



**City of Oakland**  
Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD)  
Monday, October 18, 2021. 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

**Minutes**

**NOTE:** Approved minutes and video recordings are posted at <https://www.oaklandca.gov/boards-commissions/mayors-commission-on-persons-with-disabilities/meetings>

**Commissioners:** Noah Smith (Chair), Thomas Gregory (Vice Chair), Cathy Eberhardt, Marjorie Lynne, Karen Nakamura, Frank Sperling, Howard Tevelson, and Ayanna Keeton

**Commission staff:** Anh Nguyen, ADA Programs Division Manager; Karen Denicore, ADA Program Analyst

**Presenters:** Sarah Henry, Beth Kenny, David Cota, Apolonio Munoz, Daniel Fagan

**Other attendees (from webinar Attendee list):**, Ofurhe Igbinedion, Helen Walsh, Leonard Moore, Madlynn Johnson, Helena Chang, Ann Au, Debby Kaplan, Valerie Fong, Paula Orlow, Erin Hattersley, Patrick Guerzon

1. Meeting called to order by Chair Smith at 5:33 PM. At roll call, quorum was established with seven of eight commissioners present (x).

Commissioners	Present (x)
Noah Smith (Chair)	x
Thomas Gregory (Vice-Chair)	x
Cathy Eberhardt	x
Marjorie Lynne	x
Karen Nakamura	x
Frank Sperling	x
Howard Tevelson	excused
Ayanna Keeton	x

## 2. Open Forum

- New commissioner appointee, Leonard Moore, works for Oakland Dept of Rehab and also works with Peralta community radio KGPC 96.9. He is working on a show with people living with disabilities in the community and would like to do a telephone interview with any interested commissioners who are willing to be on his radio program.
- There have been accessibility issues in some Oakland public buildings that have started to re-open. Problems described were no seating in public buildings, no accessible phones or tables to work on to complete paperwork and a resident having to sit on the floor of a building while she waited in line.

## 3. Agenda was adopted as published with a motion from Commissioner Sperling and a second from Commissioner Smith.

August 2021 Minutes unanimously adopted as published with a motion from Commissioner Gregory and a second from Commissioner Sperling

September 2021 Minutes unanimously adopted as published with a motion from Commissioner Nakamura and a second from Commissioner Eberhardt.

## 4. Commissioner's Announcements and Strategic Plan Updates

- New commissioner Ayanna Keeton has joined the commission and is starting tonight. She works for Easy Does It in Berkeley.
- Commissioner Gregory updated the commission on goal 3.1 and rehab funding and reports only half of what was promised was received and that HCD was not even aware of the \$500,000 so the funding went unused. It is now in the budget but there is still not enough funding for the projects that are already on their waiting list. This issue and the need for additional funding has been brought to the attention of the City Council and the Office of the Mayor.

## 5. City of Alameda Universal Design Ordinance

Sarah Henry and Beth Kenny, City of Alameda, made a presentation on the Universal Design Ordinance adopted by Alameda in 2017.

- Commissioner Nakamura observed that Oakland really needs the same type of ordinance and points out that there is now a whole industry built up around avoiding ADA requirements.
- Alameda requires developers to build low-income housing instead of paying as some jurisdictions do and Commissioner Kenny wants to see Nancy Skinner work to close the density bonus loophole.
- There is a need to also consider the need for housing with people who have chemical sensitivities. Low VOC materials, natural products, fragrance free buildings and good HEPA filters throughout the building are some examples of accommodations.
- Alameda stakeholders included city planning board, planning department, senior center and aging community because seniors were finding themselves unable to age in place, bicycle community liked the visitability requirements to wheel bikes inside, mom's organizations liked the ability to easily use strollers in and out of the house. The expertise of architects who supported the ordinance was critical to overcoming objections from builders who did not want to make changes.
- In hindsight it would have been good to have the ordinance apply to all new buildings instead of just five units and up. There have been two waivers to the ordinance so far.

#### 6. EBALDC (East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation)

Housing Presentation from David Cota, Senior Community Organizer, responds to housing questions forwarded from MCPD about EBALDC housing policies on the accessibility of their communities, how they prioritize appropriate housing for low-income persons with disabilities, agency efforts to address homelessness in general and specifically for unhoused persons with disabilities, and what collaborations and suggestions they have to address the number of unhoused residents.

- Commissioner Nakamura asks how MCPD can support the opportunities for agencies to build a higher number of accessible units.

7. MidPen Housing Presentation from Apolonio Munoz and Daniel Fagan who respond to the same housing questions as EBALDC.

- Commissioner Lynne applauds the extra details MidPen builds into their buildings that are usually overlooked and suggests that they also make accommodations for chemical sensitivities.
- A recently completed MidPen project achieved LEED Gold certification and in their current Oakland projects, they also assure outside air is filtered and use high STC rated windows to insulate the noise of the nearby freeway.

8. Staff Updates and Announcements

- MCPD has two new commissioners, one has started tonight, Ayanna Keeton and Leonard Moore start with the commission next month.
- Ad Hoc Police Commission Survey on Community Policing
- Oakland Fire Department did an update on MACRO on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and has made a PowerPoint presentation available.
- Department of Violence Prevention Town Hall on October 22nd

Future Agenda Items

- Presentations on protected bike lane projects and multi-year paving plan
- Suggestions for future agenda items are also always welcome.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.