



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

March 15, 2024

Nicole Bohn, Director
Mayor's Office on Disability

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 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, March 2024](#): 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.

- MOD educated Commission Secretaries last month to help them better understand obligation to provide reasonable accommodation.
- MOD continues to receive feedback from Disability Community members that accommodations may not consistently be granted or implemented. The Council may wish to 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, and met with Supervisor this week. Amendments remain under consideration.

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 from the Supervisor’s Office, or to engage with CADA on this item.

State Legislation:

CPUC Autonomous Vehicles (AV) Permit approval: Within the past month, Waymo received operating approvals. 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:

- MOD spent a considerable amount of time this month on action items related to the Affordable Housing Needs Assessment. The Council is strongly encouraged to continually engage with this item, and/or consider this as an ongoing item for your Housing subcommittee.
- MOD continues its work with 3-1-1 and Department of Emergency management to streamline how encampment and other public right of way complaints may be reported, which is now directly through 3-1-1 and without requirement to wait for law enforcement unless they or other emergency responders are needed in the event of an emergency. Thanks to the Council for your work monitoring this item.
- 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.
- New Career Center in City Hall: This week, the Department of Human Resources launched it's first ever [municipal career center](#) (for current and prospective employees) in room 110 of City Hall. The Council may wish to learn more about this item.

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.
- **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 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 elevators. The assessment will also consist of stakeholder and advocacy organization interviews, and is expected to be complete by May 2024. MOD also met with Sup. Stefani’s Office this week regarding potential legislation and SRO elevator reporting. The Council may consider calling for an update on these items in advance of May/June BOS budget hearings.

- **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: 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.