



MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Mayor Azari and Members of City Council

From: The Commission on Disability

Date: January 31, 1997

Subject: 1996 Commission on Disability Annual Report

1996 was a very active year for the Commission on Disability (COD). The following is a summary of the Commission on Disability's accomplishments and activities throughout the year:

- ◆ There were many changes in membership throughout the year. Appointed: Chris Rock (January), Frank Blakely (June), Amy Rosenberg (June), Craig Wallerstein (July), Mark Cummings (October), and Initha Stuckey (October); Resigned: Tom Brannigan (May), Chris Rock (July), Peggy Irish (September). Long-time member Roy-Beauchamp completed his service in June and was recognized for his service by Mayor Ann Azari and the City Council.
- ◆ The Commission on Disability assisted several City Departments with issues related to individuals with disabilities. The following are some examples:
 - Advised Parking Services staff on handicapped parking space locations and related enforcement issues.
 - Reviewed and gave input to the City's Transportation Plan concerning transportation for persons with disabilities, and informed City Council of citizen concerns about Dial-a-Ride service delivery and hours of operation.
 - Supported Engineering's Pedestrian Ramp Standards proposal.
 - Gave input and support for modifications to changing rooms at EPIC to accommodate individuals with disabilities.
 - Provided suggestions for the Director of the Lincoln Center in regard to handicapped parking at the Center.

- Initiated communications with the City's Human Resource Department concerning employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities within the City infrastructure.
 - Reviewed Building and Zoning's Development Review Processes for ADA compliance.
 - Provided input on the City's Human Rights Ordinance.
- ◆ The Commission on Disability heard and addressed various citizen concerns. The following are selected examples:
- Some citizens using Dial-a-Ride expressed their concerns to the Commission in regard to Dial-a-Ride's quality of service and application process. Some Commission members met with various City staff to address these concerns.
 - The Commission took action on an accessibility issue regarding the Main Post Office facility located in South Fort Collins. After efforts to communicate their concern went unheeded, the Mayor graciously sent a letter to the Post Master requesting a review of the situation and possible remedy. (A response from Post Master, received in January 1997, stated the situation would be reviewed and corrected to meet ADA compliance).
 - Alan Beatty, President of the Colorado Chapter of the American Council of the Blind, approached the Commission with concerns of "encroachment" on public city sidewalks. Some of the local businesses put their store items or tables and chairs directly on the sidewalk in the path of pedestrians, creating dangerous obstacles for persons with visual impairments. The Commission addressed this issue with the City's Building & Zoning Department and obtained legal criteria for "encroachment" on public sidewalks. The COD resolved this issue by requesting that possible cases of illegal encroachment be reported directly to the Building & Zoning Department.
- ◆ The Commission participated in several programs and activities devoted to educating the community on topics of disability awareness and sensitivity.
- **New West Fest:** The Commission participated in the City's annual New West Fest. Members volunteered their time in managing the booth and "barriers to accessibility" activity. This year, the Commission solicited volunteers from various local providers and organizations who provide services for people with disabilities to assist in managing the booth. There was positive response to this request. The Commission also collected and provided brochures and informational flyers of various service providers and organizations available in the city, county, and state. Overall, the booth was very popular among New West Fest attendees and encouraged "networking" between COD members, organizations, and the community.

- **Perspectives Show:** The Commission initiated and sponsored a discussion on the local cable program, "Perspectives," on the topic "How is the community doing in improving the quality of life for persons with disabilities?" The monthly program was hosted by the Mayor and included panelists representing various groups and individuals interested in issues concerning citizens with disabilities. The program was very successful and deemed "the best Perspectives show yet" by the Mayor and participants.
- **Mayor's Awards:** This year's Mayor's Awards presentation was the best one yet! A total of 17 nominations were received, the best response in the history of the Mayor's Awards. All nominees were honored with Certificates of Appreciation. The Mayor's Awards winners were: Mary Jane Schwab of Larimer County Employment & Training Services in the category of "employment of persons with disabilities"; Jean Batchelder of Access Design in the category of "increasing public awareness towards persons with disabilities"; and Donita Lindamood and Margaret Withey for the Northern Colorado MS Newsletter in the category of "improving the quality of life for persons with disabilities." Ray Sanderson received the Dorothy Lasley Memorial Award and was honored with a plaque from the local chapter of Disabled American Veterans.
- **HP Disability Awareness Event:** The Fort Collins Hewlett-Packard facility hosted a Disability Awareness event in October. Members of the Commission participated in the event and managed an informational booth offering information of local services and organizations for individuals with disabilities.
- **Proclamation:** The Commission initiated, wrote, and obtained a Proclamation from the Mayor of Fort Collins declaring the month of October "Disability Awareness Month" for the City.

◆ **Miscellaneous Accomplishments:**

- Redesigned and revised the Commission on Disability information brochure.
- Designed a COD banner for use at the New West Fest and HP Disability Awareness event, and for future use as well.
- Included and maintained Commission on Disability information on the City's Web page. Information includes the COD's mission statement, functions, accomplishments, projects, minutes, and agendas.
- Organized and provided ADA Training for Commission on Disability members, various City personnel, and other City Boards and Commissions that deal with issues concerning the ADA and citizens with disabilities.