

**WEST HOLLYWOOD  
DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES  
OCTOBER 14, 1998**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge was led by Advisory Member Jacobs.
3. **ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Advisory Members Aizenman, Cislowski, Jacobs, Pavich, Semonco, Vice-chair Von Douris and Chair Hallenberg.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Co-liaisons Reynolds, Springer, Dusterberg and Deputy Clerk Lucero.

**ABSENT:** Advisory Members Stredicke & Weltman
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the Minutes of Wednesday, September 9, 1998. Motion Advisory Member Jacobs seconded by Vice Chair Von Douris and unanimously carried.
6. **STAFF COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

Co-liaison Springer announced a reception to commemorate Disabilities Awareness Month. The reception will be held on October 21, 1998 at West Hollywood Park Auditorium.
7. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.
8. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - A. **EMPLOYMENT ISSUES FOR THE DISABLED COMMUNITY**

Maggie Calderon, City of Los Angeles, Department of Disabilities, provided background information on the programs offered by the City of Los Angeles.

Chair Hallenberg inquired as to how many with disabilities have been placed in employment by the City of Los Angeles.

Ms. Calderon replied that the City has placed over 200 per year.

Advisory Member Cislowski inquired about the relationship with the City of West Hollywood.

Ms. Calderon replied that the funding is limited to residents of the City of Los Angeles.

Co-liaison Reynolds inquired if the Department is making private employers aware of the needs of the disabled and if some segments of the economy are more receptive.

Ms. Calderon replied that one incentive for employers is subsidized contracting from one to six months of the employee's salary and that mainly entry level positions are available but there is no preference from any particular segment of the economy.

Advisory Member Jacobs inquired about persons with AIDS (PWA's) who may have higher skills.

Ms. Calderon replied that these individuals are much easier to place.

Advisory Member Semonco inquired how many employees are disabled.

Ms. Calderon stated that approximately ½ of her staff is disabled.

Ms. Calderon also shared that Los Angeles is the first city in the nation to have such a department.

Chair Hallenberg stated that the City of Chicago also has a Mayor's Office on Disability which has made that city more accessible.

**B. EMPLOYMENT ISSUES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS**

Phil Curtis of AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA) provided an overview of programs offered by his organization. He is in charge of Work Services, a program to encourage PWA's to re-enter the workplace.

Mr. Curtis elaborated that APLA is working in conjunction with the City of Los Angeles' One Stop Job Centers which are largely federally funded. He will also be starting a job club in November for those who are contemplating re-entering the workplace.

Co-liaison Springer inquired about the number of women who attended the vocational training seminar.

Mr. Curtis responded that only one woman was in attendance but approximately 10% of APLA's client base is women.

Advisory Member Jacobs inquired about the skill level of most clients.

Mr. Curtis responded that HIV effects all levels of society and all skill levels.

Advisory Member Pavich inquired if APLA is educating employers about AIDS in the workplace issues.

Mr. Curtis responded that APLA has always conducted these type of educational programs.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

PHYLLIS COTO, WEST HOLLYWOOD, inquired regarding the effect of temporary employment on supplemental housing and other governmental benefits.

ROBERT COTO, WEST HOLLYWOOD, expressed his concerns with governmental benefit reductions and inquired regarding employment.

**10. DISABILITIES ADVISORY MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Advisory Member Aizenman stated that she announced at the last Commission/Advisory Board Chair's Meeting that a reception will take place on October 21st to commemorate Disabilities Awareness Month. She also announced that October is Disabilities Awareness Month and blind women must also be aware of the dangers of breast cancer.

Vice-chair Von Douris announced that the L.A. County Commission on Disabilities will be meeting on November 18th in downtown Los Angeles. He also stated that the La Brea Gateway Project and the removal of ficus trees along Santa Monica Blvd. is a concern to those suffering from respiratory problems.

Advisory Member Jacobs stated that the roots of ficus trees have a tendency to damage sidewalks resulting in difficulties to wheelchair users.

Advisory Member Semonco stated that the City is not planning to remove all of the ficus trees.

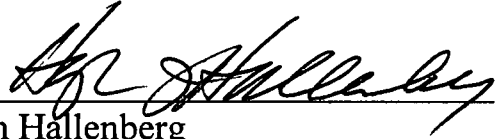
Advisory Member Pavich stated that several public service announcements are currently being aired on City Channel 10.

Co-liaison Dusterberg relayed that Mayor Pro Tem Heilman regrets that he had another engagement but sent his congratulations to DAB members on their Disabilities Awareness Month activities.

Chair Hallenberg urged everyone to attend the reception commemorating Disabilities Awareness Month.

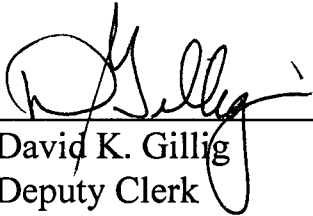
- 11. ADJOURNMENT:** The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned at 7:12 P.M. to their next regular meeting to be held on **Wednesday, November 11, 1998.**

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD  
THIS 13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 1999.



Hugh Hallenberg  
Chair

ATTEST:



David K. Gillig  
Deputy Clerk