



## **Annual Internal Review**

**This Report covers the time period of 7/1/2016 to 6/30/2017**

### **Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities**

**The Board/Commission mission statement** (per the City Code) **is:**  
The purpose of the committee is to encourage, assist, and enable persons with disabilities to participate in the social and economic life of the City, achieve maximum personal independence, become gainfully employed, and use and enjoy fully all public and private facilities available within the community.

- 1. Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.**

#### **Austin Access Awards Presented at City Council Chambers on August 18, 2016**

The Austin Access Awards were held at City Hall, inside Council Chambers. The awards honor and recognize businesses with an exemplary attitude towards people with disabilities in accessibility and customer service. Council Members read the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Proclamation and Mayor Steve Adler and MCPD Commissioners presented the awards to the winners. 2016 winners were Pho Please and Pieology, Muller.

#### **White Cane Day held at Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired on October 12, 2016**

The 2016 White Cane Day celebration had record attendance with 650 marchers and 800 attendees. Festivities included music and food. WCD highlights the independence of persons who are blind or visually impaired. Texas Workforce Commission Executive Director presented the WCD proclamation to participants. The Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities (MCPD) supported the event with logistics. Additionally the office worked with the Mayor's Communication director and CPIO on the proclamation. The partners for the event included the MCPD, City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and the Texas Workforce Commission-Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

### **13<sup>th</sup> Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) held at the Asian American Resource Center on October 19, 2016**

DMD offers career exploration opportunities to youth with disabilities in high school and college, by providing options to job shadow with professionals in a career they wish to pursue. City of Austin District 1 Council Member, Ora Houston presented this year's DMD proclamation at the Asian American Resource Center during the celebratory luncheon. A panel of employers, who have a record of hiring persons with disabilities, provided insight to mentees on how to be successful employees. Ron Lucey a former MCPD Commissioner hosted an open mic session that allowed mentees and mentors to tell the audience about their day. The MCPD provides logistical, registration, and marketing support for DMD. Major DMD Partners include the MCPD, Durden Group, Amerigroup, College Living Experience, Goodwill Central Texas, AISD, and Austin Community College.

### **37<sup>th</sup> Employment Awards & Recognition held on October 17, 2016**

The Committee hosted the 37th Austin Employment Awards at the Wyndham Garden Austin Hotel, drawing over 100 attendees. Attendees were honored with keynote speaker Ruth Hughs, the Employer Commissioner for the Texas Workforce Commission. MCPD read a Mayoral Proclamation from Steve Adler. The MCPD plans logistical arrangements, judging, event venue, marketing, and programming for this event. The Awards Program recognized four Chairman Commendation recipients and seven award recipients for their part in expanding employment opportunities for people with disabilities. In addition the MCPD gave a partnership to VSA Texas honoring the partnership between VSA and the MCPD to make the arts accessible to people with disabilities. This year's Award recipients include:

- Chairman's Commendation: Renee Borders, Austin ISD
- Entrepreneurship Award: Jason Shaw, Blue Paw Energy Services
- Medium Employer of the Year: Ellis & Salazar Garage/Body Shop and Thinkery
- Large Employer of the Year: PCSI
- Distinguished Service Award: Child Craft School
- Media Award: KXAN, Kevin Schwaller and Autism Society of Central Texas Workforce Commission
- Partnership Award: City of Austin Public Works Department Sidewalks and Special Projects Division
- Martha Arbuckle Meritorious Service Award: Chip Howe
- Employees of The Year: Aaron Sweeney and Emily Shryock

### **City Council Recommendations**

- The MCPD presented recommendations to address economic disparity for people with disabilities in the City of Austin by undertaking a disparity study to understand and clarify the inequitable situation OR adopting an ordinance similar to the current City of Houston ordinance that will create a new category for Minority and Women-owned business Enterprises (MWSBE) called Persons with Disabilities Business

Enterprises (PDBE) that ensures people with disabilities have meaning participation in the City of Austin's procurement process.

### **Joint Inclusion Committee**

MCPD Commissioner represented the committee in the City's Joint Inclusion Committee. This committee will advise the Council on issues pertaining to diversity and inclusion. The Committee is made up of representatives from various quality of life City boards and commissions.

#### **2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.**

The Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities did not conduct any actions that were outside the scope of the mission statement.

#### **3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.**

## **New Calendar Year Goals**

- Standing Committees will be transformed into workgroups.
- Continue to plan, promote, and support existing MCPD events.
- Continue to make recommendations regarding public policy.

## **Access and Public Policy Workgroup**

### **ADA Access and Sidewalk Task Force**

Committee members will continue to participate in this task force and voice concerns of citizens with disabilities and report back to Committee members.

### **Accessible Parking and Pedestrian Access**

The Committee will continue to educate the community on the importance of accessible parking including accessible parking laws and regulations and will provide input where necessary. Committee will continue the working relationship with the Travis County Constable Precinct 5 Disabled Parking Enforcement Program

### **Parks and Recreation ADA Transition Plan Update**

The Committee will establish an advisory relationship with PARD and continue to hear presentations from PARD and review and provide feedback as PARD updates the department's ADA Transition Plan.

### **Public Works City's Sidewalk Master Plan Update**

The Committee will continue to hear presentations from the Public Works Sidewalk Program about the update on the City's Sidewalk Master Plan. The Committee will review and offer feedback to the Sidewalk Program about various details that are being updated in the plan.

### **Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Alliance of Texas (IDDACT)**

An MPCD member will continue to participate in IDDACT meetings and report back to the full committee as needed.

### **Emergency Preparedness**

The APPC will work with the City's Homeland Security Emergency Management Department to ensure plans and training includes assistance to persons with disabilities. The Committee will participate in meetings, hearings, review the city emergency plan, and offer recommendations as necessary.

### **Transportation**

The Committee will continue to voice concerns for the transportation needs of persons with disabilities by inviting Capital Metro staff and Metro Access Advisory Committee members to provide updates. Committee members will continue to participate in hearings and meetings related to transportation. Additionally, Committee members will communicate items of interest to their respective Council Members.

### **Public Relations**

MCPD will establish a relationship with the public by increasing its social media policy and holding at least one public hearing or survey where Austinites with disabilities can express their barriers, thoughts and concerns regarding city life.

## **Awards and Outreach Workgroup**

### **Access Awards**

The purpose of this awards program is to recognize Austin businesses for their accessibility and welcoming attitude towards persons with disabilities in the Spirit of ADA. The Committee will distribute a news release seeking nominations. Staff will reserve a slot in the City Council meeting for the MCPD and Mayor to present the ADA Anniversary Proclamation and Access Awards to winners.

### **Employment Awards Program**

The Committee will continue work with the City's Corporate Public Information Office (CPIO) and Austin media outlets to provide interview opportunities for past and new employment award winners. The committee

will ask the mayor to send a letter to promote the employment of people with disabilities through the National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) campaign *from the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)*. The committee will develop and implement plans to work with the media to generate a community conversation on the employment of people with disabilities during the month of October through CPIO.

### **White Cane Day**

Committee members will work in the planning group for this event. This event highlights the independence of persons who are blind or have low vision with a variety of activities including a for the presentation of the White Cane Day Proclamation by the mayor, followed by activities at a local venue to celebrate the day.

## **Employment and Education Workgroup**

### **Disability Mentoring Day**

This coming year, the DMD steering committee will host a DMD Poster contest. At the request of the steering Committee, the ADA Office will work to update the mentor list and re-design the Mentee application to make it a user-friendly online form. The Steering Committee will work to increase the number of mentors currently participating in the program through outreach campaign. Committee members will promote participation in DMD with staff of Workbase Learning Program. DMD Chair will re-invite Community in Schools and Partners in Education to participate in the DMD Steering Committee.

### **Business of Work Job Readiness Seminar Spring of 2018**

Committee members will work with partner agencies to host this year's Business of Work Job Readiness Seminar. As in the past, the event will be set to coincide with the City of Austin's Community Career Expo – job fair in partnership with Goodwill Industries of Central Texas. This workshop is designed to assist persons with disabilities in improving their job seeking skills, including successfully interviewing for a job, writing an effective resume and dressing for success. Partners will include: Workforce Solutions - Capital Area, Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, and the Social Security Administration, and local non-profits.