



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

**April 19, 2024**

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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](mailto: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](https://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, April 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 is 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 accessible installation related to accessible installation of this important commemoration moves forward, and may consider requesting a status update from the Supervisor’s Office, or to engage with 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, are moving locations** in May 2024. Plans are underway for temporary swing space for some of the MOD staff at the 1455 Market Building, and some MOD operations are expected to be part-time remote for 4-6 months, while MOD's new space (currently expected to be located in the 1455 Market Building) is under construction.
- **Public Messaging** for how MOD will operate in this transitional time is in development, and is expected to be finalized and posted no later than **May 1, 2024**. Please continue to follow the MOD distribution list and [website announcements](#) for more information.
- 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.
- **The San Francisco Health Order requiring masking in healthcare** and other facilities is set to sunset on April 30, 2024. MOD has heard from Disability Community members in opposition to this sunset, and is also committed to working with the Community, the Department of Public Health and others on proactive accessibility measures that are outside of the Health Order. The Council is encouraged to monitor this item, or call for a hearing about the proactive measures being explored.

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 an updated 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.
- **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.

- **Dining Reusables follow-up:** Department of Environment (ENV) Disability Focus Groups have concluded. The Council may consider hearing from the Department on the outcomes of this Focus Group work.
- **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. The assessment will also consist of stakeholder and advocacy organization interviews, and is expected to be complete by June/July. 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 to align with the release of the Controllers report.
- **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.

## Health and Emergency Response and the Disability Community

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