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## **COMMISSION ON DISABILITY CONCERNS 2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

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### **Description as Defined in Ordinance:**

The Tempe Mayor's Commission on Disability Concerns (CDC) is staffed through the Office of Strategic Management and Diversity by the ADA Compliance Specialist.

### **The CDC's purpose, powers and duties are:**

- 1) To suggest to the mayor and city council qualified and interested persons for appointment to commission vacancies;
- 2) To advise and make recommendations to the city council and to assist city departments and the city manager in the establishment of essential policies, rules and regulations relating to compliance with federal and state disabilities legislation or regulation and on other disabilities concerns and issues as needed;
- 3) To prepare and submit an annual report to the city manager and city council;
- 4) To take further actions as may be deemed necessary and appropriate to further the goals of the Commission.

TCC § {2-265}

### **List of Board and Commission Members, Including Attendance and Service Dates:**

<u>Board/Commission Members:</u>	<u>Service Dates:</u>	<u>Attendance Record:</u>
		All absences were excused.
Irene F. Mochel	01/27/2011 - 12/31/2017	12/12
Paul C. Bennewitz	12/13/2012 - 12/31/2018	11/12
Rachel Phillips	02/02/2012 - 12/31/2017	10/12
Ben Campbell	06/14/2012 - 12/31/2016	9/12
Thomas R. "Tom" Ringhofer	03/04/2010 - 12/31/2016	11/12
Wendy Benz	12/17/2015 - 12/31/2016	8/12
Diane C. Moran	01/27/2011 - 12/31/2017	11/12
Jeffery C. Oats	06/25/2015 - 12/31/2017	5/12
Kim W. Fisher	06/25/2015 - 12/31/2018	11/12

### **Name of Chair and Vice Chair:**

- Chair – Irene Mochel
- Vice Chair – Paul Bennewitz

### **Staff Liaison and Contact Information:**

<u>Staff Liaison:</u>	<u>Department:</u>	<u>Phone:</u>	<u>Email:</u>
Michele Stokes, ADA Compliance Specialist	Office of Strategic Management and Diversity	480-350-2704 Relay Users: 711	Michele_Stokes@Tempe.gov

**Meeting Frequency and Location:**

The Commission on Disability Concerns (CDC) met monthly during 2016. Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Tempe Public Library, in the 2nd Floor Boardroom at 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe AZ, 85282.

**Number of Meetings Cancelled and Reason for Cancellation:**

No meetings were cancelled in 2016.

**Vacancies and Duration of Vacancies:**

There are no vacancies.

**Subcommittee and Subcommittee Activity:**

Did the Board/Commission have any subcommittees active during the reporting period?  YES  NO

**Mission Statement:**

MISSION: The Commission on Disability Concerns will advise the Mayor, Council, City Departments, and others by making recommendations to facilitate access and inclusion for people with disabilities in our Tempe community.

VISION: Promoting Awareness, Ability, Access, Advocacy, and Achievements.

**Accomplishments (Past 12 Months):**

The Commission on Disability Concerns (CDC) was established in 1996, and is in its 20th year. In 2016, Commissioners (CDC) reviewed disability issues, city services, activities and projects covering right-of-ways, transportation, parks and recreation, communications and more to ensure accessibility, inclusion, usability, and involvement. The relationships to City Council Priorities are indicated:

- 1) Ensuring a safe and secure community through a commitment to public safety and justice. The CDC reviewed **Tempe Adapted Recreation Services** to identify any gaps or service needs for afterschool activities for youth and adults with disabilities for engagement in social activities, sports and community enrichment.
- 2) Developing and maintaining a strong community connection by emphasizing the importance of open government, customer services and communication with community members. The CDC approved the new **Access Tempe Web Map**, of disability resources at [www.Tempe.gov/ADA](http://www.Tempe.gov/ADA). CDC participated in the **Tempe ADA Transition Plan, Phase I Open House**, and the public involvement process, as well as engaged in the planning meetings. The **28<sup>th</sup> Annual Tempe Mayor's Disability Awards** connected with the largest audience to date at the Tempe Center for the Arts, with over 200 in attendance, celebrating ability, advocacy, access and achievements. CDC continues to review **Communication Access on Tempe's Websites** and computer-aided services related to on-line payments and registrations to ensure they are usable by people who have disabilities or functional needs affecting intellectual understanding, reading or communication.
- 3) Enhancing the quality of life for all Tempe residents and workers through investment in neighborhoods, parks, the arts, human services, and city amenities, with an emphasis on equity and diversity. The CDC reviewed information shared by departments for **Park Improvements, 8th Street Right of Way, Alameda Drive Streetscape, Broadway Streetscape Project and Enhancement of Public Restroom Accessibility.**
- 4) Implementing sustainable growth and development strategies, including improving Tempe's public transit system to meet future needs, by activity seeking innovative technologies and leading the way in creating a more sustainable community. The CDC received information and reviewed the **City Council's New Priorities, Orbit Saturn Changes and Valley Metro / Regional Dial-a-Ride Update.**

- 5) Maintaining long-term financial stability and vitality by focusing on economic development, business retention and generating employment to create a robust and diverse economic base. The CDC reviewed data regarding **Employment of People in Tempe** and determined that a Job Fair may provide some resources. The CDC then facilitated “**Tempe Presents: Deaf/Hard of Hearing/ Disability Job Fair**” recognizing the need.

• **2016 Right of Way Plans, Parks, Services and Projects per Council Priority Number, Type and Agenda Item/Topic**

- #1 - SERVICE - Tempe Adapted Recreation Services
- #2 - PROJECTS - Access Tempe Web Map
- #2 - PROJECTS - Tempe ADA Transition Plan, Phase I
- #2 - PROJECTS – 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Tempe Mayor’s Disability Awards
- #2 - PROJECTS - Communication Access on Tempe Websites
- #3 - PARK - Park Improvements
- #3 - PROJECTS - Enhancing Public Restroom Accessibility
- #3 - ROW - 8th Street Right of Way
- #3 - ROW - Alameda Drive Streetscape
- #3 - ROW - Broadway Streetscape Project
- #4 - PROJECTS - City Council’s New Priorities
- #4 - SERVICE - Orbit Saturn Changes
- #4 - SERVICE - Valley Metro / Regional Dial-a-Ride Update
- #5 - PROJECTS –Employment of People with Disabilities/Planning Tempe Presents: Disability Job Fair

This year, seven opportunities for public involvement were provided. These opportunities provided local disability information and opportunities for recognition and networking with residents and guests with disabilities, city employees and service providers:

• **Events, Publicity & Public Involvement:**

- Social Media Countdown on the 26th Anniversary of the ADA – 26 of Tempe’s Disability Accomplishments
- 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA - Presentation of Tempe accomplishments to 100’s of local disability advocates
- ADA Transition Plan - Phase I / Public Involvement Process – Open House and Outreach
- American Indian Disability Summit – Tempe representation on the planning committee and at the Summit
- Host and Conduct: 28th Annual Mayor’s Disability Awards at Tempe Center for the Arts on April 12, 2016
- Host: Hearing Loss Association of America – Arizona Working Adults Chapter, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month.
- Tempe Presents: Deaf & Hard of Hearing/Disability Job Fair: 25 employers and 200 job seekers on Oct. 20, 2016

**Goals Related to City Council Strategic Priorities, if Applicable (Next 12 Months):**

In 2017, the Tempe Commission on Disability Concerns is committed to serving Tempe and the community by providing opportunities for promoting awareness, ability, access, advocacy, and achievements.

**Council Priority – Goals**

- #2 - Sharing Tempe’s disability resources at the American Indian Disability Summit on March 23, 2017
- #2 - Hosting the 29th Annual Mayor’s Disability Awards - April 25, 2017 at Tempe Center for the Arts, Lakeside Room
- #2 - Hosting Phase II of the ADA Transition Plan Public Involvement Process – Open House and Outreach
- #2 - Hosting “Tempe Presents:” event at the Tempe Library in October 2017 to highlight disability relationships / resources
- #2 - Publicizing “Information Access in Tempe” for residents with intellectual disabilities - efforts and outcomes
- #2 - Publicizing Tempe’s accessible amenities and services through media outlets as appropriate
- #3 - Identification of accessible affordable housing and additional services for the Tempe Access Web Map