

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
From: The Commission on Disability
Date: January 31, 1995
Subject: 1994 Commission on Disability Annual Report

During the year 1994, the Commission on Disability (COD) addressed the following issues:

- ▶ As reflected in all the minutes, attendance continued to be a problem. The solution was tightening the By-Laws and creating an option for members that would allow participation without physical presence. Conference calling technology will be offered when health reasons or transportation complication prevent attendance.
- ▶ A collaboration between COD and the Fort Collins Police Department resulted in a new approach to enforcement of handicapped parking regulations. In addition:
 - to assist in the success of this project, a notice was published in a professional newsletter reminding physicians of the criteria for granting a disabled parking permit.
 - COD has recommended to the Municipal Court Prosecutor that the fine for violations of handicapped parking be increased.
- ▶ Sponsorship of a presentation by Recreation Possibilities for People with Disabilities contributed to the effort of obtaining funding for a new position of recreation specialist.
- ▶ Compilation of COD access survey was sent to the City engineering department to be utilized in their barrier removal plan.
- ▶ In April, a presentation was given to COD by FortNet that later resulted in a joint effort in an experiential exhibit at New West Fest. The exhibit included barrier awareness and access of latest technology for persons with disabilities. The event was well received and demands have been made for COD to repeat this exhibit in 1995.
- ▶ A letter was developed to compliment businesses for extra effort made in barrier removal at their facilities. Another letter was prepared to encourage access improvement when complaint are received from the community.

- ▶ COD examined the City's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Upgrade Program and was impressed by the efficiency of its implementation. COD will continue to monitor and contribute to the goals of this program.
- ▶ Paratransit has successfully transitioned towards a more self-sustaining service. COD represented consumers effected by this change. Compliments are given to the transportation staff.
- ▶ The 1994 Mayor's Awards were held in October with awards being given to Sandy Scott (Recreation Possibilities for People with Disabilities), Community Connections (transition project for students with disabilities), Disability Coalition (family advocacy), Jerry Phillips (employer, Lee Martinez Farm), Carolann Frisco (Dorothy Lasley award). Feedback indicated this was the best award ceremony yet.
- ▶ COD continues to work with the City Attorney on the following ordinances:
 - enforcement of handicapped parking and;
 - proposed revision to amendment of building code on accessible units.

The Commission on Disability looks forward to a productive and progressive 1995.