

CITY OF CORAL GABLES ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS  
 CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM  
 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2016 8:00 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

<b>MEMBERS</b>	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	<b>APPOINTED BY:</b>
	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	16	16	
Sally Baumgartner	P	P	P	P	*	*	*	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	James C. Cason
Patricia Sowers	P	P	P	P	*	*	*	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	Patricia Keon
William Beckham	P	P	P	P	*	*	*	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vince Lago
Richard Whittington	P	E	P	P	*	*	*	*	E	P	P	E	P	P	Frank C. Quesada
Marie-Ilene Whitehurst									P	P	P	P	P	E	Jeannette Slesnick

**P – Present**  
**E – Excused Absence**  
**A – Absent**  
**(-) – No Appointment**  
**(\*) – No Meeting**

**STAFF:**

1. Dona M. Spain, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director / ADA and Non-Discrimination Coordinator
2. Lorena Garrido, Public Works Department

**GUEST:**

1. Officer Kelly Denham, Public Information Officer, Coral Gables Police Department

**CITIZEN ADVISORS:**

1. Bonnie Blaire
2. Katie Kreter

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Ms. Baumgartner called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

**MEETING ABSENCE:**

Mrs. Whitehurst was excused.

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:**

- **January 6, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Mrs. Sowers moved to approve the January 6, 2016 meeting minutes. Dr. Whittington second the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Ms. Garrido introduced Mrs. Dona M. Spain as the City's new ADA and Non-Discrimination Coordinator. Mrs. Spain introduced herself and stated she would be attending these Board meetings going forward.

**BOARD-RELATED COMMISSION ITEMS:** None.

**CITY UPDATE:** None.

**BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:**

Mrs. Baumgartner suggested coordinating upcoming programs for City employees and guests. She stated each Board member should take a disability and develop a program/presentation. This would be similar to the programs presented a few years ago and the plan should include the below disabilities:

1. Hearing
2. Speech
3. Sight
4. Mobility/Cognitive

It was discussed to make these presentations mandatory for all City departments to include representatives. Mrs. Spain will assist in making department directors aware of these presentations. Mrs. Blaire suggested for these sessions to be recorded, as the previous ones. She also asked for the previous recordings to be reproduced.

Dr. Whittington asked Officer Denham which are the most common issues, relating to the above listed disabilities, do Police Officers encounter.

She stated whether they are autistic, have down-syndrome or Alzheimer's they categorized them as a wanderer or missing persons and are considered a person in danger. She gave an example of a recent situation where an elderly couple who went missing all night and just drove themselves back home. Apparently they went to an 11am doctor's appointment the previous day and their care taker did not hear from them. Officer Denham commented that this could have been prevented if they had a cell phone since they could have been tracked through the phone.

**PROGRAM:** Officer Kelly Denham, Public Information Officer, Coral Gables Police Department

Officer Denham stated she's providing new officers training in autism, dementia, Alzheimer's and hearing loss. She stated she tries to incorporate all of these since she believes the academy's training is not sufficient. Officer Denham stated that when someone is lost and they have a cognitive condition, it is a concern for the Police Department. If the "wanderers" don't have a human lo-jack or a phone with a GPS, it makes it very difficult to find them. Once someone is

found, Police Officers do what they can in order to prevent the situation to reoccur. This involves interviewing those who know the wanderers and the wanderers themselves in order to get useful information entered in the system in case it's needed again.

Officer Denham stated that during last month's Board meeting, she was asked by the Board how the City's Police Department interacted with the hearing impaired community. She reported that they have not done the type of training that is necessary however she found a training video that will be used going forward. She explained the video describes how the hearing impaired community interact with Police Officers and also explains their rights. This video is being added to the Police Department's standard operating procedures, in which officers have to view the video. In addition, Officer Denham will provide officers with useful tips attained from the Department of Justice. As far as the 911 center, she stated that she's working on scheduling weekly training sessions for the communication operators on how to handle 911 calls from the hearing impaired.

She added that the Coral Gables Police Department is getting ready to put out a training video for law enforcement on individuals with autism. The video will be viewed first by City Commissioners and then they will be ready to train officers in Miami-Dade County followed by a nationwide training of officers.

Officer Denham thanked the Board for asking these questions in which has allowed the Police Department identify training needs in order to comply with the ADA. They will also continue training on other disabilities to cover them all.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mrs. Blaire reported that the Center for Independent Living (C.I.L.) will soon be opening the new satellite office. C.I.L. staff met with Mrs. Blaire and Mrs. Sowers to look at the office and review details prior to starting their operation. Mrs. Blaire summarized that the purpose of this satellite office is for the C.I.L. to provide advocacy programs and peer work to the disabled community. They are a resource for our Board, City and our citizens.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 8:00 am to be held at the *Coral Gables Youth Center's 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room.*