



**Municipality of Anchorage
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT ADVISORY COMMISSION**

SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

August 13, 2014

I Call to Order

A regular meeting of the ADA Advisory Commission was held at 10:35 a.m. on Tuesday, August 13, 2014 in the 4th floor conference room at 825 L Street, Department of Health and Human Services.

II Roll Call

Roll call was conducted; a quorum was in attendance.

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	GUESTS
<u>Commissioners</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• David Ziemer, Chair• Lynne Koral• Christine King• Holli Yancey• Lynn Kenney• Lindsay Davison• David Barton <u>Municipal Staff</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kristin Troxell, DHHS• Sonya Davis, DHHS• Susan Shiffer, Public Transportation	<u>Commissioners</u> None	Richie Gardenhire William Toliver Michelle Torres Sandy Sanderson Abul Hassen Judy Tymick

III Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with amendments to remove items from the agenda, motion to approve by Ms. King, seconded by Ms. Davison. The items that were removed from the agenda included: ADA Educational Campaign & Universal Design for Taxis.

IV Approval of Minutes

The July 8, 2014 minutes were approved as written, motion to approve by Ms. Yancey, seconded by Ms. King.

V Public Comments

None.

VI Guest

William Toliver – Mr. Toliver was in attendance to give public testimony to the Commission in regards to a situation he was faced with in the community. Mr. Toliver stated that the situation occurred on Friday, August 1st at 10:00 pm. Mr. Toliver is blind. He had been bed ridden for several months leading up to the situation and was feeling better on this day. His caregiver had gone home and he wanted to get out of the house and go visit his sister. His home is located in the area of the intersection of Strawberry & Northwood. There are several neighborhood kids that help Mr. Toliver around the neighborhood and on this evening they walked him to the bus stop so he could catch the bus to go visit his sister at her home. When the bus arrived at the bus stop Mr. Toliver was waiting at, it pulled up approx. 8ft in front of where Mr. Toliver was standing, when he approached the bus to load he went to the back door of the bus on mistake. Once he realized that he was at the back door he went to the front door and got on the bus. He was standing at the front of the bus and could not find the money slot to place his bus fare. Without saying anything to Mr. Toliver the bus driver grabbed his hand and pushed his hand to the money slot and broke his finger nail. Mr. Toliver slapped the bus drivers hand away and said he could do it himself and then went to go sit down. The bus driver tried to push him off the bus. He went and sat down in a seat on the bus and could hear the bus driver calling the police. The police came and took testimony and asked Mr. Toliver to get off the bus. The police did not assist Mr. Toliver getting back to his home or offer him a ride, they left him standing at the bus stop. He got lost on his way home and didn't get home until 12:30 pm. He had to go to the hospital the next day because he was injured when the driver pushed him. He is 70 years old and has lived in Anchorage his whole life. He is strong enough to take this type of treatment but he is worried about the other disabled people who are not strong enough to handle these traumas. He wants to raise awareness and let the public know about these issues that are occurring in the community.

Richie Gardenhire, Alaska Independent & Blind – Thanked the Commission for the opportunity to attend the meeting and testify on the behalf of Mr. Tolliver. As an organization such as Alaska Independent & Blind, the mission is to provide security, equality and opportunity for blind people in the State of Alaska. Mr. Tolliver's incident is not an isolated incident, there are many other incidents where blind people have been pushed, shoved, or talked down to. They have done too much and come too far to be treated like this. Mr. Gardenhire requested that the ADA Commission working with the MOA, draft a resolution to let it be noted and recorded that Alaska Independent Blind along with other groups will not tolerate being treated like this.

Christine King, ADA Commissioner – Apologized for the discrimination in all the different incidences. The ADA Advisory Commission will add some items to the focus list that they will be presenting to the Anchorage Assembly on Friday regarding training for Police Officers as well as Bus Drivers when dealing with situations including disabled citizens. Encouraged Alaska Independent Blind to start a Facebook page to educate the public about the blindness disability, getting information out to the community could help with this issue.

David Barton, ADA Commissioner – Mr. Barton suggested that the Commission add Blind and seeing disabilities as a public awareness and education topic to the ADA Commission public education schedule. White Cane Safety Week is in October, this would be a good opportunity to assist with raising awareness.

Lynn Koral, ADA Commissioner – Blindness is a low incidence disability. Individuals faced with blindness receive discriminatory attitudes toward them from the general population, they are looked down upon, etc.

Ms. King made a motion to review Section 5 & 9 of the focus list for the Anchorage Assembly and incorporate some of the ideas from that they have learned from the testimony today. Motion was approved by all. Another motion was made to work with Lynne Koral to provide accessible communication with the blind community, motion approved by all.

VII Municipal Reports

Susan Shiffer, Public Transportation – Reported that an active investigation is on-going based on this situation that testimony was given, therefore she is not able to discuss this issue. She offered an apology to Mr. Tolliver on behalf of the Department of Public Transportation for his experience. The Department of Transportation is looking into additional training for their staff to eliminate this type of situations from happening. Public Transportation employees are covered by Union contracts and those union contracts cover the disciplinary actions & process. The discipline is looked at on an individual level, actions taken are based on the employees past experiences, etc. Progressive discipline steps are usually used. AnchorRides now does not charge individuals over 60 for medical / pharmacy appointments, these trips are donation based fares now.

VIII Updates from Chair

Attended the August 5th Assembly meeting and the proclamation regarding the 24th Anniversary of the ADA was read into record. Several ADA Commissioners were in attendance, successful event. Assembly members are appreciative and supportive of the mission of the ADA Commission.

IX Old Business

ADA Commission Focus List for Assembly – The Assembly work session is scheduled for August 15th @ 1:00 pm at City Hall at the Conference Room 155. Commissioners completed the final review of the focus list and edited it for the Work Session on Friday.

X New Business

None.

XI Good of the Order

None.

XII Announcements

None.

XIII Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:12 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at 10:30 am in the 4th floor conference room, at the Department of Health and Human Services located at 825 L Street.