



OFFICE OF EQUITY AND CIVIL RIGHTS

Mayor’s Commission on Disabilities (MCD) Meeting Minutes November 27, 2024

Voting	27-Nov
Bouma, Chair	E
Blevins	E
Fields	x
Grade	x
Greenberg	x
Haynes	
Jackson	x
Levine	x
Paxton	

Non-Voting	27-Nov	Non-Voting	27-Nov
BCDSS		DHCD Curtis	
BCFD Yancey/Brewer	x	DHR Butwin	
BCHD Pugh	x	DOT Gardener	x
BCPSS Paxton/Pena		HABC Elam	
BCRP Nyakoe		Law Levine	
BPD Newman		MOED	
Com. on Aging		OEM Bright/Smith	x
CRC Pineda	x	Planning French	
		Pratt Library Kelly/Stokes	x

Office of Equity and Civil Rights:
Robin Drummond
Viola Woolums

Guests:
Bong Delrosario – Maryland Department of Disabilities
Sterling France
Keyonna Hayes – Image Center
Christopher Mason-Hale – Kennedy Krieger Institute

I. Welcome/Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairperson David Greenberg at 1:05 pm.

II. Opening Remarks

- Opening remarks were given by Acting Chairperson David Greenberg.

III. Office of Equity and Civil Rights (OECR) Program Report

- Program Report given by Viola Woolums
- Woolums thanked MCD members Adam Levine and David Greenberg for completing the online Open Meetings Act course.
- OECR co-hosted two Deaf and Hard of Hearing engagement competency trainings this month with the Baltimore City Association of the Deaf (BCAD). There were wait lists for both individuals and agencies who would like to attend in the future.
- In addition to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Training requests, 7 ADA Inquiries have been received since last month's Access Committee meeting.
- OECR is consulting with the Baltimore City IT Department (BCIT) on a feature to report accessibility problems directly on each page of the new City website.
- OECR and MCD participated in an emergency sheltering workgroup hosted by the Baltimore City Fire Department Office of Emergency Management with a focus on sheltering animals, including service animals.
- Baltimore City Department of Planning would like to feature a speaker with lived mobility disability experience to discuss universal design and planning for accessibility from a disability justice perspective. If interested, contact Alex Bauer at 410-396-2998.
- Today is the last MCD meeting of 2024. Meetings in calendar year 2025 will be scheduled on the fourth Wednesday of the month with no meetings in July, August, and December. A calendar invitation has been circulated.
- Mayor Scott had extended an invitation to MCD members and friends to attend his Inauguration on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 12:00 PM at Morgan State University in the Murphy Fine Arts Center. Admission is free, but registration is required.
- If you know of any disability-focused community activities coming up, please share them so the MCD can support these. Chris Mason-Hale noted the Festival of Trees at Kennedy Krieger is coming up. He will let everyone know if there are other activities.
- At 2pm the Law Department will be attending to discuss the recent right-of-way settlement.

IV. Approval of the minutes

- Minutes were not approved.

V. MCD Chairperson Update

- No Updates

VI. Committees Reports

- Commission Development – Chair, David Greenberg

Greenberg asked if there has been any movement on credentialing of commissioners. Viola Woolums stated that the process has been completed within OECR and 5 candidates are in the final stage with the Mayor's Office.

- Transportation – Chair, Janice Jackson
Jackson noted complaints that Mobility riders are being asked to prepare their fare prior to getting into their vehicles. They are feeling vulnerable looking for cash.

Bong Delrosario discussed this with MTA a couple of months ago and they are aware of the risks of safety. The drivers have been made aware and it will be discussed at the next safety meeting. David Greenberg noted this practice is not happening with the tickets at the League.

- Emergency Preparedness – Shelly Smith
The Office of Emergency Management has seen heightened reports of stove accidents and asked that everyone be safe during this season.
- Legislative – Viola Woolums for Co-chairs
The Committee met to discuss an urgent Language Access bill that did not consider ASL an independent “language” like it should have. The Committee submitted amendments, but the City Council did not adopt the amendments before passing the bill. Councilperson Ramos said they would follow-up and introduce legislation that addresses ASL specifically.
- Access – Viola Woolums, Chair position vacant
The Committee met last month to give recommendations on the recent ADA inquiries. There are two updates since that meeting that will be reported during the ADA inquiry updates.

VII. ADA Inquiry Update

- Report given by Viola Woolums
- There is general concern about accessibility at the various Pratt library locations. There are concerns about what is considered “accessible” and each location should be better analyzed. OECR is working with the Library staff.
- There are concerns about the accessibility at a local women's shelter. The elevator is broken and requires repair. OECR spoke with the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services. Replacement parts have been ordered and will be installed as soon as they arrive.
- There are numerous construction sites where the signage was not properly placed. DOT investigated and a stop work order was issued at each location until the signage was corrected. People are asked to continue to report inaccessibility as they encounter it. Matter is closed.

- Department of Housing and Community Development hosted a focus group. OECR participated in the focus group, and Ms. Woolums anticipates future groups.
- Internal inquiry where a DPW employee requested information on ADA accommodations. The information was provided and case was closed.
- A resident contact OECR about Oakmont Avenue in 21215. There are a number of residents with designated disability parking spaces and residents wanted to ensure that the applications were properly approved. Parking Authority was alerted; there was no indication of improper applications.
- Same complainant noted that the area should be assessed for angled parking to help with limited spaces due to designated disability parking spaces. Department of Transportation is considering the request. There is nothing further to be done on MCD's part, matter is closed.
- There was a request for an ASL interpreter to be present as the Mayor's Inauguration on December 3, 2024. OECR referred the request to the Mayor's Office.

VIII. Open forum

- Janice Jackson spoke about the Maryland Department of Health. They are requesting more documentation about family members who are giving care. This is affecting care givers who are helping in an unofficial capacity. Kimberely Grade would like an email link. Janice Jackson will send the email to Viola Woolums.
- Keyonna Mayo spoke about the construction at the main campus at University of Maryland on Green Street. The parking meters on Green Street are not wheelchair accessible. Although the building will not open until 2028, she asked if there can be accessible parking meters. Ms. Woolums stated that she will reach out to the ADA coordinator at the Parking Authority and then report back.
- Shelly Smith noted that the Baltimore City Fire Department has a bed-shaker smoke alarm for those who are Deaf or hard of hearing. You can call and request this resource, and do not need to prove need. Woolums noted that John Marsh of the Fire Department has asked to speak with the Baltimore City Association of the Deaf, but is having difficulty with an ASL interpreter. She asked if Smith could follow up.
- Acting Chair Greenberg asked if Ms. Woolums can call the Law Department and ask if they can delay their presentation until January 22, 2025. Woolums agreed to call.

IX. Closing

- Next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2025 via Zoom.
- There being no further business to discuss, meeting was adjourned at 1:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Drummond
Special Assistant
Office of Equity and Civil Rights