

PORTLAND COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE	Email (optional)
Lucy Baker	Oregon Business Leadership Net. 4134 N Vancouver Ave	lucy.baker@obln-oreg
Sheree Hepp		
Sheree Hepp		

To the Mayor and City Commissioners:

My name is Denise Spielman, and I am a training and technical assistance specialist on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and currently work on several projects for the Center on Community Accessibility at OHSU, one of which is the "ADA Answers Northwest" program. I have been an active advocate for disability rights for ten years, and have trained the City of Portland's ADA Coordinators about rights and responsibilities under the ADA.

The ADA was signed into law in 1990, and here we are, 18 1/2 years later, still needing to ensure that this country's most recent civil rights law affords all people with disabilities equal access to the City's programs, activities and services. Forming a City Disability Commission not only shows good faith effort to comply with the law, but more importantly, it is the right thing to do. Forming a Disability Commission will ensure that the unique needs of people with all kinds of disabilities, whether hidden or visible, whether from birth or acquired later in life, will be taken into consideration whenever the City makes important decisions that could impact them.

Considering that the U.S. has a burgeoning aging population with its concomitant chronic disabilities (beginning in 2011 alone, 10,000 people A DAY will turn 65!), that modern medicine can now save the lives of many more accident victims, and that wounded soldiers are surviving horrific wounds both hidden (e.g., post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries) and visible (e.g., burns, loss of limbs, paraplegia and quadriplegia), more attention needs to be focused on equal access for people with disabilities.

I love Oregon, and I love living in Portland, and am willing to volunteer my time to assist in the formation of a Disability Commission in whatever way I can. Please create the Disability Commission: it's the right thing to do.

Sincerely,
Denise Spielman

BY _____

GARY BLACKMER, AUDITOR
CITY OF PORTLAND, OR

2008 DEC 18 A 10:16

RECEIVED

From: Coleman Hall [mailto:heart2heart@inbox.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2008 11:45 AM

Nikole,

Thanks for spearheading this initiative. Our community needs a strong voice, and I totally support the Disability Commission.

Lou

From: Sue Rhodes [mailto:srhodes15@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2008 1:16 PM

Mayor & City Council Members,

Due to the inclement weather, we will not be able to attend the City Council meeting tomorrow, but my husband & I would like to express our strong support for the creation of the Commission on Disabilities. I am disabled & I am currently active in the city's Advisory Committee on Disability. I feel that the needs & concerns of the disabled community are important not only to disabled people, but to the whole city. Creation of this commission will demonstrate Portland's commitment to access & fair treatment for everyone.

Thank you for your support for this proposal & for your continued attention to the rights of those of us with disabilities.

Sincerely, Susan Rhodes & Charles Schwenk
1826 SE 139th Ave.
Portland

From: Frank Synoground [<mailto:Frank.Synoground@state.or.us>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2008 1:20 PM

Dear Portland City Council:

As a blind employee of the Commission for the Blind I both live with and observe the importance of an accessible environment. The City Council is being urged to help ensure that persons with disabilities can live in a locale that protects the rights of persons with disabilities. Please support the creation of a Disabilities Commission.

Frank Synoground, Assistant Director
Rehabilitation Services
Oregon Commission for the Blind

From: polly@pdx.edu [mailto:polly@pdx.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2008 1:48 PM

Greetings,

Please pass my message of support on to the city council regarding the Disability Commission proposal. I hope it helps!!!

I feel it is important for the city of Portland to work in partnership with families, consumers, advocacy groups, and service providers to ensure that the rights of people with disabilities are protected and that they and their families have access to quality programs and services that meet their needs. I believe that the formation of a Disability Commission with help further these goals. Therefore I strongly support the formation of this Commission.

go well,

polly

Polly Livingston
Director
Disability Resource Center
Portland State University

From: Marian George [mailto:mariangeorge@juno.com]

Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2008 4:08 PM

The committee has done such good work to date. I really think the process needs to be formalized by approval of the Commission proposal.

Marian George
Award recipient.

From: joevv3@comcast.net [mailto:joevv3@comcast.net]

Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2008 4:36 PM

Dear Mayor Potter and Commissioners,

Thank you for taking this action to create a commission on disability. As a member of the current PCDAC, I can attest to the beneficial contribution that our committee has made to the livability of our city for folks with disabilities. I fully expect a disability commission to continue and further that legacy.

Respectfully,

Joe VanderVeer

From: M Simpson [mailto:mks115@comcast.net]

Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2008 10:38 PM

Nickole,

My first e-mail failed. Here is a copy of it.

During the several years that the PCDAC has been in existence, it has shown incredible success in working with issues that concern all citizens and particularly those in the disability community.

This proposed change to "Disability Commission" can only give a larger challenge to the members of this new commission by allowing them to serve the citizenry with a broader scope.

I am in total support in the forming of the new commission .

Martha Simpson

From: Nyla A MCCARTHY [mailto:Nyla.A.Mccarthy@state.or.us]

Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2008 11:03 AM

I am sorry that I am unable to attend today's council meeting and equally sorry that I didn't receive this message in time to submit my thoughts prior to that meeting.

However, I do favor establishing a separate commission on disabilities for the following reasons:

currently I chair the Salem Human Rights and Relations Commission. As the only person on that commission with a disability I find that I am often in the position of needing to lobby my fellow commissioners on inclusion issues. I also am constantly needing to educate them on various issues ranging from ADA concerns to health and safety issues (a HUGE one, especially sexual abuse and exploitation, for which people with developmental disabilities and mental health are the number one risk population for assault).

From my previous experience co-chairing the portland metropolitan human rights commission I saw that most people think of human rights issues in terms of race first, and then perhaps sexual orientation followed by religion. Disability concerns are often in the position of being back burned or just swallowed up in the great void of need in so many areas. This remains true in my experiences with the Salem commission and in both cases all people are well intentioned, just not informed usually.

I know that there is an argument to be made regarding budget and costs for such a commission. I would simply respond to that argument by pointing out the very large in-kind budgetary gains which every commission brings to government coupled with the expertise, the connections to other stakeholder and government groups, the public perception of value added, and most importantly, the very real importance of the work in moving forward toward a more equitable and inclusive work for all citizens.

I remain interested in serving on this commission. I bring a good deal of experience with me, both personal and professional, and I play well with others...I have the blessing of being involved in this issue at the national level by being both an active consultant/trainer and by being the chair of the National Adult Protective Services Association's annual conference for five years running. I am fortunate in both capacities to learn from and partner with wonderful people who are doing great work.

I have also lived in northeast Portland for over twenty years; raised two children as a sexual minority mother and partnered in the creation of a magnet school for PPS, and now work closely with the Tibetan community on many issues, one of which is disability awareness.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any assistance in moving forward.

And thanks for the time and energy you are putting in on behalf of us all.

warmly,
nyla

Namaste',

Nyla McCarthy
Training and Prevention Unit Director
Office of Investigations and Training
Oregon Department of Human Services
2575 Bittern St. N.E.
PO Box 14250
Salem, Or 97309
503 947-4221
TTY Relay 800-735-2900
email: Nyla.A.McCarthy@state.or.us

From: Michael Eagan [mailto:wmmeagan@msn.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2008 12:48 PM

HI NICOLE,

MY NAME IS MICHAEL EAGAN. I AM A RECIEPIENT OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND 2008 AWARDS FOR "MAKING A DIFFERENCE" (ADVOCACY), "AND SPIRIT OF PORTLAND" (HUMANITARIAN). ALSO, I SERVE ON THE FOLLOWING NON-PROFIT BODIES: ELDERS IN ACTION COMMISSION (EIA), MULTNOMAH COUNTY DISABILITIES SERVICES ACTIVITIES COUNCIL (DSAC) , AND THE OREGON STATE COUNCIL OF RETIRED CITIZENS (OSCR).

I'M VERY MUCH IN IN FAVOR OF A COMMISSION ON DIABILITY ISSUES PARTICULARLY IF IT CAN BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE THE NEEDS OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY RESIDENTS (BOTH INSIDE & BEYOND THE CITY OF PORTLAND BOUNDARIES). THAT IS, PROVIDED THAT IT CAN BE CREATED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO NOT TO DEVOLVE INTO " WINDOW DRESSING". A VIABLE CITY/COUNTY DISABILITY COMMISSION IS ESSENTIAL TO THIS PORTION OF THE COMMUNITY BEGINNING TO PLAY ITS PART IN THE FUTURE OF PORTLAND.

REGARDS,

**MICHAEL EAGAN
ADVOCACY COORDINATOR, EIA COMM.**

From: o'malley [mailto:omalleyae@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2008 1:30 PM

Dear Mayor and Council:

I have been involved with the City's disability committee in its several iterations for over eight years. There are very few other groups who care as sincerely about their mission and their constituents as is the case with PCDAC.

We enjoy the reputation of being a city on the forward edge in many respects. However, we are lagging behind of late when comparing our care for accessibility issues to that of other analogous cities. The Commission that you are contemplating is in many respects your statement to us all as to how important you deem an assessable city to be.

Please do find in favor of staying on the leading edge in this regard.

Respectfully,
anne o'malley



Oregon Business Leadership Network www.obln.org

Oregon's Business Forum on disability & inclusion

December 17, 2008

Re: Testimony in support of establishing a Commission on Disabilities

To:

Mayor Tom Potter
Honorable City Councilors

From: Board of Directors, Oregon Business Leadership Network

Thank you for allowing us to provide this testimony in support of the resolution to establish the City of Portland Commission on Disabilities. The Oregon Business Leadership Network (OBLN) is a consortium of leading employers in Oregon that work together to improve the employment prospects for people with disabilities. The City of Portland has been an active member of the OBLN from its establishment in 2004 and has participated in the Career Fairs and other recruiting and diversity/inclusion events that we organize which are focused on employment of people with disabilities. We have also been honored by the CCACD and City Council at its 2008 Making a Difference Awards for our collaborative work.

The OBLN salutes the work of City Council and the Mayors Office in establishing the Commission on Disabilities. As business leaders we understand of importance to policy development, leadership success, and program oversight of having the diverse, strong voice of people with disabilities in decision making. It is as important internally to business success as it is to our governmental partners. We strongly support the action of City Council in establishing the Commission. We look forward to collaborating with the new Commission, the Mayor's office and City Council in our joint goals around inclusion, employment, and community contributions of citizens with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Lucy Baker, Executive Director testifying for Jilma Meneses, OBLN Board President

OBLN • 4134 N. Vancouver Ave. Ste 400 J, Portland, OR, 97217 • (503) 281-1424 • lucy.baker@obln.org
 Board of Directors: President: Jilma Meneses, OHSU, • Vice President: Keith Fuller, Fred Meyer Stores • Salem Chapter: Todd London, ABC Windows/Brian Wernicke, Rapid Refill Ink • Portland Chapter: Robert Barzler, Point West Credit Union
 • Beverly Bolensky Dean, City of Portland • Jay Fernandez, Studio Arts USA • Lisa Goddard, PGE
 • Patricia Haim, Littler Mendelson, PC • Bill Kemp, Precision Castparts/PCC Structural •
 Anthony Morgali, Morgali Films • John Nagelmann, Kaiser Permanente • Scott Nichols, Intel • Bill Prows, PSU

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fwr

Parsons, Susan

From: Van Keuren, Jeremy (Mayor's Office)
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2008 12:44 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla; Parsons, Susan
Cc: Chisek, Kyle; Cheron, Nickole; McGee II, Charles
Subject: COUNCIL: Disability Meeting

For the record, on the 10:15 time certain.

From: Gregg Welch [mailto:tallcoolgregg@msn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2008 12:42 PM
To: mayorpotter@ci.portland.or.us
Subject: Disability Meeting

Dear Mayor Potter,

Today, I and many of the disabled community wanted to show the need to have support from the City of Portland in living our daily lives. Unfortunately, Tri-Met Lift has choose not to run today, leaving many of us at home and unable to have our voices heard. We ask to you encourage Tri-Met to improve their services to us and that this meeting be rescheduled so we can be heard.

Most Sincerely,

Gregg B. Welch, Sr.
President
Multnomah Chapter
American Council of the Blind of Oregon

Parsons, Susan

From: Van Keuren, Jeremy (Mayor's Office)
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2008 1:28 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla; Parsons, Susan
Cc: Chisek, Kyle
Subject: COUNCIL: Commission on Disabilities

For the record.

-----Original Message-----

From: Sue Rhodes [mailto:srhodes15@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2008 1:16 PM
To: Mayor Potter; Sam Adams; Nick Fish; Randy Leonard; Dan Saltzman
Cc: Charles McGee; Jan Campbell; Nickole Cheron; Charles Schwenk
Subject: Commission on Disabilities

Mayor & City Council Members,

Due to the inclement weather, we will not be able to attend the City Council meeting tomorrow, but my husband & I would like to express our strong support for the creation of the Commission on Disabilities. I am disabled & I am currently active in the city's Advisory Committee on Disability. I feel that the needs & concerns of the disabled community are important not only to disabled people, but to the whole city. Creation of this commission will demonstrate Portland's commitment to access & fair treatment for everyone.

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JWV

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Most Sincerely,

Gregg B. Welch, Sr.
President
Multnomah Chapter
American Council of the Blind of Oregon

12/16/2008

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FW to ✓
Council

Parsons, Susan

From: Van Keuren, Jeremy (Mayor's Office)
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 4:06 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Cc: Chisek, Kyle; Parsons, Susan
Subject: COUNCIL: Resolution forming the City's Disabilities Commission

For the Council record on the 10:15 time certain

-----Original Message-----

From: CAMPBELL Jan [mailto:jan.d.campbell@co.multnomah.or.us]
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 2:28 PM
To: jvankeuren@ci.portland.or.us
Subject: Resolution forming the City's Disabilities Commission

Jeremy, My TriMet meeting has been cancelled so I will try to be at Council Chambers at 10:00 on Wednesday to testify. If not, could you please read this into record? Let me know if you want me to make any changes. Thank you do much. Take care, stay safe.

I am sorry I could not make the Council meeting today but have asked that this be read.

Thank you so much Mayor Potter for taking the lead in establishing a Disabilities Commission within our City Government. As you and City Council members are probably aware, disabilities is the largest minority group in the nation. With the establishment of this Commission, individuals in the community will now have a place in City government where they can come and be heard on issues that affect persons with disabilities. They will be a part of City government. The Commission can educate and advise City bureaus on programs, services and activities to ensure that they are accessible to everyone. Let me give you an example: Recently a poster/flier was created to recognize International Human Rights Day. It is my understanding that it was put out by the City. It was entitled: "JOIN US IN CELEBRATING HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK!" A picture of well known individuals, of many nationalities in our country who have made a difference, were part of the poster/flier. However there were no individuals with visible disabilities depicted. And, this is a good example how people with disabilities are excluded. With this Commission we can assist the City in its efforts to access equal opportunity and full inclusion by facilitating increase collaboration and information sharing between the Commission, City bureaus, and City Council.

The Commission can also be a liaison between the City and the community. It will represent a wide spectrum of disabilities and this is so important when making City decisions and policy. The Commission will truly be representative of the community. There could be no better time in its formation because the City right now is in the process of doing their ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan which is required for compliance under the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).

I strongly urge City Council to support this Resolution. It will help to organize the disability community, and it will show our community that the City truly wants to be inclusive, hear from people with disabilities and be accessible to everyone.

Thank you for your time and everyone have happy holidays.