



**EDDIE A. PEREZ**  
Mayor

# CITY OF HARTFORD

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**LILLIAN I. RUIZ**  
Director

Hartford Commission on Disability Issues May 6, 2009 Commission Meeting

Meeting was called to order by the Chairperson Ms. Janet Wallans.

Present in attendance were: Janet C. Wallans, Chairperson, Debra St. Germain, Vice Chairperson, Sarah W. D'Agostino, Sign Language Interpreter, Commissioners Chris Kelly, Candace Low, Cheryl Ziner and Linda Helen Schnitzer on Conference Telephone.

The chair asked members of the commission if they had read the April 1, 2009 minutes. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Chris Kelly and seconded by Candace Low. Motion passed minutes approved as written.

Discussion held on recruitment for new members to be on the Commission. Commissioner Cheryl Zeiner stated that she read the Press Release submitted to Sara Barr on the front page of the Hartford News.

Commissioner Linda Helen Schnitzer discussed recruiting persons who have gone through substance abuse withdrawal and are currently not using any substance. Commission members discussed this and left it up to Commissioner Schnitzer.

Commissioner St. Germain asked if the office had received any calls on the press release. Gil stated that the office received one call from a Fire Fighter by the name of Anthony Taylor. Mr. Taylor was invited to attend the commission meeting, however was not present. Commissioner St. Germain will contact him to see if he is still interested.

Commission Budget was discussed. There is currently a balance of \$227.59.

Chairperson Wallan spoke on the Census and the discussion she had with Director Lillian I. Ruiz of the Office of Human Relations. Chairperson Wallans mentioned that one way for the commission to be involved in the Census is by possibly identifying persons who have disabilities. Further discussion is to take place with commission members.

Commission Elections: Chairperson Wallans requested a chairperson for the Elections and nominations. Commissioner Kelly stated that he would chair the election committee along with Commissioner Low. Commissioner Kelly made the following nomination slate: Janet C. Wallans, Chairperson, Debra St. Germain, Vice Chairperson, Cheryl

Ziner, Recording Secretary. Election is to take place at the next Commission Meeting June 3, 2009 where nominations from the floor will be accepted.

Standing Committee Reports:

Building Code Advisory Subcommittee-No Report No meeting

Update from Gil regarding Claude Holcomb and the Hartford Public Library. Gil informed the members of the Commission that the case is between the Hartford Public Library and Mr. Holcomb who has file his complaint with the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights. Commissioners discussed the Library front door. It was recommended that for the next Commission Meeting the Interim Director of the Hartford Public Library be invited to address the situation of both the Arch Street Door and the front door.

Discussion was held on the Barca's Restaurant and Vito's Restaurant regarding curb cuts and location.

Transportation: Commissioner Schnitzer stated that there is a pending bill for Taxies to have ADA compliance. This bill is SB1093 Taxies Bill.

Motion made by Commissioner Kelly Seconded by Commissioner Schnitzer. Commissioners voted to support this bill, motioned carried. And letter to be sent to Transportation Committee. Commissioner St. Germain will prepare a letter that can be Faxed to this Committee.

Special Education: Commissioner Chris Kelly. Commissioner Kelly indicated that a possible letter be written to the Superintendent of Schools regarding the possible lay-off's of Special Ed Teachers due to mainstreaming of Special needs children. Commissioner St. Germain will draft letter for commissioners to review.

Old Business: Tabled.

New Business:

Gil spoke on the training he attended regarding the Cities Readiness Initiative Exercise/Point of Distribution (POD). The exercise covered emergencies and how to route the citizens of Hartford at that time.

Discussion was held on how to spend the balance of the available funds the commission has. It was suggested that the Commission hold an awards ceremony and buy awards such as trophies and select the candidates that will receive the awards at its July meeting. The awards are to be purchased in June 2009.

Meeting Adjourned 7:20 P.M.