



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2017 to 6/30/2018

Mayor's Committee on People with Disabilities (MCPD)

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.**

Recommendations for City Council

- The MCPD continued to support the city addressing economic disparity for people with disabilities in the City of Austin by recommending the City undertake a disparity study to understand and clarify the inequitable situation OR adopt 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.
- Encouraged the City to allocate funds and explore all available means in order to (1) remove speed cushion currently installed on Mesa Drive, Far West Boulevard and Lakewood Drive, which are designated collector routes and the only route for ingress and egress for several residents of the area who have muscular skeletal injuries or disabilities and the installed speed cushions have been demonstrated to cause significant pain and

suffering to people with muscular skeletal injuries or disabilities; and consider the impact that the future installation of such speed cushions had on people with muscular skeletal injuries or disabilities.

- The MCPD recommended that the City send all Code NEXT staff planners to the MCPD for review of issues affecting people with disabilities.
- The MPCD requests that the City prioritize the following items for funding in its Fiscal Year 2018-19 budget:
 - increased programming through the City of Austin Parks Department for people with intellectual disabilities, including increased inclusive programming for people with disabilities and those without, in north, south and central Austin;
 - more, larger, single-stall bathrooms where parents or caregivers of the same or opposite sex may help individuals with physical disabilities use the bathroom and be changed, including bathrooms with a lift, heavy duty changing station and/or changing table, including in the following locations:
 - centralized, north, and south bathrooms for caregivers of the same or opposite sex to take individuals for toileting when attending events in the community;
 - at new central public library; and at the Texas Capitol.
 - expanded employment programs at the City for people with intellectual disabilities;
 - sidewalk master plan to include more accessibility;
 - specific provisions to increase city-supported low income housing available for people with disabilities; and
 - traffic engineering and the installation of traffic control and speed calming devices that do not cause significant pain and suffering to people with muscular skeletal injuries or disabilities.
 - mandatory disability training for Austin Police Department and Austin Police Monitor, including through Pathways to Justice;
 - provide braille badges for all city police officers;

38th Employment Awards & Recognition held on October 23, 2017

- The MCPD (the committee) hosted the 38th Austin Employment Awards at the Wyndham Garden Austin Hotel. The committee developed and coordinated the logistics for this event. This included coordinating award recipients, speakers, event location, marketing, and the agenda. Attendees were honored with keynote speaker, Mr. Geronimo Rodriguez, Chief Advocacy Officer at Seton Healthcare Family and Providence Healthcare Network. Also, the committee received a Mayoral Proclamation from Mayor Steve Adler. Finally, Texas State Representative Kevin Roberts (District 126-Houston)

attended the event and gave brief remarks. The event had an estimated one hundred attendees.

- The committee operates within the geographic city limits of Austin in cooperation with the Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities. For this year's event, the MCPD partnered with the Governor's Committee for people with Disabilities to host the recognition ceremony and promote the expansion of employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- 2017 Award recipients include:
 - Small Employer of the Year: Family Dollar, East Martin Luther King, Blvd.
 - Medium Employer of the Year: YMCA, Town Lake
 - Large Employer of the Year: Lowes Home Improvement, Brodie Lane
 - Martha Arbuckle Award: Sharron Rush

Austin Access Awards Presented at City Council Chambers on August 3, 2017

- 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. Mayor Adler read the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Proclamation and MCPD Commissioners presented the access awards to the 2017 winners.
 - Red Lobster, West Anderson Lane and South Lamar
 - Girl Scouts of Central Texas

Joint Inclusion Committee

- An MCPD Commissioner represented the committee in the City's Joint Inclusion Committee. This committee advises 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.

White Cane Day held at Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired on October 18, 2017

- The 2017 White Cane Day celebration had great attendance with an estimated 800 attendees. Festivities included activities for families, speeches, music, and food. WCD highlights the independence of persons who are blind or visually impaired. The Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities (MCPD) promoted and attended the event. The Texas Workforce Commission partnered with the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (TSBVI) to host the activities in Austin. White Cane Day is also celebrated in honor of National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

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.

- Developing Policy Handbook that will outline policy priorities of MCPD. This new strategic Plan will help support the mission of MCPD in the future and serve as a policy guide. The policy priority handbook will 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.
- The Committee will continue the advisory relation with Austin Parks and Recreation Department. The committee will continue to provide feedback on ADA issues effecting the department.
- 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.
- Committee members will work in the planning group for White Cane Day. 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.
- The Committee will partner with other organizations to support a Disability Mentoring Day. The committee will work with the ADA Office to update the mentor list and re-design the Mentee application to make it a user-friendly online form. A 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 Work based Learning Program.
- Committee members may work with partner agencies to host a 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.