

COMMISSION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MEETING

City Hall Annex, Conference Room
999 Broad Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Date: Thursday, May 9, 2024

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Zoom

Members Present: Elliott Calderon (Chairperson) Jerome Roberts (Vice-Chairperson), Don Donaldson (2nd Vice Chairperson), Linda Lubin, Jennifer Rocha,

Member Not Present: Brenda Dye (Secretary), Larry Robinson

Liaison To the Commission: Nadine Douglas

Chairperson, Elliot Calderon, called meeting to order at 6:08pm

24-0509-01: Motion to accept Commission Meeting Minutes, dated April 11.2024. (Elliott), Voted, UNANIMOUS

Elliott introduced Raul Irizarry from FHI Studio and Dave Mancini from Connecticut DOT

DISCUSSIONS

1. Raul from FHI and Dave from DOT presented the I-95 Mobility Study, a study to improve mobility and travel on I-95 corridor.
 - a. Dave gave a brief demonstration on how to report barriers, comments and or concerns on website [I-95 Fairfield - Bridgeport PEL \(i95fairfieldbridgeport.com\)](http://i95fairfield-bridgeport.pel.com) to assist with collecting data from community.
 - b. Dave asked if for the group of people we advocate for is there any challenges to their mobility and if any members would be interested in being on the committee to contribute to understanding.
 - c. Elliott will forward commissioners who are interested in joining the committee information.
2. Elliot discussed issues with Jewett Street and utilizing the above-mentioned website to report concerns.
3. Don states that Jewett Street has mostly homes on the street with no sidewalks. No curb cuts and the sidewalks that are there are not in good shape.
4. Don asked is this issue a part of ADA coordinators to make sure that curb cuts are put in when roads are repaved in the city.
5. Elliott inquired about what are the steps to getting curb cuts installed and will research the process for getting a street altered or modified for someone who is disabled.
6. Don reports that it is ADA coordinators who are to make sure that these issues and concerns are ADA compliant.
7. Jerome reports City planners and ADA Coordinators are responsible for confirming ADA compliance within the city of Bridgeport.
8. Jerome inquired about Handicap Parking tickets.

- a. Linda reported the PD states that Handicap Placard's need to be placed on dashboard of vehicle if it cannot be placed in rearview mirror. There are not alternatives for placement.
 - b. Jerome asked if a grievance can be filed for tickets received if placard isn't visible but in possession; and states that it is a lot of money for someone who is disabled and on fixed income to pay the ticket.
 - c. Linda stated that placard must be visible to prevent ticket.
9. Don reports that he has talked to Jimmy about handicap beach ramps and has not heard anything yet.
10. Don inquired about any trainings for commissioners.
- a. ADA coalition of CT offers workshops, Don would like commissioners to be able to attend a training in June.
 - b. Would commissioners be able to have fees cut to attend these trainings or would City of Bridgeport cover or have trainers come to Bridgeport.

11. Announcement:

- a. Nadine Douglas and Jennifer Rocha have become certified ADA Coordinators.
- b. Nadine Douglas has been appointed Liaison for Health Department and Liaison for the Commission for People with Disabilities.

12. Open Forum:

- a. Don shared his experience with citizens police academy and would like to have proper identification such as ID cards and shirts with city of Bridgeport emblem to represent this commissioner.
- b. Elliott also stated that ID's have been requested for years and if Nadine can bring this to Dr. Rivera-Rodriguez.
- c. Elliott shared having next meeting to take place at city hall annex, no opposition from members to meet in person.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm

Next Meeting Scheduled: June 13, 2024- Time 6:00pm

Elliot Calderon, Chairperson

Follow-up Items

1. Identification badges for all Bridgeport Commission members.
2. ADA Trainings/workshops. (would fees be reduced or covered by COB)
3. Process to get curb cuts or other street modifications for disabled residents.
4. Information on how to join committee for I-95 Mobility Study.