



## COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

August 21, 2024, 3:30 P.M.

Pursuant to safe practices during COVID-19 pandemic, all in-person meetings are cancelled until further notice. The meeting was held virtually to allow for healthy practices and social distancing. The meeting was accessible at provided link to allow for participating virtually and/or calling in.

### Minutes

#### 1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m. Those present and absent were:

**Present:**

Derrick Espadas  
Kate Elliott  
Sue Kroeger  
Wesley Derbyshire  
Zach Coble, Chairperson  
Ray Jordan  
Lily Bogan

**Representing**

Mayor's Office  
City Manager  
City Manager  
Ward 2  
Ward 4  
Ward 5  
Ward 6

**Absent:**

**Representing:**

**Staff and Others Present:**

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Rebecca Hill      | EOE Office          |
| Will Rivera       | EOE Office          |
| Chris Desborough  | Ward 2 Staff        |
| Stephanie Alvarez | City Clerk's Office |
| Jaime Corrales    | City Clerk's Office |

#### 2. Call to the Audience

No one spoke.

### **3. Consideration and Possible Adoption of Minutes From July.**

It was moved by Commissioner Jordan, duly seconded, and carried by a roll call vote of 7 to 0, to approve the Minutes of July 17, 2024.

### **4. Discussion on the Role of the ADA Coordinator for the City of Tucson, With Staff Members From the Office of Equal Opportunity Program.**

Chairperson Coble opened discussion introducing staff members from the OEOP Department, Rebecca Hill and Will Rivera. Ms. Hill began by giving a summary stating the department is part of the City Manager's Office but is responsible for implementing and enforcing anti-discrimination programs and policies. This includes compliance, Investigation of complaints regarding discrimination and wrongful conduct of violations. She continued by summarizing Chapter 10 City Code which is an internal discrimination provision meaning it's applicable to only City employees which includes complaints of race, sex, disability, religion etc.... Chapter 17 pertains to discrimination public citizens feel is occurring, she noted the issue with this particular code is they do not have authority nor adequate staffing to fully investigate the complaints the public makes unless it pertains to income or housing discrimination (Resolution 11959). Ms. Hill further explained they do give them information and resources to assist with the complaint process such as information for the Arizona Civil Rights Division and EEOC Which do have authority. She ensued in conversation touching base on ADA complaints involving any City facilities, programs and or services which they do have authority and will address them directly with the department. However, if it is a private facility they can not address but will provide the individual with resources, she mentioned there is an online form the public can fill out regarding an ADA complaint. Briefly discussed was Mediation programs for employee's, trainings, spreadsheet provided, employee welcome, OEOP liaisons which is overseen by the OEOP Department which is staffed by herself and Will Rivera. Follow up questions by Commissioner Jordan, Kroeger, Bogan, Derbyshire, Espadas and Chairperson Coble included

disability intake/complaints as shown on the materials provided, insight on the ADA liaisons, possible website issues and filing complaint with department, sidewalk complaints, specification on enforcement, sidewalk impacted by City property such as meter and accessibility, staffing ratio, training, viewpoints and engineering. Both Will and Rebecca fielded questions stating a complaint would be listed if someone filed a formal complaint vs. someone just calling in with a complaint with SunVan which is its own entity, the difference with an ADA Complaint and a disability complaint being one is an employment complaint and another being more of a facility accessibility complaint. Staff continued with the clarification of the ADA liaisons knowledge, commitment, appointment etc... noting they are appointed by the department, have training sessions, report directly to the department director for assigned duties, has the delegated authority to help facilitate a complaint for instance about ramp repair and truly have an interest, it was also highlighted that there are thousands of employees and only the TWO for the OEOP Department. Further discussion and insight on sidewalks and repairs were given noting business or property owners are responsible for upkeep and repairs and if there are issues where city elements are located, The Department of Transportation and Mobility would handle. Furthermore, they touched base on regulations, engineering and architect's experts in various departments, The Department newsletter, the website accessibility and IT continuously working to improve functionality and willing to give CODI a list of potential ADA liaisons.

## **5. Update from Commissioners on meeting with their Appointing Office.**

Chairperson Coble opened item; Commissioner Kroeger noted she is in the process of setting up a meeting to which Commissioner Espadas concurred. Commissioner Elliott did state she reached out and is hopeful to make an appointment soon to which Chairperson noted he's happy to help set appointments up if needed. Commissioner Kroeger briefly ensued in discussion asking for clarification on Commission being on same page for questions to

ask during meeting as some important topics/issues may vary for Commissioners. Chairperson Coble and Commissioner Jordan fielded the question noting to pick a few topics of interest as experience for commissioners does vary.

## **6. Check in with Commissioners on Future Meeting Topics.**

Chairperson Coble briefly discussed possible items for the next few meetings such as a possible Memorandum to Mayor and Council regarding the Issues identified by Will Rivera and Rebecca Hill, the possibility of the Assistant City Manager as guest, Chapter 25 which has to do with sidewalks, and the return of the CMO as a guest and possibly having the Pima County Recorder and or members of the team attend as they have reached out to possibly discuss voting and disability.

## **7. Announcements**

Commissioner Bogan quickly mentioned a few conventions coming up in Phoenix and Tucson one of them being the abilities convention in Scottsdale in September, November 1<sup>st</sup> is VRATE (Vision, Rehabilitation Assistive Technology Expo) and the Disability Pride Day in December. Commissioner Jordan quickly announced he attempted to attend the Active Transport Transit workshop, public meeting however the address and venue were incorrect but there is another meeting next month he plans to attend. Chairperson Coble briefly ensued in discussion noting there are slots for disabled performers for Disability Pride Day happening Dec 7<sup>th</sup> at Udall Park along with an art show that has a sign-up link he will provide.

## **8. Adjournment: 4:54 PM**