30 p.m. in Hearing Room 3

B. Introduction to the Deaf Bay Area Round Table
   (DBART); Mary Therese Garcia

   • Ms. Garcia, a facilitator for DBART, presented
     the following history of DBART:

     o DBART was originally formed in 2008 and ran until 2011, during which time 62
       organizations were part of this umbrella organization for Deaf groups in the Bay Area.

     o DBART advocated for AB 2072, which was passed by the State legislature, but former
       Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger did not sign it. The goal was to establish an Early
       Start program to screen infants at birth for disabilities and provide early intervention
       services.

     o In 2012, DBART was revitalized under DCARA (Deaf Counseling Advocacy and
       Referral Agency). There is now a centralized online calendar to share events and
       resources. Another goal is to raise the profile of the Deaf community with
government agencies to network and share information and resources.

- Elizabeth Grigsby, another member of DBART who was present, described services provided by the Bay Area Coalition of Deaf Senior Citizens, such as housing resource assistance.

- Commissioner Contreras suggested that DBART recommend individuals to fill the two current vacancies on the MCPD.

- Ms. Garcia inquired about the City of Oakland’s emergency preparedness for persons who are Deaf or hard of hearing. Sherri Rita, ADA Programmatic Access Coordinator, responded by stating that there is a seat designated for the MCPD on the City’s Emergency Management and Disaster Preparedness Council (EMADPC), which meets quarterly and includes discussion about the integration of persons with access and functional needs into emergency preparedness and response. Ms. Rita also stated that there an Access and Functional Needs Annex to the City’s Mass Care and Shelter Plan, in which the MCPD was involved in developing in 2013, which establishes the framework for ensuring persons with access and functional needs, including those who are Deaf or hard of hearing, are provided fully integrated and accessible services in the event of a disaster.

- Chair Sperling requested a presentation from Office of Emergency Services for a future MCPD meeting to provide more information about the
framework for serving individuals with access and functional needs. Commissioner Contreras volunteered to attend next meeting of the EMADPC on behalf of the MCPD.

- Ms. Garcia would like to engage with EMADPC. Ms. Rita will investigate how to get Ms. Garcia involved.

C. Staff Report Scheduling FY 2017-2019; Frank Sperling, Chair
   - Postponed until October meeting

D. Annual Report Review; Frank Sperling, Chair
   - Motion to approve Annual Report: Vice-Chair Zisser
     Seconded by Commissioner Gregory
     Ayes: Contreras, Gregory, Hong, Sperling, Zisser, Young

IX. Adjourn: 6:40 p.m.