

CITY OF CORAL GABLES ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS  
 CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM  
 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2016 8:00 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

<b>MEMBERS</b>	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	<b>APPOINTED BY:</b>
	14	14	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	16	
Sally Baumgartner	P	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	P	Patricia Keon
William Beckham	P	P	P	P	P	P	*	*	*	*	P	P	P	P	P	Vince Lago
Richard Whittington	P	P	P	E	P	P	*	*	*	*	E	P	P	E	P	Frank C. Quesada
Marie-Ilene Whitehurst											P	P	P	P	P	Jeannette Slesnick

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

**STAFF:**

Lorena Garrido, Public Works Department

**GUEST:**

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

**CITIZEN ADVISORS:**

1. Bonnie Blaire

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Ms. Baumgartner called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

**MEETING ABSENCE:** None.

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:**

- **December 2, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Beckham moved to approve the December 2, 2015 meeting minutes. Mrs. Whitehurst second the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT:** None.

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

**CITY UPDATE:** None.

**BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:** None.

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

Officer Kelly Denham was invited to bring us up to date on the City's 911 Emergency Services and how it is interfaced with the disabled in our community. For the hearing impaired, they currently use the traditional TTY Relay Service for 911 or non-emergency calls (through the regular Police Department switchboard number). Those citizens who are hearing impaired, are for the most part, known to the Department. The City leaves the option open with our citizens to record their information with the Police Department. There is also a voluntary program from Miami-Dade County for Hurricanes and other Disasters in which there are over 30 Coral Gables' citizens. The City has an agreement with a signing service for the deaf which it's utilized by first responders and works through SKYPE and their tablets.

The Board discussed the feasibility of publicizing the fact that such a "voluntary program" list exists with the first responders and encouraging our residents to sign-up. It was suggested that possibly City Attorney can draft a HIPPA Compliant document that could be available through the website or City Application. This would allow residents with disabilities to voluntarily go on record, so that in the event they have an emergency, their needs will be easily accommodated by first responders.

Officer Denham said she would speak with Dave Perez, the PIO for the Fire Department and with the City Attorney and report back to the Board next month. She also brought up the fact that the Youth Center teaches signing in their Summer Camp to toddlers through elementary levels. However, services are very expensive and perhaps the C.I.L. will be able to help in this regard. Research has shown that kids who grow up knowing signing keep it almost as a second language. Coral Gables High School offers signing as one of the languages students can study. She suggested for the Board to look into hiring a student counselor for the summer through the high school. Mrs. Baumgartner said she would contact the Interact Advisor from the Coral Gables High School to see how to proceed with the idea. Coordination with Fred Couceyro, Parks and Recreation Director, would also be needed if this becomes a possibility.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mrs. Blaire advised the Board that the Center for Independent Living (C.I.L.) would not be opening the new satellite office on January 18<sup>th</sup>, as planned. They are in the process of bringing in four new staff members on January 5<sup>th</sup> and reorganizing their operation for their new location. The (C.I.L.) purchased an office condo on Biscayne Boulevard and 47<sup>th</sup> where they will have their name on the building. At this point, it appears that the opening will take place sometime in February 2016.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mrs. Blaire stated it is the responsibility of the Board to advise and educate the City and its employees regarding matters concerning our disabled citizens. Mrs. Blaire recommended that the Board consider reconstructing the program presented several years ago. It was a four part series with speakers who addressed Sight, Hearing/Speech, Mobility and Cognitive Disorders. She said that the Board can get assistance from Lighthouse for the Blind, the Debbie Institute, and Matt Dietz. The programs would be presented during the regular Board meeting schedule, beginning at 8am and ending at 9am. Mrs. Blaire suggested that someone from each of the City Departments should be in attendance.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday, February 3, 2016, 8:00 am to be held at the *Coral Gables Youth Center's 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room.*