



MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 27, 1994
TO: The Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
FROM: The Commission on Disability (COD)
RE: 1993 Commission on Disability Annual Report

For the first four months of 1993, the Commission on Disability experienced leadership problems which ultimately resulted in the chair person resigning. Numerous COD members were involved in special meetings with City staff and the City attorney. Mike Gebo, in Building Inspection, assisted with procedure and protocol. New officers were elected.

In September, COD's affiliation was changed from Building Inspection to Administrative Services. Pete Dallow and Andrea Rieger have given COD a much needed boost of enthusiastic support. Their knowledge, initiative and follow through have been greatly appreciated.

Several member vacancies were filled. COD has benefitted from the additional skills, experience and proactive character of these new members. COD looks forward to being involved with the selection of additional new members as vacancies occur, by informing Council of any new skills needed by the commission.

COD investigated, initiated and executed a survey to the general community asking for input with regard to architectural barriers. The survey was distributed in the Disabled Resources Services newsletter. Plans to include the survey in City News were canceled due to limited funds. While this has limited the survey's reach, the Committee is looking forward to receiving useful information from the survey. Survey responses are being tabulated by Pete Dallow. Two articles explaining the survey have been included in City News.

Priority was given to assisting the City of Fort Collins' Facilities, Engineering and Building Inspection Divisions in the elimination and prevention of architectural barriers. The North College Corridor was one example of COD's review. COD will continue plan and site review.

COD members and members of the Larimer County ADA task force participated in the

meetings of the review board for the new Uniform Building Codes. COD's recommendations were not accepted for incorporation in the final document. This concerns the Commission, and additional information on this subject will be forwarded to Council.

COD worked closely with the Larimer County ADA task force; also Transfort regarding selection of an alternative transportation model for paratransit. Members rode new busses to evaluate accessibility for wheelchair users. Additional ties to the local Disabled Veterans organization and other disability related organizations were formed as COD prepared for the Annual Mayor's Awards.

The Annual Mayor's Awards were held in October, with awards being given to individuals and businesses in Fort Collins: Peer Counselors (Multiple Sclerosis Society), Jeanne Abkarian (Poudre R-1), Sally Juday (Northern Colorado Aids Project) and Steel's Market (Chuck Willford, Steve Ferguson and Paul Poplett - store managers). The Dorthy Lasley Award was awarded to Roy Beauchamp.

COD participated in a disability educational/resource/advocacy seminar hosted by Poudre R-1 at the Holiday Inn. A building accessibility seminar was also offered through Builder's Square by a COD member and a local consultant. COD will continue it's membership in the National Organization on Disability (NOD).

COD continues to recommend positive, proactive actions and changes to the City, and is looking forward to a productive 1994.