



City of Oakland

Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD)

Monday, September 15, 2025 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Hearing Room 1, First Floor

One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza (City Hall), Oakland, CA 94612

Minutes

Commissioners: Anwar Baroudi (Chair), Benjamin Bartu (Co-Vice Chair), Fatimah Aure (Co-Vice Chair), Jia Wilson, Linda St. Julian, James Carter, Raven Foote, Brittaney Creswell, Kaitlin Roh

Commission staff: Anh Nguyen-ADA Programs Division Manager, Mark Romoser-ADA Programs Division Program Analyst I

Presenters: Veronika Cole, Olga Crowe, Andre Nguyen, Chris Norman, Manuel Corona

Other attendees: Sheela Gunn, Christine DiBella, Emily Habansky, Georgia Savage

Attendees on Zoom: Lana N.

Mark Romoser begins the meeting with a reminder of rules for in-person meetings:

- No food or open drink allowed in Hearing Room 1 to maintain a clean and professional environment.
- Drinks must be in a closed container to prevent any spills or accidents.
- When commissioners speak- please press the top red button that says "mic" and when you are finished, please press the button again.
- To ensure clarity and transparency, when commissioners speak, please state your name before speaking.
- When a member of the audience is speaking or commenting- please first state your name and any affiliations you may have.
- Restrooms are located outside Hearing Room 1, near the elevators.

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Chair Baroudi called the meeting to order at 5:38.

Roll Call

- At roll call, quorum was not established with five of nine commissioners present.

Commissioners	Present (x)
Anwar Baroudi (Chair)	X
Benjamin Bartu (Co-Vice Chair)	X
Fatimah Aure (Co-Vice Chair)	X
Linda St. Julian	X
Jia Wilson	Absent (excused)
James Carter	Absent
Raven Foote	X
Brittaney Creswell	Absent
Kaitlin Roh	Absent (excused)

Open Forum:

- There were no comments in Open Forum.

Approval Of Minutes

- Without quorum, the minutes could not be approved.

Commissioner's Announcements

- Co-Vice Chair Aure mentioned that there would be a housing and disability conference on November 3.
- Chair Baroudi mentioned that his neighborhood walking tour is scheduled for October 11.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

- Veronika Cole and Olga Crowe gave their presentation.
- Co-Vice Chair Bartu asked if the 2021 and previous LHMPs included input from the disability community. Anh Nguyen replied that they had, along with community feedback. Ms. Cole added that outreach had been targeted to disadvantaged areas. Co-Vice Chair Bartu then asked how much material in the

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plan had been carried over from previous plans. Ms. Cole replied that the LHMP was largely rewritten in 2021.

- Chair Baroudi asked if federal funding had been affected by recent cuts. Ms. Cole replied that she wasn't sure, since we haven't had a declared disaster since the cuts started. Chair Baroudi then asked about the timeline for the LHMP. Ms. Cole replied that she expected it to be complete by mid-October.
- Christine DiBella noted that she had attended a wildfire preparedness event on Saturday. There, she learned that OFD does not have any evacuation chairs. She stated her discomfort with this situation, and noted that while ambulances are equipped with the chairs, private companies can't be relied on to provide access because of the lack of accountability.
- Chair Baroudi asked if the evacuation plan counted as mitigation. Ms. Cole replied that there was an emergency support function plan. Chair Baroudi asked if that covered tools and so forth. Ms. Cole replied that the LHMP focuses on strategies, while the emergency operations plan tells them how to operate during an emergency. She added that annexes cover specific disasters and plans, that the mass care annex includes access and functional needs, and that it was last updated in 2015.
- Comm. St. Julian asked what percentage of people have earthquake insurance. Ms. Crowe replied that she'd have to ask the state insurance commissioner. Comm. St. Julian noted that earthquake insurance policies are expensive for homeowners, and that insurance companies are dropping policies in California.
- Sheela Gunn mentioned that Alameda County has an emergency managers' association, as well as VOAD (volunteer organizations active in disaster). They pointed out that most buildings aren't staffed 24/7, raising a question about who would operate the evacuation chair. They also mentioned that people with disabilities should not be separated from their adaptive equipment, asked about a training class, mentioned the California Office of Emergency Services library, the brace and bolt program for earthquake safety, and asked about the possibility of the Oakland Housing Authority issuing vouchers for safety improvements to its tenants.

Action Item: EMSD Staff will contact Sheela Gunn regarding a future training class.

HCD Impact Report

- Andre Nguyen and Chris Norman gave their presentation.

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- Comm. St. Julian asked if this was a city program. Andre Nguyen replied that it was. Comm. St. Julian asked if she could speak to someone about the program. Mr. Nguyen said he would speak with Comm. St. Julian afterwards or set a date to discuss this.
- Comm. Foote asked about the requirements for affordable housing programs. Mr. Nguyen replied that each program has different requirements. Mr. Norman added that all programs are for those earning 80 percent of area median income or below.
- Chair Baroudi mentioned that a percentage of affordable housing units are set aside as accessible units, and asked what access features the units have. Mr. Norman replied that federal standards apply, and pointed out access features like flashing doorbells and wide doorways.
- Co-Vice Chair Bartu noted that HCD had exceeded the federal minimum of accessible units. Mr. Norman replied that developers, not HCD, manage the developments. Co-Vice Chair Bartu then asked what constituted deeply affordable housing. Mr. Norman replied that units supported by vouchers charged 30 percent of income, but that most units are financed with tax credits; for these units, the average rent charged can't go above 60 percent of income.
- Chair Baroudi asked how designing for disability affected a project's score. Mr. Norman replied that he'd have to look at the scoring criteria.
- Comm. Foote asked if HCD was affiliated with Art House, which she had seen popping up recently. Mr. Norman replied that they were not. Comm. Foote asked if participants were given vouchers. Mr. Norman replied that they were not, and that HCD supported affordable developments. Comm. Foote then asked if there was a list of this type of housing. Mr. Norman replied that he expected an interactive map to be available within the next couple of months.

Action Item: HCD Staff will contact Commissioner St. Julian regarding participation in HCD programs.

Chinatown Complete Streets Project

- Manuel Corona gave his presentation.
- Chair Baroudi noted that a pedestrian scramble is an intersection where pedestrians can cross in any direction, including diagonally, and asked whether the \$7.5 million figure for the improvements along Webster St. was correct. Mr. Corona replied that it was. Chair Baroudi then asked how long 9th St. had lanes reduced during the pilot project. Mr. Corona replied that it was only for one night.

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Mr. Baroudi then asked if DOT was interested in pursuing similar projects. Mr. Corona replied that pilot projects and quick-build projects would be deployed. Chair Baroudi suggested a pilot along Webster.

- Comm. St. Julian asked how many times Chinatown would be redeveloped, why there are so many bike lanes, and if Mr. Corona had participated in the redesign of Telegraph Ave. Mr. Corona replied that they are also adding widened sidewalks, and that there already were bike lanes on 9th St. Chair Baroudi added that these improvements would provide more safety for those without cars.
- Chair Baroudi asked if Mr. Corona had been part of the 14th St. plan. Mr. Corona replied that he had been originally. Chair Baroudi noted that construction projects like the one on 14th St. impact disabled people during construction.
- Comm. Foote noted that the traffic signals at 10th and Harrison aren't in sync, and that pedestrians don't have enough time to cross. Mr. Corona replied that funds were available to implement leading pedestrian intervals. Chair Baroudi noted that leading pedestrian intervals weren't useful for people with low vision.
- Mx. Gunn stated that they are tired of not knowing what people are talking about, that a pedestrian scramble would be scary for them, that they don't want to be too close to cars, and that car sounds are their wayfinding tool. They added that a bus stop downtown had a makeshift plywood ramp, that they are not fond of sidewalk clutter, and that they need a straight, reliable route.
- Emily Habansky brought up access issues at 14th and Franklin. Her chair got caught in some gravel, and a lip on the pavement. Mr. Corona said that was helpful and he can get that addressed.

Action Item: Mr. Corona will work with the construction managers to get the problem at 14th and Franklin fixed.

Staff Announcements

- Mr. Romoser mentioned that the general plan has a survey on the plan update that is open through September 24, that HCD and The Kelsey are among the co-sponsors of a film event at New Parkway Theater on the 16th, that the Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies is holding a webinar on transit evacuation plans on the 25th, and that the city of Oakland has reached a settlement in the case of *Curran v. Oakland* that will result in a consent decree.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27.