

# Disabilities Advisory Board

## Outstanding Accomplishments

- Promoting Disabilities Awareness Month in October 2012 through:
  - o The creation and installation of 22 street banners recognizing past recipients of the Disability Service Awards in the Individual and Non-Profit Organization categories;
  - o Presentation of the 2012 Disability Service Awards recognizing an individual, a business, the media and a non-profit organization that made an outstanding contribution to people living with disabilities in West Hollywood; and
  - o Distribution of the updated Disability Services Brochure which includes referrals for benefits, emergency preparedness, environmental services, government agencies, food, housing, legal services, social services and transportation.
- Under the guidance of Linda Demmers, the City's consultant on programming at the West Hollywood Library, the Board worked for the previous two years on making informed recommendations regarding expenditure of a \$20,000 award from the National Organization on Disability to enhance library services for the disabled community at the West Hollywood Library. The Board's recommendations were approved by the City Council in September 2011. The first major expenditure of these funds was completed this year with the installation of the Optelec CCTV enlarger equipment, which allows those with visual impairments to enlarge the printed page. The Board is continuing to work with Ms. Demmers to oversee the purchase of the rest of the approved items on the list.
- Received presentations and provided input about the City's subsidized transportation programs to enhance transportation services for people living with disabilities.
- Kept updated about the West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation's projects and continued its strong advocacy for affordable housing for people living with disabilities.
- Received presentations from some of the City's social service agencies to keep up to date on current services available to people living with disabilities and to highlight the needs of community members living with disabilities.
- Received presentations from the Chairs of the Human Services Commission, the Transportation Commission and the Public Safety Commission to learn more about the work of these bodies and how they impact the lives of community members living with disabilities. The presentations also helped DAB members better understand how commissions (and advisory boards) work within the City process.
- Attended other City Advisory Board and Commission meetings to ensure the DAB's voice was heard in the larger community.

## Looking Forward

- Boardmembers will work to ensure that issues affecting people living with disabilities continue to be a City priority.
- The Board is interested in promoting disabilities awareness. This includes efforts focused around Disabilities Awareness Month every October. Disabilities Awareness Month street banners are new in 2012. The Board will be exploring other ways to promote disabilities awareness every October and throughout the year.
- The Board will continue to work with Linda Demmers to oversee the purchase of items for the West Hollywood Library from the list approved by the City Council in September 2011 to enhance library services for people living with disabilities.
- The Board will provide feedback about the City's subsidized transportation programs to enhance transportation options for people living with disabilities.
- The Board advocates for comprehensive social services for people living with disabilities and will gather and disseminate information about available social services.
- Boardmembers keep well informed about housing issues at the local level and will advocate for the City's affordable housing efforts.
- The Board will work with the Sheriff's Department, the Fire Department and Public Safety staff to address public safety issues for people living with disabilities, including emergency preparedness and evacuation plans.

