



CITY OF HARTFORD

Commission on Disability Issues
550 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103

Telephone: (860) 757-9781
(860) 757-9789

Cheryl Zeiner, Chair
Candace Low, Vice Chair
Katherine E. Hanley
Shonya Harrison
Kathy Marseglia
Katherine E. Pacelle
Debra St.Germain
Janet Wallans

PEDRO E. SEGARRA
Mayor

For Immediate Release

July 20, 2011

Hartford's Commission on Disability Issues Renews Outreach Efforts

Hartford, CT- The City of Hartford Commission on Disability Issues voted in two new officers last month, with plans for rejuvenating their focus and efforts on behalf of Hartford residents with disabilities.

Cheryl Zeiner, the newly elected Chairperson of the Commission, has served as a commissioner for the past four years, including one year as Secretary. Ms. Zeiner, a retired Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for the State of Connecticut and resident of Hartford's Sheldon Charter Oak Neighborhood, is a very active citizen, as she also serves on the Board of Directors of Sheldon Oak Central, North Central Regional Mental Health Board, CSS/CON and the Disability Advocacy Collaborative. She is also a resident advocate for the State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program.

Candace Low, the newly elected Vice Chair of the Commission, has served as a commissioner for the past four years, has been an advocate for disability rights for thirty-five years and has been a trainer on disability and independent living related issues and legislation for over thirty years. Ms. Low is currently the Executive Director of Independence Unlimited, Inc., an agency that promotes independent living for persons with disabilities located in Hartford. Prior to coming to Hartford in December 1999, she was Associate Director for Ability Resources in Tulsa, Oklahoma, for over five years and Executive Director for a Center for Independent Living in Norman, Oklahoma, for over four years.

Ms. Zeiner, in her new role as chairperson, says she will focus on recruitment and outreach. The commission has several vacant seats, and is actively looking for Hartford residents with disabilities, representatives of agencies serving persons with disabilities and citizens who are either relatives of persons with disabilities or active in the community serving persons with disabilities to be appointed. With the exception of agency representatives, all Commission members must be registered Hartford voters.

The Commission on Disability Issues, an all-volunteer commission, works to improve the quality of life of persons who have disabilities within the city of Hartford and thereby improves the quality of life of the entire community by allowing it to benefit from the contributions of its citizens who have disabilities. The Commission meets the first Wednesday of every month from 5:30PM – 7:00PM at Corporation Counsel's Conference Room, 3rd floor of City Hall, 550 Main Street, downtown Hartford.

For more information about the commission or to voice a concern please contact Luz Cruz at [\(860\) 757-9781](tel:(860)757-9781) or lmacruz@hartford.gov, or Kimberly Taylor at Taylk001@hartford.gov.

###