MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, December 16, 2009, in Room 864 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order by President Janet A. Neal at 1:00 p.m. The following were present:

ATTENDANCE
Present
Janet A. Neal, President
John B. Troost, 1st Vice President
Alexia Teran, Treasurer
John R. James
Kecia B. Weller
Sheila Wright

Excused Absence
Wan Chun Chang, 2nd Vice President
Michael G. Gureckas
Maria Mustelier-Parrish
Harley Rubenstein
Wendy L. Welt

Board of Supervisors
Rhonda Rangel, Staff
Mireya Rivera, Staff
Audra Galang, Staff

Access Services, Inc.
Luis Pacheco

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 2009
There being no quorum, the minutes were tabled to later in the meeting. On motion of Commissioner Teran, seconded by Commissioner Weller, and unanimously carried, the minutes of November 18, 2009 were held in abeyance and awaiting for approval when there was a quorum.

In the presence of a quorum, the minutes of November 18, 2009 were unanimously approved, with First Vice President Troost abstaining, as submitted.
PUBLIC COMMENTS
Linda Block provided public comments on the Medi-Cal cuts and the signs for the disabled people, seniors and veterans on the last rally that she participated.

Daniel Garcia provided public comment on the budget issue by the State of California Governor. He also commented on the Social Security benefit cuts.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT
President Neal gave a brief description on the Episode 100 of Intervention on A & E, titled “Linda”. She said that Linda has Ehler Danlos Syndrome and was being portrayed as delusional and a drug addict. President Neal also commented that there was no mentioning of assisting Linda with her disability and she is very upset that this episode was so one-sided.

STAFF REPORT
Rhonda Rangel, Commission Service Staff, extended to everybody the Holiday Cheers from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Weller also extended a Happy Holiday and Prosperous New Year to all the staff members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
President Neal reported the following Committees:

1. Executive and Public Relations Committee
   On motion of Commissioner Weller, seconded by Commissioner James, the annual retreat in January 2010 in an amount not to exceed $800 was held in abeyance and awaiting for approval when a quorum was present.

   In the presence of a quorum, the January 2010 retreat in an amount not to exceed $800 was unanimously approved.

2. Events Committee
   On motion of Commissioner Teran, seconded by Commissioner James, the 2009 year-end wrap-up meeting refreshments in the amount not to exceed $250 was held in abeyance and awaiting for approval when a quorum was present.
In the presence of a quorum, the refreshment expense in the amount of $250 was unanimously approved.

3. Community Service
   No report.

4. Transportation Committee
   No report.

(Commissioner Sheila D. Wright joined the meeting at 2:03 p.m.)

TRANSPORTATION

A. Access Services, Inc. (ASI) Report
   Luis Pacheco reported ASI does not have Board meeting for December, 2009. The next meeting will be on January 10, 2010. Updates ASI received to be on the Agenda items for the nest ASI meeting is the nomination and “Driver Incentive Program”, a program to motivate drivers to do a good job.

   After further discussion, the report was received and filed.

   Daniel Garcia provided public comment on ASI services improvement with the exception of a recent issue of a bus driver.

B. Blue Curb Zone Requests
   Alan Niño, Traffic Civil Engineer of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, shared information on requesting a blue curb zone for disabled people who do not have a private driveway or a garage. Mr. Niño said that a copy of the blue placard is necessary. On approval, implementation of a request to install blue curb will be submitted. The disabled community may file a petition and submit for issues. He also reported the average annual request the department has received was 250. Currently, there were 550 requests for blue curb zone the department has installed in unincorporated locations in Los Angeles County.

   After further discussion, the report was received and filed.

   President Neal thanked the speaker for his informative report.
C. **L A County Transportation Authority (METRO) Report**

Chip Hazen, ADA Compliance Officer of METRO reported that in June of 2009, the Board passed the following eight items:

1. Distinct penalties on maltreatment of disabled people by the bus operators union.

2. Revised the system for the disabled people accessibility.

3. Established a direct link on METRO website to report by disabled people.

4. Evaluation of program to outreach communities.

5. Input from organizations the Board to report back for review on the implementation of the requirements.

6. Complete a report from vehicles depends on the needs of disabled community – post extensions to hold.

7. Engage current MTA Service Sector Council members, specifically those that are disabled patrons, to provide input and feedback on MTA’s current and proposed policies involving disabled patrons.

8. Reorganization of staff people at Gateway Plaza-Union Station on May, 2010. CEO Art Leahy review incidents to correct issues; review the flow of information and processes all complaints and addressed them in a timely manner; determine feasibility and report back the results; receive the Mystery Rider Program; undercover rides; identify malpractices; and, monthly report on issues by the Committee for submission to CEO.

Copies of the report were distributed. After further discussion, Mr. Hazen’s report was received and filed.

**REPORT BY FLOYD MCDONALD, SENIOR DEPUTY COMPLIANCE OFFICER**

Speaker was not present. Staff distributed copies of a report submitted by Floyd McDonald, Senior Deputy Compliance Officer.
ITEMS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA FOR CONSIDERATION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

1. Speaker from the Sheriff’s Department on parking enforcement
2. Captioning the “Disability Network” on KTYM

Daniel Garcia addressed the Commission about housing in East Los Angeles area.

ANNOUNCEMENT
There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT
On motion of Commissioner James, seconded by Commissioner Teran, and unanimously carried, the regular meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

GUESTS
Chip Hazen, METRO
Daniel Garcia, East Los Angeles Regional Center
Linda Block
Melodie Stuart, Total Recall Captioning, Inc.
Mona Jean Cedar, Accommodating Ideas Interpreting Co.
Phyllis Coto, Los Angeles Client Coalition Center
Richard Fendrich, Accommodating Ideas Interpreting Co.