

Date: July 24, 2020

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager *T.M.*

Subject: **Effective and Accessible Resource Dissemination for Persons with Disabilities**

On July 9th, 2020 the Citizen's Advisory Commission on Disabilities (CACoD) unanimously approved a motion that the attached letter of recommendation be forwarded to the Mayor and City Council regarding effective and accessible resource dissemination for persons with disabilities.

If you would like any further information regarding this communication, please contact Heather Van Wijk, Citywide Accessibility Coordinator, at (562) 570-6257 or via email at Heather.VanWijk@longbeach.gov.

ATTACHMENT

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY
DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR
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MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK

CITY OF LONG BEACH
CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Nubia Cedeño, Chair
Stephen Adams, Vice Chair
Kim Vuong, Secretary
Victor Garate, Commissioner



Christopher Karadjov, Commissioner
Deaka McClain, Commissioner
Gretchen Swanson, Commissioner

July 9, 2020

Honorable Mayor Garcia and City Council Members
411 W Ocean Blvd
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Effective and Accessible Resource Dissemination for Persons with Disabilities

Honorable Mayor Garcia and City Council Members:

The Citizens Advisory Commission on Disabilities urges the Mayor, Council Member Richardson, and the City Council to broaden the Framework of Reconciliation to include the voices of persons with disabilities. Due to Council Member Richardson's advocacy we have an unprecedented opportunity for inclusion.

The inducement of vulnerability, lack of mitigation and conditions that maintain chronicity are replete in Long Beach. Recently, individual commissioners participated in a city facilitated discussion of vulnerability during the COVID19 restrictions. Those who participated appreciated that discussion, however, vulnerability goes deeper than the immediacy of the current pandemic.

Vulnerability, chronic vulnerability is based on many factors and has been shown to lead to implicit bias and structural disablement. In light of the four-step model in the Framework of Reconciliation of acknowledge, listening, convening and catalyze – along with the recent COVID experience – the City of Long Beach has thousands of persons with disabilities that are not connected and remain un-resourced. According to US Census, Long Beach has over 30,000 residents under age 65 with a disability, while the 11% of our city's population over 65 is largely thought has having a significant higher number of persons with disability. What is key to understand is that people of color have a significantly greater experience of disability. The CDC estimates that 1 in 4 black Americans have a disability, second only to Native Americans that have an occurrence of 3 in 10.

The Commission believes a key component to actualize the four steps of Reconciliation is to have a city-maintained resource site for persons with disabilities. Further it is our belief that to effect change we need to initiate a city-wide awareness campaign of the needs and resources of persons with disabilities. Otherwise, they will not be invited to 'the table'. They will not seek services. And others may continue to disenfranchise them.

We urge the Mayor, Council Member Richardson, and the entire City Council to initiate a plan to support the following:

- A city maintained resource directory accessible by language and communication method.
- Distribution of a print version of the City's Resource Guide for Persons with Disabilities available city-wide. Preferably mailed to each household.

This is a dynamic, forward thinking approach. So that as resources become available, such as low or no-cost internet access, innovative adaptive technologies or greater funding for in-home support and secure housing – there is a well-maintained place of information. This is no longer a passive listing but for the city, rather a way to analyze gaps and overlaps for disability supports for its residents.

As individuals and as a Commission we appreciate the enormity of this period of social upheaval. We believe that we as a city and a community of people, all kinds of people take this opportunity to address the underlying inequities that face persons with disabilities. We believe you will share these goals

We are here to help and serve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Citizen's Advisory Commission on Disabilities