

Summary Minutes of Commission on Disability Issues (CODI) Meeting

March 26, 2014

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II.	Approval of Agenda	Chairman Martinez requested a motion to approve the agenda for March 26, 2014 to address a scrivener's error requiring the date to be change to 2014. Damian Gregory made the motion; Marilyn Larrieu seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.
III.	Approval of CODI Minutes	<p>Chairman Martinez requested a motion to approve the February 26, 2014 CODI Meeting minutes.</p> <p>Ron Fulton clarified the access issue raised at the last CODI meeting on February 26, 2014 regarding traffic lights turning green while the pedestrian signal tells pedestrians to walk across the street into traffic flow. Mr. Fulton also spoke about waste containers blocking sidewalks on garbage pickup days.</p> <p>It was noted that Earl Oaks is on the Housing Committee and Damian Gregory is the Employment Committee Chair.</p> <p>Damian Gregory made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Earl Oaks. Motion unanimously approved.</p>
IV.	Open Comments	3 minutes each speaker (Advance Notice Preferred) No public comments at this time
V.		<p>Availability of Rental Assessable Vehicles at MIA</p> <p>A discussion ensued regarding the rental of accessible vehicles at MIA. Mr. Fulton noted that at MIA there are only 3 accessible taxi cabs available daily from 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Mr. Fulton stated that wheelchair users need to be able to rent accessible lift vans. He added that MIA should provide this to the community and suggested CODI strategize on this issue. Chairman Martinez said that MIA has taken the position that this would be a private issue with the car rental companies, adding that the Airport Access Committee should address this issue. Jackson David said that the car rental companies indicated that have no obligation to provide this service to the disabled community, adding that CODI could follow up with the BCC. This will on the agenda of the upcoming CODI Access Committee.</p> <p>Ms. Johnson-Wright advised that even if a company such as Hertz-Rent A Car leases a space at the MIC, the County has no jurisdiction over its business practices. However, if there is a legitimate allegation of ADA non-compliance by a rental car company, a complaint can be made with DOJ. She added that Monica Beltran is aware of this issue and although in agreement with CODI, she is unaware of how the County can force rental car companies to provide specific types of service.</p> <p>Ron Fulton inquired about the contract between MIA and Hertz adding that civil rights lawyers he has spoken with advised that CODI should discuss this with the DOJ. Chairman Martinez said CODI would raise this issue with BCC.</p> <p>Allen Rigerman raised the issue of advertising of CODI Meetings. Heidi Johnson-Wright said that the County is required to advertise the CODI Meetings on the County website. Ms. Wright explained that CODI does not</p>

		<p>have a budget for advertising in publication. A discussion regarding a budget for CODI ensued.</p> <p>A discussion ensued regarding the process for acquiring a budget for CODI. Ms. Johnson-Wright said that every dollar set aside in the County budget must be aligned to County's strategic plan. If CODI wants funding, it must be accomplished through the County budget process.</p> <p>It was determined that Earl Oaks will examine the issue of establishing a budget for CODI and report back to the Board members and at the next CODI monthly meeting.</p> <p>Motion: CODI will develop a budget and assign Earl Oaks to oversee it. Earl Oaks seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>The possibility of including surveys in a CODI budget which concerns access issues for the disabled community related to taxicabs, housing, and transit was discussed. Ms. Johnson-Wright pointed out that if CODI has need of information on, for example, a potential market for wheelchair taxicabs, and the expected rider usage, CODI should initially interact with County department such as PTRD because they may already possess the requested information.</p> <p>The discussion continued regarding the ADA Office and the need for administrative support for CODI.</p> <p>Ron Fulton also raised the issue of the procedures for follow-up action items addressed at CODI meetings.</p>
		<p>B) Pedestrian Crossings</p> <p>Allen Rigerman said he will be proposing a resolution to Commissioner Bovo on pedestrian crossings. The resolution would prohibit motorists from approaching within three feet of a pedestrian. Chairman Martinez added that just as there is an ordinance for bicycle riders, an amendment to protect pedestrians is also needed. Mr. Rigerman will provide information at the next CODI meeting concerning legislation for bicycle riders.</p> <p>Julio Martinez, PWWM, ADA Coordinator is responsible for ADA public right of way issues and curb ramps. He said that if an individual contacts 311 with a complaint that is traffic related, it will be forwarded to the traffic division at PWWM. They interview the individual and if work is justified, an estimate is done. The cost comes out of the PWWM budget. Mr. Martinez added PWWM has a small budget to cover the cost of ASL interpreters, when needed. County</p> <p>County Administrative Order 10-10 tasks departmental ADA Coordinators with coordinating sign language interpreter services. This involves ensuring that all appropriate departmental staff is aware of the County's policy and</p>

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		<p>legal obligation to provide sign language interpreters as needed to ensure effective communication with customers, job applicants, and employees who are deaf. Also, staff must be informed of the process for obtaining sign language interpreter services and the need to include projected costs for interpreters in annual budget requests.</p>
		<p>C) CODI Meetings – Number of Meetings per year and length per meeting</p> <p>Length of CODI Monthly Meetings</p> <p>Earl Oaks inquired if a decision has been made regarding shorting the length of CODI monthly meetings. Mr. Oaks added that that if the Board stayed on topic more consistently, the meetings could be shorter in duration. Chairman Martinez stated that when he attempts to dictate a strong agenda there has been criticism in the past. He added that most members do attend the CODI committee meetings and therefore the issues are addressed at the monthly meetings, adding to its length. In addition the beginning of the CODI agenda should involve only 3 minutes for public discussion, per item, which is rarely observed. It was agreed that more structured meetings for CODI are needed. Marilyn Larrieu stated that this would also allow meetings to be adjourned by 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Number of CODI Meetings per year</p> <p>Chairman Martinez advised that currently CODI takes two months off each year in December and August. He added that CODI is required to conduct a minimum of eight meetings a year. A discussion ensued with Chairman Martinez recommending an additional month off, possibly November. The Board suggested possibly April 21, 2014. This item for discussion will be on a future CODI agenda.</p>
<p>Information Items</p>		<p>a) Disabled Housing Set-Asides Chairman Ernie Martinez</p> <p>Chairman Martinez began a discussion regarding an ordinance to be introduced by Commissioner Jordan. It concerns public housing set-asides. He distributed a copy of the legislation to CODI for review, advising the Housing Committee to put it on its 4/17/14 agenda. He reminded CODI about its requested set-asides in 2013. This ordinance reflects that the BCC is taking CODI recommendations into consideration.</p> <p>Chairman Martinez added that CODI should advocate for incorporating universal design principles into set-aside units. He gave crosswalks as an example. Jesus Garcia agreed and suggested CODI start recommending these designs much like the ones currently in use in some bathrooms with adjacent separate bathrooms.</p> <p>Marilyn Larrieu suggested that the CODI Housing Committee meet and provide recommendations. Similar legislation in Broward County legislation which has been a great achievement. Chairman Martinez recommended that CODI should also converse with their respective Commissioners</p>

		regarding this legislation on Housing set-asides.
		<p>b) Disabled Parking Barriers - Chairman Ernie Martinez</p> <p>Chairman Martinez addressed CODI regarding Jackson Memorial Hospital (JMH) and Public Health Trust (PHT) and the charging of fees for disabled parking. He said mechanically modified vehicles, such as cars with hand controls or vans with lifts will be exempt from paying these fees. Ron Fulton suggested a meeting between CODI and JMH.</p> <p>Heidi Johnson Wright advised that JMH parking is managed by Miami Parking Authority which is associated with the City of Miami and has an agreement with PHT to manage the parking lots. A discussion ensued.</p> <p>Marilyn Larrieu reiterated that MIA and Port of Miami have started charging fees for accessible parking but that JMH is a more complicated situation. Her Spinal Cord Program patients utilize JMH parking. It's an expense that can be as high as \$8 per day. She said JMH claims that they provide a sticker and don't charge the families or individuals with disabilities. However, she iterated that if a family has a member in ICU, they may not know about the parking sticker. Additionally, a wait for a clinic visit can take the entire day, adding greatly to the expense. Jesus Garcia added that this was done without any input from CODI. He added that there is a budget meeting on 4/23/14 and CODI should deliver a letter to the BCC.</p> <p>Damian Gregory said that when this issue was presented before the BCC it was implied that CODI was in agreement with JMH, which he said was incorrect. JMH also stated that they had mechanisms in place to ensure payment issues would be an easy process. He suggested the use of a secret shopper to include individuals with disabilities. Jose Granda suggested the Miami Parking Authority be invited to a meeting with CODI. Chairman Martinez said a review of the policy on JMH parking is needed.</p>
		<p>c) Advisory Boards - Board Chairperson Martinez</p> <p>A discussion ensued regarding Miami-Dade County Boards and Advisory Boards. Chairman Martinez requested that CODI be provided with the names of all County Advisory Boards that are involved in the review of disability issues.</p> <p>There will be no Access committee meeting in April 2014.</p>
		<p>d) Miami-Dade Transit STS Riders</p> <p>Bill Velez, Chief of Bus Operations, MDT said that the STS Riders Monthly Meeting is open to the public. The next one is scheduled for May 2014. Mr. Velez was asked to characterize STS service based on complaints as the one year anniversary of the new contract approaches.</p>

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		<p>Mr. Velez said the issues raised at the meetings relate to late pick-ups, no pick up at all, and length of time transported in vehicles. He said that liquidated damages are being addressed as well as the percentage of complaints meeting on-time performance goals, along with issues with denied trips. STS is reviewing the data and relaying it to the STS services provider, Transportation America (TA).</p> <p>Jesus Garcia said TA has purchased 30 new sedans and vans. At the last STS Riders' meeting, County and TA staff was in greater attendance than riders. He added that if riders have issues they should attend these meetings. Damien Gregory asked about advertisement of the STS Riders meetings. Mr. Velez said that riders had requested the scheduling of meetings in both the evening and afternoon. The meeting schedule is always available via telephone recording.</p> <p>A discussion ensued about Trapeze and liquidated damages. Mr. Velez clarified that if an STS vehicle is 15 minutes late and there is no complaint registered, liquidated damages cannot be assessed. However, if the vehicle is one hour and one minute late that constitutes an ADA violation and is considered a denied trip. This also does not require the assessment of liquidated damages. This information is processed from the mobile data terminal. Clarification was given on ADA violations and contract violations. Mr. Velez reviews and advises TA of their ADA violations. Mr. Velez said the Mobile Data Terminals allow complaints to be substantiated allowing for more accountability.</p>
		<p>e) Jesus Garcia said there will be an upcoming BCC meeting on library service cuts.</p> <p>f) Ron Fulton said there will be a meeting on 3/31/14 at 2 pm at UM School on voting issues.</p>
	Adjournment:	Meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.
	Next CODI Meeting:	The next CODI meeting will be April 23, 2014