



**JOHN DeSTEFANO, JR.**  
*Mayor*

**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**  
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**DAVID HICKS**  
*Chairperson*

**Draft**

**Commission on Disabilities Minutes**  
**March 14, 2011**

- Present: Jason Gomez, Dana Canevari, David Hicks, Elaine Quinn, Matthew Ranelli
- Staff: Michelle Duprey
- Public: Cecile Brodsky, William Long, Jack Tsai
- Guests: Corporation Counsel Victor Bolden, Assistant Corporation Counsel Kathleen Foster

Meeting called to order at 5:20pm

**Presentation of Kathleen Foster on Freedom of Information Act**

Ms. Foster reviewed the requirements under the Freedom of Information Act and the obligations of the Commission and commissioners.

Two main requirements of Act, access to records and access of meetings.

**I. Presentation of Victor Bolden**

Discussed the department's reorganization after the lay off of Kristin Barber. More support will be provided by the Office of Corporation Counsel to the department for coverage of Commission matters. The information and referral process will change to utilize more outside agencies to serve community members. Furthermore, his department has become more involved in advocating for the accessible taxi project and will utilize Yale Law students on this project.

**II. Chairman's Report**

Bills discussed by chair related to disability parking.

**III. Department Report**

Discussed the department's work on getting an additional 70 accessible taxis. Department of Transportation is expected to make a decision in April or May. The expectation is that 70 will not be granted but some will be granted. Because of that the department requested a modification to state policy, practice or procedure under the ADA and allow the additional accessible taxis. Additionally, an Op-Ed was submitted to the New Haven Register (attached).

Jason brought up that livery companies are concerned about the additional accessible taxis. The regulations differ than the statute and that creates a bit of a problem. We need to address the difference between the regulations and statute. Matt suggested we advocate for the withdrawal of the regulations which would allow the statute to control.

Additionally, it was discussed that the medallions issued for the 70 accessible taxis be fixed, so that when the vehicle is cycled out that the replacement vehicle be required to be another accessible vehicle.

Finally, there was discussion on the need for regulations that require accessible taxis for new medallions acquired by a taxi company with a threshold number of vehicles.

Jason moved and it was seconded by David, to research possible legislation that will have a baseline requirement for taxi companies to have a percentage of their vehicles be accessible vehicles. Jason committed to do some research. Passed unanimously.

#### IV. Old Business

Dana has not had any progress made on Diagnosis of a Faun. David is going to go back to Mark at CDR to see if he is still interested in participating in this project.

#### V. New Business

None

#### VI. Other Business

None

#### VII. Public Comment

None

Motion to adjourn by David and seconded by Matt at 6:45pm.