



Director's Report to the Mayor's Disability Council (MDC)

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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 or by calling 415 554-6789. You may join our distribution list by going to our [website landing page](#) and scrolling to the "Subscribe" button at the bottom of the page, or by contacting us and asking to be added. MOD's website has migrated to sf.gov. This full report will be posted to 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, May 2024: A sampling local, state and federal legislation currently impacting d/Deaf and Disability Communities.

Local Legislation and Resolutions:

[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 to the end of the calendar year. The file has been duplicated and additional amendments intended to streamline compliance with and/or significantly change the program are also under consideration.

- MOD continues to be in conversation with the Supervisor's Office. Members of the public wishing to be involved in this initiative are encouraged to contact MOD, or the Supervisor's Office directly.

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). Staus: **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 universally accessible installation for the enjoyment by all persons with disabilities moves forward, and may consider requesting a status update from the Supervisor's Office, or to engage with Community Alliance for Disability Advocates (CADA) on this item.

State Legislation:

CPUC Autonomous Vehicles (AV) Permit approval: Waymo currently has an operating permit in San Francisco. 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:

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:

- **The MOD offices, along with all City Departments in the 1155 Market Building, have moved locations as of today.** MOD staff will be working on a rotational in-person and remote schedule, until MOD's permanent space is constructed in the same location, which is the 1455 Market Building. We expect that the permanent space at this location will be complete within 4-6 months, and until then, it is business as usual.

We appreciate your patience for the first few days of the transition, while our technology and communications are set up in 1455 Market.

Please continue to follow the MOD distribution list and [website announcements](#) for updates As a reminder, you may join our distribution list by going to our [website landing page](#) and scrolling to the "Subscribe"

button at the bottom of the page, or by contacting us and asking to be added.

- MOD continues to spend a considerable amount of time on action items related to the [Disability and Aging Affordable Housing Needs Assessment](#). The Council is strongly encouraged to continually engage with this item, especially as we now enter the 2024 Budget and Supervisor add-back request season. You will be hearing about some of the advocacy requests in public meeting, but the Council is encouraged to monitor implementation progress.
- MOD welcomes Alicia Contreras, MOD's Disability Compliance and Civic Engagement Coordinator. Alicia's primary duties include serving as Clerk and Liaison to the Council, liaison to the disability community on legislative matters, and well as tracking and recommending Citywide architectural and programmatic accessibility improvements. We are thrilled to have her.

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:

- [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.
- **City and County of San Francisco and Communication Access**: In response to public comment and the ongoing need to address and improve communication access for d/Deaf individuals, MOD is in discussion with

Department of Human Resources and others. The Council may wish to call for an update on this item.

- **Controller’s Office City-owned or funded Single Room Occupancy (SRO) elevator assessment/pending legislation:** Launched in September, this assessment, advocated for by MOD, will be evaluating the accessibility and useability of City owned or funded SRO elevators. Several Supervisors (Preston, Stefani) have also either called for hearings or are considering legislation about SRO elevators and funding. The Council may consider calling for an update on these items. The full report is expected to be released to the public in the Fall of 2024.
- **Emergency Management Response and people with Disabilities:** In recent months, MOD has been actively involved in multiple workgroups and planning efforts related to Disaster response and persons with disabilities, including but not limited to: messaging about the Public Right of Way and encampments, power outage response, mass care and shelter, hazards, climate and resilience, and extreme heat and air quality. The Council may consider an update on how the collective response addresses disability access in San Francisco.
- **[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.

Finally: Today is my final public hearing with you all as the Director of MOD. The interim Director will be Deputy City Administrator Jennifer Johnston. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your director for the past seven years. The Council plays a critical role in advancing the voice and perspective of Deaf and Disabled San Franciscans, and the Community looks to all of you, Councilmembers, for your help. Thank you for taking your role seriously, and for your Subcommittee work in Housing and Employment. Please continue to use all of the tools available to you – resolutions, public comment, conversations with City and BOS representatives, letters of advocacy, and the like, to make change and improve the lives of persons with disabilities. Thank you all for your service.