



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

	Date:	Wednesday, March 23, 2016	
	Time:	1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.	
	Call to Order Time:	1:38 p.m.	
	Meeting Adjourned:	4 p.m.	
I.	Opening and Attendance: Attendance recorded. Call to Order. Copies of documents were distributed. <i>CODI members inform the ADA Office via email whether you will attend meetings as soon as you receive meeting notices.</i>		
	District 1 Commissioner Jordan	Damian Gregory 1 ST Vice Chairman	Present
	District 2 Commissioner Monestime	Jackson David	Present
	District 3 Commissioner Edmonson	Jose Granda Access Committee Chair	Present
	District 4 Commissioner Heyman	Jesus Garcia 2 nd Vice Chair & Transportation & Aviation Committee Chair	Present
	District 5 Commissioner Barreiro	Ernie Martinez CODI Chairman	Present
	District 6 Commissioner Sosa	Ora Prilleltsky	Present
	District 7 Commissioner Suarez	Harry Horgan Outreach Committee Chair	Present
	District 8 Commissioner Levine Cava	Elizabeth Merklng	Absent
	District 9 Commissioner Moss	Ronald Fulton CODI Secretary	Present
	District 10 Commissioner Souto	PENDING APPOINTMENT	
	District 11 Commissioner Zapata	Teri Weinstein	Present
	District 12 Commissioner Diaz	Maria Mercedes Villar	Absent
	District 13 Commissioner Bovo	Alan Rigerman	Absent

III.	Approval of CODI Minutes	Chairman Martinez requested a motion to approve the CODI minutes for February 24, 2016. Motion made by Harry Horgan and seconded by Jesus Garcia. Motion passed unanimously.
IV.	Open Comments:	<p>Ora Prilleltensky spoke about the CODI Effectiveness handout she prepared. It addresses identifying specific goals and action plans that should dictate how CODI spends its time and conducts business.</p> <p>Shanika Graves cautioned the CODI members that attend the Airport Access Committee meetings. They are not Sunshine meetings and so are not advertised nor are minutes prepared. Therefore, CODI members cannot discuss items at the airport meetings that will be brought back to CODI as this would be a violation of Sunshine law. CODI members attending the airport meetings can bring back issues to then be discussed by them for the first time at a CODI meeting.</p> <p>Eduardo Capriles spoke about the bus schedule for his route to Miami-Dade College. Mr. Capriles rides the L bus and is concerned about this route. Mr. Capriles said that sometimes the L bus does not make its schedule. Two L buses will arrive simultaneously, especially on rainy days. He also said that he does not appreciate how the buses taking riders to the beaches are on time while the buses taking him to Miami-Dade College classes are often late. Why do tourists get better quality service than locals? Skarlex Alorda suggested Mr. Capriles attend the next CODI Transportation & Aviation Committee meeting scheduled for March 29, 2016, room 18-3 from 1-3pm.</p> <p>Dr. Fred Haynes has demonstrated his interest in being appointed to CODI. He has been serving on boards since 1984.</p>
V.	Information Item:	<p>Regulation of Transportation Network Entities (TNEs) (Terry Murphy)</p> <p>Terry Murphy, Office of BCC Chairman Monestime, Senior Policy Advisor said that a workshop was held with Transportation Network Entities including Uber and Lyft. Issues discussed included criminal background checks of drivers. BCC Vice Chairman Bovo has proposed legislation which would allow these companies to self-regulate criminal background checks. A discussion ensued.</p> <p>The BCC will meet May 3, 2016, which is the final hearing date. Regulation of TNEs will be the only topic addressed. The proposed legislation would require one percent of TNE fleet vehicles to be accessible to people with disabilities. Mr. Murphy said CODI members should express their opinions and concerns for the disabled community on this topic. CODI needs to make their Commissioners aware. The Office of the Chair is advocating for the interests of people with disabilities. A discussion ensued.</p>

Heidi Johnson-Wright said other jurisdictions have implemented regulations concerning TNEs. In some of these, TNEs are permitted to outsource rides for people with disabilities to local wheelchair taxi companies. This is discriminatory to persons with disabilities because it does not equate to equal service. If this were implemented in Miami-Dade, it would be a disaster for several reasons, including the non-functioning wheelchair taxi service here.

Ms. Johnson-Wright said any proposed TNE legislation should not be drafted without input from the disability community and CODI. Regardless of the positions taken by the TNEs, they are covered by the ADA and must comply with it. This is a federal civil rights issue. The Department of Justice (DOJ) has filed a Statement of interest in a pending federal lawsuit (*National Federation of the Blind v. Uber*) clearly articulating that TNEs are covered by and must comply with the ADA.

Mr. Gregory said if Uber wants to do business in Miami-Dade County, it must provide service to people with disabilities. Mr. Fulton said that CODI must prepare a proposal for BCC Chairman Monestime to champion.

Mr. David said that he appreciates that Mr. Murphy came to get CODI's input on this very important issue affecting persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities are not seeking special treatment, simply equal rights. Harry Horgan said it's unacceptable for Uber to operate in Miami-Dade but cast people with disabilities aside.

Chairman Martinez thanked Mr. Murphy for coming to CODI but these issues should have come before CODI when they first arose. Now there is a May 3rd deadline which leaves little time for CODI to discuss and take action. A discussion ensued.

Teri Weinstein said that bringing in Uber and Lyft representatives to the next CODI Transportation & Aviation Committee is a great idea. These representatives can see firsthand who the people are that are asking for these accommodations. Ms. Weinstein suggested a media press release to the organizations the each board member represents. Everyone agreed.

CODI Transportation & Aviation Committee Chairman Jesus Garcia said that his committee will meet on the TNE issue. Mr. Garcia said for years access to transportation has been an issue in Miami-Dade County. Had the taxi industry provided quality service in accessible vehicles this would not be an issue. After all his years serving on CODI and as Transportation Committee Chairman, Mr. Garcia said it is obvious that the taxi industry will not change. Therefore, they can take their business elsewhere.

The taxi industry has fought every single accessible vehicle ordinance that has been introduced. They have chosen to ignore us. Ironically, because the taxi service is so poor, the blind community loves Uber, especially individuals who have access to a smartphone. He personally will never ride in a taxi never again.

Chairman Martinez asked Mr. Murphy if he could have a legislative representative from the Office of the Chair at the next CODI Transportation & Aviation Committee meeting. Mr. Murphy clarified that CODI's legal support is supposed to draft legislative language for CODI, not the Office of the Chair. Mr. Murphy said he welcomes suggestions to be included prior to the May 3rd deadline.

The CODI Transportation & Aviation Committee meeting is being rescheduled for either April 4th at 1-3pm or April 6th at 11am.

Introduction of District 11 appointee, Teri Weinstein

Commissioner Zapata new CODI appointee is Teri Weinstein. Ms. Weinstein has been an advocate for the Miami-Dade Public School system for 17 years. She has represented Dr. Larry Feldman, School Board member of Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Ms. Weinstein said she is affiliated and served on the Homestead and Florida City's Board of Education Committee and the Community Relations Board. She also shared that when her daughter was diagnosed with a mental disorder, she found herself on the other side of advocacy. She is pleased to be appointed to CODI.

ADA Resource Fair

Harry Horgan and Raul Rios suggested putting on a resource fair for October, Disability Awareness month. They also discussed piggy-backing an even onto the Miami-Dade County employee Wellness Fair later this year. The objective is to educate the public that CODI exists. Inviting County departments and community organizations involved in the disabled community is very important.

Miami-Dade College is a sponsor of the Spring into Wellness Fair to be held April 8, 2016. Mr. Granda said that he disagrees with the use of the word, "wellness," for this fair. Ms. Prilleltensky said that the meaning of the word "wellness" has been expanded to well-being in the disabled community. A discussion ensued.

Discuss Goals related to Employment, Housing and Transportation

- Mr. Gregory said he will champion an executive order to hire people with disabilities.
- Mr. David said he has no goals because CODI is always embarking on a goal

		<p>but not following through. Everyone seeks CODI’s support only when they can benefit from it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Granda said that airport needs to better serve the hearing impaired community. Housing needs to send a representative to CODI to answer our questions. • Mr. Garcia said CODI should interact with the new Director of Special Transportation Services (STS). Start thinking about the whole process surrounding the new STS contract of STS. • Chairman Martinez said accessible parking is his concern. There should be two types of permits: one for standard vehicles and one for mechanically modified vehicles. More audible pedestrian signals (APS) are greatly needed. CODI should set a goal to incorporate universal design into the building code. CODI should champion a program for County employment for people with disability. Bring back the ADA internship program. Better access to voting. <p>Because we have run out of time, CODI appointees for districts 6-13 will discuss their goals at the April CODI meeting.</p>
	Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.
	Next CODI Meeting:	The next CODI meeting will be held April 27, 2016.