



**EDDIE A. PEREZ**  
Mayor

# CITY OF HARTFORD

OFFICE OF HUMAN RELATIONS  
Hartford Commission on Disability Issues  
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**LILLIAN I. RUIZ**  
Director

Commission on Disability Issues, City of Hartford

Regular Meeting Minutes, June 3, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Office of Human Relations of City Hall, 550 Main Street, Hartford, CT.

In attendance: Gil Cortez, Office of Human Relations, Janet Wallans, Chairperson, Debra St. Germain, Vice Chairperson, Sarah W. D'Agostino, Sign Language Interpreter, Commissioners Candace Low, Kathy Marseglia, Kathy Pacelle and Cheryl Ziner.

Excused: Chris Kelly and Linda Schnitzer.

Guest: Merva Jackson, AFCAMP (African-American, Caribbean Parents of Children)

Approval of minutes for May 6, 2009:

Debra noted that she had not offered to draft a letter to the Superintendent of Hartford Schools. Cheryl moved and Debra seconded a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. The motion passed and the minutes were accepted.

Recruitment of new members:

It was decided that the brochure for the Commission would be updated so that it could be sent to potential new members.

Commission Budget:

After much discussion on how to use the remaining \$227.59 in the Commission's budget which ends June 30, Kathy M. made a motion to purchase some sort of promotional item such as a coffee mug and distribute them to locations where people receive help. Kathy P. seconded the motion. The motion passed. Kathy M. will look into finding such an item using a City vendor.

Commission Elections:

The slate of officers that were presented at last month's meeting was approved. Janet and Debra will continue as chair and vice-chair respectively, and Cheryl will serve as the recording secretary.

Standing Committee Reports:

Building Code Advisory Committee:

Janet will contact the Interim Director of the Hartford Public Library regarding the Arch Street entrance.

Candace will try to look at the Barca's Restaurant on Bartholomew Street to check on the lip at the end of the ramp.

Kathy M. will look at the curb cut situation at Vito's Restaurant.

There was discussion concerning the Building Code Committee. Candace, Kathy M. and Janet said they would serve on the committee, depending on their availability. It was decided that it would be better to schedule one particular day of the month that the committee would meet. Candace, Kathy and Janet will work on that.

Transportation:

Janet said she was going to be in touch with a contact at Amtrak that Vicki Shotland of the Greater Hartford Transit District suggested.

Education:

As Chris was not present at the meeting, Merva Jackson addressed the issue of special education in Hartford. She stated that there was a need for training of parents and professionals on this. She also recommended that the Commission might consider supporting the Special Education Task Force of the Board of Education, so that there could be continuing oversight of the recommendations of the Task Force to implement training for parents. She also mentioned that there are many students who have not been identified as special needs as the Child Find mandate has not been enforced. Debra moved and Kathy M. seconded a motion to support the recommendations of the Special Education Task Force by partnering with the organizations that are working to implement them. The motion was passed. Ms. Jackson said she was not able to become a Commissioner at this time, but would try to identify someone from her organization that could.

Announcements:

Ms. Jackson mentioned that there would be a rally at the State Capital on June 10 in support of programs for persons with disabilities.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Janet Wallans

