



Miami-Dade County

Commission on Disability Issues (CODI)
Stephen P. Clark Center (SPCC)
111 N.W. 1st Street, Miami, Florida 33128
8th Floor, Conference Room 18-4

	Date:	Wednesday, February 26, 2014	
	Time:	1:30 – 4:00 p.m. est.	
	Call to Order Time:	1:48 p.m. est.	
	Meeting Adjourned:	4:14 p.m. est.	
I.	Opening and Attendance: Attendance recorded. Call to Order. Copies of documents were distributed		
	District 1 Commissioner Jordan	Damian Gregory 1 st Vice Chair	Arrived 2:18 p.m.
	District 2 Commissioner Monestime	Jackson David Housing Committee Chair	Present
	District 3 Commissioner Edmonson	Jose Granda Access Committee Chair	Left at 3:28 p.m.
	District 4 Commissioner Heyman	Earl Oaks Employment Committee Chair	Excused Absence
	District 5 Commissioner Barreiro	Jose (Ernie) Martinez CODI Chairman	Present
	District 6 Commissioner Sosa	Pedro Rodriguez	Excused Absence
	District 7 Commissioner Suarez	Harry Horgan Outreach/Education Chair	Arrived 2:03 p.m.
	District 8 Commissioner Bell	Jesus Garcia CODI Secretary and Transportation Committee Chair	Present
	District 9 Commissioner Moss	Ronald Fulton 2 nd Vice Chair	Arrived 1:50 p.m.
	District 10 Commissioner Souto	Vacant Appointment
	District 11 Commissioner suppoto	Vacant Appointment
	District 12 Commissioner Diaz	Marilyn Larriue Housing Committee Co-Chair	Arrived 1:51 p.m.
	District 13 Commission Bovo	Alan Rigerman	Arrived 2:03 p.m.
	Miami-Dade County Staff Present	Dianne Steinberg ISD, Recording Secretary Heidi Johnson-Wright ISD, ADA Coordinator William Velez (MDT) Transit, Chief of Bus Operations John Mendez Deputy Supervisor of Election, Elections Department Loubert Alexis (OEM), EOC Coordinator Roberto Cepeda (OEM), EOC Coordinator, Vulnerable Population	Present Present Present Present Present Present

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II.	Approval of Agenda	Chairman Martinez requested a motion to approve the agenda for February 26, 2014 to include a change in the year to 2014. Jesus Garcia made the motion, Ron Fulton seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.
III.	Approval of CODI Minutes	Chairman Martinez requested a motion to approve the January 22, 2014 CODI Meeting minutes. Harry Horgan made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Marilyn Larreau. Motion unanimously approved.
IV.	Open Comments	3 minutes each speaker (Advance Notice Preferred) No public comments at this time
		Jose Granda stated that during the television broadcast of the Mayor's State of the County address, the sign language interpreter was not visible on camera. He noted that there are many deaf individuals with a 4 th grade reading level or lower that may be unable to understand the closed captioning. Johnson-Wright, ISD, ADA Coordinator stated that during Emergency Management events, the sign language interpreter is always visible during broadcasts. A discussion ensued and it was decided that Ms. Johnson-Wright would contact the Mayor's Office about this.
		Haulover Beach Jose Granda stated that Haulover Beach Park, in the proximity of the underpass, is in a disorderly state and in need of renovation. Chairman Martinez said that CODI will invite Parks, Recreations and Open Spaces staff to an upcoming CODI meeting to provide an update on the ongoing capital improvement project at Haulover.
	Information Items	Transportation Issues a) Traffic Lights Ron Fulton raised the issue of traffic lights turning green and prompting the walk signal causing individuals to walk across the street into traffic flow.
		b) STS Transportation Issues Jesus Garcia said he contacted Commissioner Moss' and Commissioner Heyman's offices to request attendance of commission staff at the upcoming CODI Transportation Committee meeting. A discussion ensued regarding the value of Commissioners and/or their staff members attending CODI meetings. Ron Fulton made a motion that CODI request each Commissioner attend or send a designee to CODI meetings on a rotating basis. Motion was seconded by Alan Rigerman. Jose Granda opposed. Motion passed.
		c) Commission on Disabilities Issues Meetings Heidi Johnson-Wright reiterated from the previous CODI meeting that when an individual is appointed to the CODI Board, it is expected that they foster a relationship with their Commissioner and maintain contact with

		<p>them. Chairman Martinez suggested CODI members meet every two-three months with their respective Commissioners to keep them apprised of CODI business and to find out what disability issues may be coming before the BCC.</p> <p>A discussion ensued and Damian Gregory suggested CODI research the concerns of the BCC and integrate those into CODI's strategy. Harry Horgan added that CODI should identify what their individual Commissioners are doing to advance opportunities and encourage initiatives for people with disabilities.</p>
	Action Items	<p>a) Voting Facility Restroom Access – John Mendez (Elections Department)</p> <p>Mr. Mendez stated that he met with Shanika Graves of the Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office, Ms. Johnson-Wright and Marc Dubin, Advocacy Director for the Center for Independent Living (CIL). Mr. Dubin expressed concerns about the long lines and restroom access at polling stations during the November 2012 elections. Mr. Mendez acknowledged the concerns. He said the County is developing strategies to significantly shorten the lines. Restroom access is a challenge, especially in the polling stations located in public schools. The County is not legally required to ensure the restrooms are ADA compliant at the polling stations. Additionally, the "Jessica Langford Act" does not permit individuals from the public to access many areas inside schools. Operationally, it is very difficult to open the restrooms to voters on election day.</p> <p>The Elections Department chooses the best facilities they can for voting stations. However, the final determination is in the control of facilities managers. Many of the stations are located in churches, private clubs and condo complexes. These facilities do not want hundreds of people using their onsite restrooms which would have to be staffed, cleaned and maintained. He added that the County's options are very limited when selecting polling stations. Stations have to be within precinct boundaries and ADA compliant. Chairman Martinez asked if the Elections Department has a formal policy regarding restroom access at polling places. Mr. Mendez stated that there is no formal written policy.</p> <p>A discussion ensued regarding the unacceptable polling stations in the City of Miami and Coconut Grove. Mr. Gregory said that if someone is at an election site for five-six hours and they are not permitted to use the bathroom, this is an untenable situation. He said this poses a health issue for many individuals with disabilities. Miami-Dade County Public Schools ensures that every facility is ADA compliant and suggested that they work together, adding that this appears an unintended consequence of the "Jessica Lunsford Act." He added that a numbering system should be used to indicate where individuals are in the voting line. Mr. Mendez said that the wait times are posted on the Elections website.</p> <p>Chairman Martinez advised that the US Department of Justice (DOJ) had some settlements against the states related to this issue. He suggested people with disabilities might be given immediate access to the polling station to vote and then leave. Mr. David said suggested portable restrooms be made available to remedy this problem.</p> <p>Mr. Mendez acknowledged that the County pays for some private facilities but not</p>

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		<p>for the use of schools. Mr. Horgan asked if they hire individuals with disabilities to work at the polling stations and would they be excluded from the poll worker jobs as a result. He requested a checklist of the 500 facilities used establishing which have accessible bathrooms. This is important for voters to be aware of, in order to mail in early ballots, if necessary. Mr. Mendez agreed.</p> <p>Ms. Johnson Wright said the DOJ website contains a 39-page ADA Checklist for Polling Places for evaluating whether a site is accessible. Restrooms are not included in it. Access into the polling place, casting your vote and exiting the polling station are all that is considered by the DOJ as the program of voting. Mr. Mendez acknowledged that the County has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to make upgrade its facilities to be ADA compliant.</p> <p>Mr. Horgan suggested a campaign be developed to advise people with disabilities on procedures regarding how to vote. Mr. Granda said we need to review the legal precedent set by other states. Chairman Martinez will co-chair CODI Access Committee and this item be placed on the 3-13-14 committee meeting agenda. The County Attorney and Mr. Mendez will be invited to the meeting.</p>
		<p>b) Loubert Alexis, (OEM) Emergency Management Coordinator, & Roberto Cepeda, (OEM) EM Coordinator, Vulnerable Population</p> <p>Loubert Alexis, OEM, Emergency Management Coordinator/ADA Coordinator addressed CODI and advised that his department is reviewing the Emergency Assistance Evacuation Program which has a registry for vulnerable populations. The Association of Agencies (AOA) will have a seat at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), during activation. The AOA will provide representation from an array of agencies that provide essential support for people with disabilities and the elderly. The AOA will provide a staff of one or two that will be present at the EOC. The EOC will collect information for all the agencies that comprise the AOA to determine their capabilities during pre- and post- disaster response. All EOC Evacuation Centers are ADA compliant, including parking and restrooms facilities.</p> <p>Jose Granda inquired if the AOA includes a deaf specialist or specific agency representing deaf issues during EOC activation. Rosa Laguna stated that the AOA is open to everyone, adding that the deaf community has previously been represented. The AOA invited agencies and attendees represent their own organizations in order to assist the community. Chairman Martinez, Jackson David, and Marilyn Larrieu regularly attend representing their respective agencies, unrelated to their position on CODI. Mr. David was commended for translating the AOA Emergency Preparedness Guide into Haitian Creole. An invitation was extended to Jose Granda to represent the deaf community at AOA. The AOA Meeting is scheduled for the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at Miami-Dade College.</p> <p>Jose Granda inquired about procedures regarding blue recycling bins and new blue/green trash cans before a hurricane. He added that all EOC website updates should also be in ASL form.</p>
		<p>c) Advertising on STS Vehicles – William Velez, MDT</p> <p>William Velez advised that Transportation America (TA) announced that advertising will be placed on STS vehicles. The Miami-Dade County Attorney advised that the</p>

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		<p>contract does not contain directives on advertising on STS vehicles, pointing out that the vehicles are owned by TA. The company will comply with the existing code that is utilized for the MDT Metrorail and Transit buses. Additionally, there will be no political or unsuitable advertisements displayed on STS vehicles.</p> <p>MDT allows advertising on the Metrorail, MetroMover and buses, and receives a fee from the respective vendors. Mr. Gregory inquired if the STS riders benefit in any way from these advertisements, i.e. more vehicles in circulation. Mr. Velez said that MDT will not receive any revenue for the advertising on STS vehicles.</p> <p>Mr. Velez stated that TA will be hiring approximately 20-30 new drivers. PTRD has made accommodations for TA training classes at a central bus auditorium. There has been a delay due to their newly acquired shuttle services which includes trolley services for Coral Gables; TA acquired a company and was awarded additional trolley contracts. TA is not prohibited from acquiring additional businesses.</p> <p>Mr. Velez pointed out that MDT riders are provided a discount if they purchase a monthly pass, but this option does not currently exist for STS riders. He suggested CODI should review issue this and seek parity. Mr. Garcia said in order to have a monthly pass that the STS electronic scanner must be operational. CODI will develop a resolution for consideration by the BCC to implement a monthly STS pass.</p>
		<p>d) Disabled Parking Fees at JMH and Public Health Trust – Chairman Martinez</p> <p>Ms. Johnson-Wright advised CODI that the Disabled Parking Fees at JMH and the Public Health Trust Item 7d Ordinance, Section 30-380 of the MDC code is on the BCC Agenda on Tuesday March 4, 2014 as an item for second reading. It was forwarded from the Economic Development and Port of Miami Committee where it passed 5-0 with favorable recommendation. Commissioner Sally Heyman is the prime sponsor.</p> <p>Marilyn Larrieu pointed out the differences between people going to Jackson Memorial Hospital for treatment -- often for months at a time -- and individuals that parking at MIA or the Seaport. The parking charge is currently \$8 a day. She added that affected families are often at a financial disadvantage. Ms. Johnson-Wright advised that two hours of free accessible parking is being made available. If someone meets certain financial guidelines, discounted or free parking may be allowed. Ms. Larrieu said that patients and their family members often don't have the frame of mind to complete the paper work for this type of discount.</p> <p>Mr. Gregory suggested CODI write a letter to BCC before the meeting in opposition to this legislation, for the reasons discussed above.</p> <p>MOTION was made to draft a letter to the BCC prior to the second reading in opposition to the Disabled Parking Fees at JMH and Public Health Trust Item 7d Ordinance, Section 30-380.</p>
	Adjournment	Meeting ended at 4:14 p.m.
	Next CODI Meeting	The next CODI meeting is will be on March 26, 2014.