



**Director's Report to the Mayor's Disability Council (MDC) and Disability and Aging Services (DAS) Commission Joint Hearing**

**January/February 2024**

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Today, we welcome our DAS Commission colleagues to our second Joint Hearing. We look forward to the conversation today.

This Director's Report to the Mayor's Disability Council (MDC) provides a snapshot of some of the core issues that the Mayor's Office on Disability (MOD) has been engaged with since the most recent public hearing of the MDC. The Council is encouraged to follow up on [any of the items presented today](#). Along with this, items for future agenda consideration are provided.

Members of the public wishing to engage with aspects of this report may contact MOD at [mod@sfgov.org](mailto:mod@sfgov.org) or by calling 415 554-6789. You may join our distribution list by contacting us and asking to be added. MOD's website has migrated to [sf.gov](http://sf.gov). This full report will be posted to [sf.gov/mod](http://sf.gov/mod) following today's meeting.

Welcome to our hybrid meeting of both in person and virtual attendees. MOD welcomes your feedback on how we might improve the public meeting experience for all.

**Legislative updates, January/February:** A sampling local, state and federal legislation currently impacting d/Deaf and Disability Communities.

**Local Legislation and Resolutions:**

File [231020](#) **Amending the Rules of Order - Limiting Remote Public Comment Opportunities (Peskin)**. Status: **Passed**.

- This legislation removes remote public comment and presenter participation opportunities at Board of Supervisors and its subcommittees except in cases of reasonable accommodation.

- All Boards and Commissions have been encouraged to only provide remote public comment in the case of a reasonable modification or accommodation request from a person with a disability.
- The MDC is a passive meeting body and the MOD staff plan to continue to support hybrid participation in public comment for persons with disabilities. The Mayors Disability Council and the MOD staff do reserve the right to limit remote participation of anyone who may not be engaging in appropriate civically-minded discourse.
- Deputy Director Kaplan will be attending the Commission Secretaries Meeting on February 20, 2024 to help public body clerks better understand obligation to provide reasonable accommodation.
- The Council may wish to monitor or call for an update on this item at a future public meeting.

[File 231005](#) **Building Code - Deadlines for Disability Access Improvements for Places of Public Accommodation** (Mandelman)

- This legislation extends deadlines related to the Accessible Business Entrance Ordinance. The file has been duplicated and additional amendments intended to streamline compliance with and/or significantly change the program are also under consideration. MOD has connected the Supervisor's Office to several MDC members, members of the Access Appeals Commission, and members of the Community Alliance of Disability Advocates. The Council is strongly encouraged to engage with this item.

Resolution [230269](#) **Honoring Judy Heumann and the UN Plaza protests of 1977**, which led to the enacting of Federal disability rights legislation that is cornerstone to our experience today (Melgar et al). Status: **Passed with Recommendation, Approved by Mayor's Office**

- This resolution directs Public Works to install a commemorative plaque or statuary in honor of the legacy of Judy Heumann and the historic disability rights protests in UN Plaza. This will be the first public recognition of a disability rights leader in San Francisco history.
- The Council is encouraged monitor this legislation so that accessible installation related to accessible installation of this important

commemoration moves forward, and may consider requesting a status update.

### State Legislation:

**CPUC Autonomous Vehicles (AV) Permit approval:** On August 10, 2023, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) voted on Draft Resolutions TL-19145 and TL-19144, which approved permanent AV operating permits in San Francisco. The City is in the process of requesting rehearing on this item, MOD is also working with the County Transportation Authority on incorporating community feedback as well. Attendees will learn more about progress as part of today's meeting.

As a reminder, permission for autonomous vehicles to operate in San Francisco is regulated by the CPUC and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), not SFMTA. SFMTA and MOD are committed to supporting advocacy for the accessibility of AV's. *If you are interested in being involved in advocating for continued accessibility of AV's, please contact MOD, or SFMTA Accessible Services.*

**[Transportation Network Company \(TNC\) legislation \(SB 1376\): TNC Access for All Act](#)** is in pilot implementation phase. MOD, SFMTA and the County Transportation Authority (CTA) continue to be parties to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) comment proceeding, on the recommendation of the Mayor's Disability Council.

- The proceedings are ongoing, and are currently focused on on-time and reduced wait time performance.

### Federal Legislation:

**Federal Register request for comment:** [Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget \(OMB\) for Review and Approval; Comment Request American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey](#)

*Update:* Extensive nationwide comment provided by persons with disabilities, advocacy organizations and municipalities like the City and County of San Francisco, who were concerned about potential undercounting of Deaf and

Disabled persons and impacts to Federal and State Programs, helped to maintain the way that disability status information is collected by the Census. This is an exceptionally positive step for the Disability community. Thanks especially to our colleagues the Human Services agency and Disability and Aging Services for policy team for submitting comment.

**Air Carrier's Access Amendments Act of 2023** [S. 545](#) Baldwin (D) et al and [HR 1267](#) Titus (D). Status: In Committee.

- These identical bills require the Department of transportation to seek consultation from the Access Board to redefine minimum accessibility requirements related to boarding and deplaning equipment, seating accommodations, captioned and audio description of in-flight entertainment and communications, individual video displays, visual and tactile announcements, and appropriate stowage for assistive devices to prevent damage. This bill also ensures the accessibility of all gates, ticketing areas, customer service desks as well as kiosks, software applications, and websites.
- MOD and the San Francisco Airport are finalizing a joint support letter for this legislation. A sample template, addressing issues specific to the Deaf Community, may also be found at the [National Association of the Deaf](#) website. The Council may consider drafting a support letter.

### News and Announcements:

- MOD has been actively engaged with colleagues in the Department of Emergency Management regarding disability access and community protocols in extreme weather and power outages. The Council may wish to request an update on this item at a future hearing date. Please stay safe in the extreme weather expected for this weekend, sign up for [AlertSF](#) by texting your zip code to 888-777, and bookmark [SF72.org](#). This information can also be accessed by calling 3-1-1.

Please refer to *Future Hearing Consideration* Items in the next section for additional news updates.

## Agenda Items for future MDC Hearing consideration, action, or resolution:

It is recommended that Council members review *all active local disability-impacts legislation first*, for time sensitivity. You may also consider:

- **Mayor’s Office on Disability 2022-2023 Public Report to the Mayor’s Disability Council:** MOD publicly presented this to ADA Coordinators on July 26, 2023. The Council is encouraged to hear this report in public forum.
- **[Accessible Business Entrance Program \(ABE\)](#)**: Please refer to legislative item, above. The Council may consider a public update on this item to include the Office of Small Business, the Access Appeals Commission, Public Works, DBI, and the Supervisor’s office, prior to and/or following any proposed amendments.
- **Ramped Taxi Program Update:** SFMTA received grant funding to improve the City’s ramped taxi program, including but not limited to significantly increasing the fleet of wheelchair accessible cabs available to residents, visitors, and as supplement to the paratransit program. The Council is encouraged to request an update on this item.
- **Dining Reusables follow-up:** Department of Environment (ENV) Disability Focus Groups concluded in April and legislation is expected to be introduced in the coming month. The Council may consider hearing from the Department on the outcomes of this Focus Group work.
- **Controller’s Office City-owned or funded SRO elevator assessment:** Launched in September, this assessment, advocated for by MOD, will be evaluating the accessibility and useability of over 110 City owned or funded elevators. The assessment will also consist of stakeholder and advocacy organization interviews, and is expected to be complete by May 2024.

*This item is currently scheduled for your March 2024 agenda*

- **[Age and Disability Friendly San Francisco](#) Implementation:** The second cycle of recommendations related to this Plan is underway. The Council

may consider hearing from Disability and Aging Services on initiative progress.

### Health and Emergency Response and the Disability Community

Review these links for current [COVID-19](#) and [MPX](#) (Monkey Pox) resource information.