

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE January 6, 2023

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **First Commission on Disabilities Meeting**

We are pleased to announce the inaugural meeting of the Commission on Disabilities is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. In accordance with the newly revised Texas Open Meeting Act, this in-person meeting will be held at Dallas City Hall, 6ES and online at the following link:

<https://dallascityhall.webex.com/dallascityhall/j.php?MTID=m392b48ce446f16b84bffc800093c9e0e>

The Commission on Disabilities will advise and make recommendations to the Mayor, City Council, and City Manager on City-related issues pertaining to the full spectrum of rights and needs of people with disabilities. The Commission will work toward developing:

1. Programs to provide employment opportunities for people with disabilities;
2. Programs to address accessibility issues;
3. Community-based programs to enhance the quality of life to Dallas residents who have disabilities;
4. Programs to address the issues pertaining to alcoholism and drug abuse;
5. Programs to take full advantage of all federal, state, and local funding opportunities;
6. Programs to insure adequate housing for people with disabilities; and
7. Programs to insure accessible communications for people with disabilities.

In addition to the fifteen Council-appointed members, this Commission will also have a technical resource panel, of up to eight non-voting members, appointed by the City Council and nominated by the City Manager. This diverse panel will consist of individuals who can leverage their knowledge, expertise and experience to assist the Commission on Disabilities in the review of issues that come before the commission. The following individuals are being presented for approval as members of the technical resource panel:

Person	Organization	Qualifications
Dylan Rafaty	Founder, President & Chairman, North Texas Disability Chamber	Served as Vice-Chair of Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities
Carrie Parks	Dallas Metrocare Services, Director of Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Provider Services	Over 20 years' experience providing services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities

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Bianca Walker	Deaf Action Center, Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Access Specialist	Coordinates services for clients from diverse backgrounds and provides training to public/service providers
Dr. Priscylla Bento	Dallas Housing Authority, Director of Resident Services	Directs upward mobility and economic self-sufficiency programs for residents, including individuals with disabilities, multi-lingual community advocate
Dr. Anita Swanson	The University of Texas at Austin, Project Manager, Texas Technology Access Program	Researcher, professor, and assistive technology specialist with over two decades experience with persons with disabilities
Wade Wilcox	Special Olympics of Texas, Unified Champion Schools Specialist	Works to advance educational inclusion pre-K through university level for individuals with disabilities to create social opportunities, sports & activities engagement, and bullying prevention activities
Cynthia Suarez	University of North Texas at Dallas, Director of Disability Services	Provides support for university students with disabilities accessing accommodations; approximately 50 years of volunteer and work experience with individuals with disabilities
Vacant		Will address a disability area not currently covered by the commission

Future Commission on Disabilities meetings will be held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. at Dallas City Hall 6ES and online using the hybrid format until further notice. The public is invited to attend the meetings to better serve our disability community. Any person needing accommodation for the meetings should call 214.670.5208 at least 48 hours in advance of enter a “ADA Concern” service request through the 311 system.

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Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Dr. Lindsey Wilson, Director, Office of Equity & Inclusion or LaToya Jackson, Human Rights Officer.



M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira
Assistant City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Billerae Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Deputy City Manager
Jon Fortune, Deputy City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
Dr. Robert Perez, Assistant City Manager
Carl Simpson, Assistant City Manager
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer
Genesis D. Gavino, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
Directors and Assistant Directors