



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

September 18, 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.

Legal Action Report

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

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

Representing

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

Absent:

Sue Kroeger

Representing:

City Manager

Staff and Others Present:

Rebecca Hill	EOE Office
Will Rivera	EOE Office
Chris Desborough	Ward 2 Staff
Stephanie Alvarez	City Clerk's Office
Rene Figueroa	City Clerk's Office
Laurie Pumphrey	EGSD Supervisor
Liz Morales	Assistant City Manager
Tom Adkins	DTM superintendent
Shawn Moore	DTM Administrator

Saulo Bonillas
Cassalyn David
Michelle Ramirez

Guest
Guest
Guest

2. Discussion of City Code Enforcement’s Impact on Residents with Disabilities, with Assistant City Manager Liz Morales.

Chairperson Coble opened the item introducing Liz Morales Assistant City Manager, along with staff from Code Enforcement and Transportation. Assistant City Manager Liz Morales began discussion with her employment with the City of Tucson and roles she has fulfilled. She continued by discussing Chapter 25, what it entails and the procedure for reporting, fixing, and a cost share pilot program that the City Manager directed the Department of Transportation to launch in 2019. She noted the program has since been paused so the working crews could fulfill backlogged work, however, the City Manager has since requested the program be restructured and make it sustainable for homeowners that are more in need as previously there was no restrictions. She further explained that the City is completing about 100 of these sidewalk projects a year with around 400 completed to date which does not include new reported sidewalk issues being identified. EGSD Supervisor Laurie Pumphrey briefly ensued in conversation along with DTM Administrator Shawn Moore explaining the procedure from after receiving the referral which can lead to the fixing or even involve the courts along with approved site plans, parking and zoning. Mr. Moore also touched on prop 411 and bringing some sidewalks up to ADA standards through that program. Chairperson Coble and Commissioner’s Jordan, Derbyshire and Bogan followed up with questions regarding chapter 25 and the funding program, crew capacity, pending sidewalk projects and time frame and costs to which Assistant City Manager Liz Morales, Laurie Pumphrey and Shawn Moore answered. They explained the staff capacity and looking into outside vendors to assist with the backlog in sidewalk Projects, grouping projects in areas to be more efficient and cost effective, the Cost share program and funding, looking for a better approach, the understanding of residents getting around town and homeowners/HOA/businesses.

3. Call to the Audience.

No one spoke.

4. Consideration and Possible Adoption of Minutes from August.

It was moved by Commissioner Jordan, duly seconded, and carried by a roll call vote of 6 to 0, to approve the Minutes of August 21, 2024.

5. Update on City Disability Policy with Ward 2 Staff Member Chris Desborough.

Chairperson Coble opened discussion giving a quick introduction to Chris Desborough who was a commissioner and guest previously on CODI before becoming a city staff member. Mr. Desborough gave a brief rundown on his background noting he is the only totally blind person on the Cities payroll out of 5200 staff. He mentioned with the support of Council Member Cunningham he is working towards quality-of-life policy changes for people with disabilities throughout the City. He continued by mentioning his support with things like amending Chapter 25, document accessibility, along with some of his own policy's which includes things like Dec 3rd being International Day of Persons with disabilities, better training for individuals internally and during onboarding process, Code Enforcement and a day for Zoo Lights for people and families with disabilities. He mentioned a upcoming meeting with Ward 2 Staff Member Steve Arnquist and the CMO appointed Project Manager to work on ways to move these things from paper to reality. Follow up questions were asked by Commissioner Bogan, Jordan and Chairperson Coble including the 32-point document, chapter 25 and amendment to which Mr. Desborough answered thoroughly and noted he will get the approval to send out the document for CODI distribution.

6. Update From in Commissioners on Meeting with their Appointing Office.

Commissioner Bogan opened discussion noting her meeting with her appointing office is the following day (9/19) stating she can write up some notes regarding meeting for distribution. Chairperson Coble briefly stated notes for distribution or a brief update at the next CODI meeting will suffice. Chairperson Coble mentioned he met with Ward 4 Staff Theresa Olsen, and spoke on issues such as Chapter 25, 24/7 Paratransit Services, and code enforcement issues. He continued by stating Ms. Olsen was interested in having CODI talk with Parks and Rec about park accessibility efforts. Commissioner Jordan briefly ensued in discussion stating he has spoke with Ward 5 about a meeting as they agreed to meet on a quarterly basis, he also mentioned he has received an extensive email from Sam Credio, Director of Transportation and Mobility regarding issues he raised in his prior meeting with his Council Member.

7. Announcements

Commissioner Espadas opened item, he briefly spoke about a podcast called World of Abilities, an online meeting this coming Saturday on information pertaining to an initial interest in creating a Disability Chamber of Commerce and The Awesome Foundation which is an organization that helps with project funding for people with disabilities. Chairperson Coble closed discussion mentioning October 4th is Tucson Meet Yourself where they will have a noted author Naomi Ortiz talking about disability community food and cane check out available.

8. Adjournment: 5:00 PM