

ITEM 2-A  
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, July 10th, 2019, 6:30 PM

**1. ROLL CALL**

**Jennifer Barrett:** This is the meeting on the Commission on Disability on Wednesday, July 10th. First up on the agenda is roll call.

**Laurie Kozisek:** Thank you. Commissioner, or Chair Barrett?

**Jennifer Barrett:** Present.

**Laurie Kozisek:** Commissioner Hall?

**Lisa Hall:** Present.

**Laurie Kozisek:** Commissioner Aghapekian?

**Anto Aghapekian:** Present.

**Laurie Kozisek:** Commissioner Kenny?

**Beth Kenny:** Present.

**Laurie Kozisek:** Commissioner Linton?

**Jenny Linton:** Present.

**Laurie Kozisek:** Commissioner Morrison?

**Leslie Morrison:** Present.

**Laurie Kozisek:** Commissioner Brillinger?

**Arnold Brillinger:** Present.

**Laurie Kozisek:** And via the speaker phone, Commissioner Roloff? No, she isn't here yet. But we have a quorum.

**2. MINUTES**

2-A Approval of Minutes for the May 8, 2019 meeting

**Jennifer Barrett:** Item number two is minutes, approval of minutes for the May 8th, 2019 meeting. Do we have a motion on that?

**Lisa Hall:** I approve them first.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Okay, second?

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**Arnold Brillinger:** Second.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Okay All in favor? Aye.

**All:** Aye.

**3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/NON-AGENDA (PUBLIC COMMENT)**

**Jennifer Barrett:** Okay. Third is oral communications, non-agenda public comment. I don't believe we have any public comments. Is that correct, Laurie? Correct.

**4. NEW BUSIESS**

4-A Casey Farmer, Alameda county complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census Eric Fonstein and Ana Bagtas, City of Alameda Community Development  
Ensuring that People with Disabilities are Accurately, Counted in the 2020 Census

**Jennifer Barrett:** New business, 4-A, Casey Farmer is with the Alameda County Complete Count Committee in the 2020 Census, and Eric Fonstein and Ana Bagtas, with the City of Alameda Community Development, ensuring that people with disabilities are accurately counted in the 2020 Census.

**Eric Fonstein:** Thank you very much. I'm Eric Fonstein, Development Manager with the city's Community Development Department. Casey Farmer is not here yet and same with Ana. So I don't know if you want...

**Jennifer Barrett:** Is it okay if we switch? Okay, we'll switch with 4B since Ken Werner is here with the League of Women Voters.

**Eric Fonstein:** And if they're not here at the time, I'm ready to speak.

4-B Ken Werner. League of Women Voters  
Voting Rights for People with Disabilities  
National Disability Voter Registration Week – July 15-18

**Jennifer Barrett:** Ken Werner with the League of Women Voters, Voting Rights for People with Disabilities. National Disability Voter Registration Week is July 15 through 18.

**Ken Werner:** Thank you very much. Perfect day for this because my sciatica is killing me. So I feel your pain. So, okay, let me just give, first of all, an introduction, and then our background. I'm Ken Werner, I'm the Chair of Voter Service for the League of Women Voters of Alameda, and recently on the League of Women Voters, Bay Area. That term fortunately is done now. And behind me in the lovely marigold, or whatever color that is, top, is Susan Hauser, who is the new President of the League of Women Voters of Alameda. So you've got all the high power here. [Loading PowerPoint

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presentation.] Three years from working in a corporation, I forgot how to operate one of these. The good news and bad news about retirement is you can finally erase that stuff in your head. Okay, I put very briefly together a deck. I don't know if they use that terminology here. But in corporate speak, I put together a short deck, just some talking points. And also, there is some significant press today. Number one... And I sent it to Laurie, I don't know if you got the Time magazine article... But there's a big story in Time Magazine about the disability vote and how it's really taken off, and what influence there you have.

**Ken Werner:** So in terms of this, I just wanted to share a couple of things. I don't know if you've been to the Secretary of State's website about disability rights as it relates to voting. We have a very special and unique accomplishment here in Alameda. The Secretary of State has the database for registering voters. And I asked about two years ago and I said, "Why do we have to do this on those big long paper affidavits? Why can't we do that, but why can't we get credit for that because they do count how where the votes... Where the registrations come from." So, I am honored to say that we are the first League in the United States to have a dedicated URL to the Secretary of State's office for voter registration. This is where the round of applause comes.

[applause]

**Ken Werner:** Thank you. So that's a lot of benefit for us and for the community because then we know how many people have registered to vote. The good news, bad news is when we do voter registration in Alameda, we don't get a whole lot of people registering. The good news is almost everyone in Alameda is registered to vote, so we sit a lot, we don't do a lot of activity or doing a lot of writing, but we make our presence known. And so when we go, for example, to the high schools because we can - in California, you can pre-register when you're 16 and 17 years old. When you turn 18, you're automatically registered. So we do a lot of voter registration events in the high schools. So if someone in your family is not registered yet, please do something. I can't imagine anyone not being registered, it's one of those things, you are just amazed.

**Ken Werner:** Anyway, on the Secretary of State's website is a very nice and a good video about Your Vote Matters as disabled voters. I don't like to just say people, I like to say voters, because that's the key here, is that you have the power, we have the power, so let's use that. The reason I got involved with the league, I worked for many years at Chevron, managing the Global Diversity Program, and I was appalled at the amount of people that did not vote in the 2016 election. And I said I am going to change that or I'm going to die trying. I didn't die, that's the good news, but I have been trying for the last couple of years, working with the league on voter service, we do a lot of outreach. So upcoming are two big events. The week of the 15th of July, I believe, is National Disability voter registration week. So we are participating, Laurie and I have been meeting and I'll tell you a little bit about that shortly.

**Ken Werner:** And then at the end of September, which we've done for several years, is National Voter Registration Day for everyone. And last year, we did a lot of outreach to underserved communities. For example, we had voter registration in Alameda Point Collaborative, we had voter registration at the library, we had it at the ferry terminal, and we had it at the farmers' market. This is all the same day. So we did all of those registrations. And really mostly in Alameda, is just to get our faces out there, our cute little logo. And as the men of the league say, "We believe in the power

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of women." So I should have worn my button, but what can I tell you? So I just wanted to set this up, the context of why we're here. It's very important to vote. So on this page, I'm not going to go through every line... I think that's your person.

**Laurie Kozisek (to speaker phone):** Hello?

**Jennifer Roloff (via speaker phone):** Hi, this is Commissioner Roloff.

**Laurie Kozisek:** Hi, how are you?

**Jennifer Roloff:** I'm fine.

**Laurie Kozisek:** Can you hear us?

**Jennifer Roloff:** I can hear you now, yeah. Thank you.

**Laurie Kozisek:** Okay, you're on. We're hearing from a speaker from the League of Women Voters.

**Ken Werner:** Thank you. Ken Werner and Susan Hauser. So there's access. The issue, a lot of times for people with disability is that they can't get to vote. Of course, we encourage people to vote by mail, but you also have the absolute right to vote at a polling place, if that's your preference. I personally can't remember all those things to do it at the polling place. There's just way too many choices on the ballot. So I always do it at home with my guide and all the other things. And also the recommendations from the League of Women Voters on their website, on our website. I recommend those very much, particularly on measures where you go, "What is this?" So anyway, I encourage you to go there, the link is at the top of the page. Then there's also the Disability Rights California organization and they have a lot of information all about voting as well. These are resources for you.

**Ken Werner:** Then we have AAPD, which is what we have been working with, Laurie and I, that's the American Association for People with Disabilities. And they're the inventors, owners, sponsors of REV UP, which stands for Register Elections and Vote, register, go to the elections and vote. And so I just want you to be aware that we're tied in with a national organization and not every community has a connection to REV UP, but we encourage you again to just take a look. There's interesting things and we're in there. It says, "Find an event near you." There'll be one here. We are doing it during the week of National Disability Voter Registration Week, we're going to be having a booth at the Park Street Art and Wine Fair, which is certainly a lot nicer and more conducive to registering to vote.

**Jennifer Barrett:** We would like to be a part of that booth, so we'll have sign-ups later in the evening.

**Ken Werner:** And if you are interested, I can give you a quick tutorial on how to register people. So we have, mercifully, the Secretary of State, it only took 19 years. They finally redid the affidavit because it had a 19 as the year... 18 as the year. And I thought, "Well, that was then, this is now." So people had to do a lot of crossing out and stuff, so now it's very new, much easier to read and much

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more straightforward and understandable. And each affidavit is bilingual, might be Spanish, or Chinese, or Arabic. We also do bilingual voter registration events. We did one at the Alameda Unified School District for incoming students and their parents were there, so we got to glom on to all the folks, even the 16 and 17-year-olds.

**Ken Werner:** So I don't want to take too much time here, but online voter registration, that's our registration link. So if you're not registered or someone in your family isn't registered, please encourage them. That is only for Alameda County, however, if you live in Contra Costa or some other county, you have to go to that particular county. So our plans for this year since this is the first time we're doing this, and I'm very excited about doing it, because it gives me more stuff in my portfolio. We're starting small. And so we're not having a whole week, we're having hopefully a wine induced, nice afternoon event at the fair. So we're doing partnerships with us, the League, with the City of Alameda, you. And frankly, I think there's some other group that may be interested in joining as well. Our principles are registration. Clearly that's the first step. We've got to have people registered, or as a former boss of mine used to say, "The point is mute." Actually "moot" as we know.

**Ken Werner:** And then accommodation, which is very important, and I believe there was a handout that came out called "disability sensitivity" at the polls. We'll be handing those out at the fair, but it's a lot about not only having access physically and being able to roll a wheelchair up or if you're low vision or no vision, all those kinds of things. But the other thing that they are stressing now, is invisible disability, whether it's mental disability, or cognitive, or those kinds of things, where it doesn't, "Gee, you don't look disabled." It's that kind of thing where people get very infuriated when people have a disability placard for their car and they don't appear to be deserving of that. So we're talking a lot about invisible disability in addition to the... I hate saying standard, but the well-known disabilities. And then preparing for 2020, that's a big deal. Let me just say that a couple of times. That's a really big deal for all of us as American citizens whether you're disabled or abled.

**Ken Werner:** So in March of next year will be the primary in California, which is a brand new date for us in California, that we won't be following the pack, we'll be closer to the front of the pack, which is great. And then of course, then the November election, which is, let me say that again, really, really important. So if you're not at the polls, call me, and I'll drive you. Honest. Wherever you are, I'll put my phone number in the journal or in the Sun, call me. So that's it on the slides. I just want to point out a couple of things that I brought along. I'm going to hold this up. I don't know if you saw it. Literally, I only got it this afternoon. An article in Time magazine with the title of, "Voter turnout surged among people with disabilities last year. Activists want to make sure that it continues in 2020."

**Ken Werner:** So Laurie has the email with the article. And also there is another email, today was a busy email day, from AAPD, which is the American Association of People with Disabilities. And a lot of data, they did a lot of analysis, that is, if you like numbers and are analytical. I'm not an analytical person by nature, but the title of this one is called, "The disability vote and increasing voter block that will impact 2020." You have the power, a very untapped voting block. So accept that and do something with it. And Susan and I, and Laurie, are here to help you. So let me just see if there's anything major. This is the 10-page thing on why people did not vote if registered. That's one of the attachments. So, let me shut up and, first of all, ask Susan, did you want to say anything?

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**Susan Hauser:** No.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Great. Well, thank you so much for speaking with us, we really appreciate it.

**Ken Werner:** Sure.

**Jennifer Barrett:** And this is great knowledge to have all the background. Commissioner Brillinger, do you want to start us off? We usually go around the group and see if anyone has comments or questions.

**Arnold Brillinger:** Thank you very much for coming.

**Ken Werner:** Thank you for having me here.

**Arnold Brillinger:** Thank you. The accommodations, that's always something to look at. I vote over here at the Art... What is it called? Well, wherever it is, I vote, and it is... They are very accommodating there.

**Ken Werner:** Good.

**Arnold Brillinger:** For me and for others with disabilities.

**Ken Werner:** And if they aren't accommodating, that's very important that the Secretary of State... Or in our case, the Registrar of Voters in Oakland is aware of that. Things have to be accommodating, so I'm glad to hear that they take care of that. Thank you. Next?

**Leslie Morrison:** Yes, thanks for coming. I have a couple of questions. You talked about wanting to boost up registration, and I'm wondering if you have ideas about how to engage more people with disabilities in registering to vote, and thinking about pockets where people with disabilities might be, like, you think about schools for transition-age youth. So have you thought about doing outreach registration events in collaboration with disability groups?

**Ken Werner:** I can take you out to my car and show you my trunk that is filled with affidavits and other accoutrements for voter registration events. So all you need to do, if you would like, if you know of places, I've talked to Laurie also, we don't have something in Alameda, like the Center for Independent Living, the Ed Roberts Center, those kinds of places, those are Berkeley.

**Jennifer Barrett:** We do.

**Ken Werner:** We do? Oh, great. Have your people call my people, and we'll be glad to set up as many events as you'd like, and hopefully some of you might even join and help. It's great fun and very enjoyable, if it's not real hot out. So we do it many times a year and do it frankly, whenever on-call, it's that kind of thing. So the easiest way to contact me is go to the league website, which is [www.lwvalameda.org](http://www.lwvalameda.org) and look up voter registration, I think is the link, and you can send an email to me. Or Laurie has my phone number and I'm more than happy to have that available to you as

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well, so feel free. The only thing I need, usually, is a card table, but I know where to borrow one, so anytime.

**Leslie Morrison:** I guess my thinking was more to give you ideas of places where you could do outreach rather than us organizing, like with the Center for Independent Living. Giving you ideas of places that you could do outreach to talk to them directly about doing voter registration events.

**Ken Werner:** A very good question. And I can tell you that from my Chevron days, one of my 12 employee networks was called Enabled, which was for employees who are or may be related to disabled people. I hate to acknowledge that I worked for an oil company in these times right now, but they were extremely generous with money to join various organizations, whether it was Out & Equal, for LGBT, or SOMOS, or any of those organizations for specific, niche groups. And so I have a very good still, relationship with WID, which is, the World Institute on Disabilities, and they work out of the Ed Roberts Center. For example, I have sent her an email a couple of weeks ago, I haven't heard back yet. And I also contacted a couple of other organizations. I try to be patient, but I assume people will get around to me eventually. But if you have a particular organization that you would like me to reach out to or you can tell them to call me, all of that works fine.

**Leslie Morrison:** My other question is, you were talking about the issue of invisible disabilities. Are you doing sensitivity training or are you working with the organizations that train the poll workers? What is your involvement in that?

**Ken Werner:** We, as in the League, are not. But I will be glad to check with the ROV, Registrar of Voters for Alameda County. We have a very good relationship with them, and they just see me coming and they get the boxes of affidavits ready. So I will check with them. They do a very good job of training, but I don't know specifically about that question, but if somebody would send me a note on that that would be great.

**Jenny Linton:** Thank you for coming. I have a couple of questions. You mentioned pre-registration of students. Sixteen-year-olds, 17-year-olds. I have a son with disabilities who went through a special day program in a non-public school and didn't get to your standard civics, government class. So we registered outside of school. Are you pre-registering all students in classes, in schools these days? Are you're getting to the special education programs as well and getting those students pre-registered for voting?

**Ken Werner:** We're not targeting them, necessarily.

**Jenny Linton:** When you target the school, do you target the special education programs as well?

**Ken Werner:** We start where we're allowed to come in. And there's an organization, I don't know if it's also at Alameda High, but definitely at Encinal High School, called Political and Proud, and we work with them. It's... Two or three women started that a couple of years ago, very smart, very well-organized. And they had a big event, probably two years ago now, where we had a whole bank of laptops, and people could register right there, similar to what we did at the library and had the computers lined up. But did we specifically ask for or go for special ed? No, we didn't, but I think that's... Could you add that to the email?

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**Jenny Linton:** Sure, will.

**Ken Werner:** And I'll be glad... I worked with Susan Davis a lot at Alameda Unified. And I can make sure that we can have some targeting of those students.

**Jenny Linton:** Great. because it goes with my next question, which is around the surge you mentioned in 2016 of disabled voters. Do you know why we saw a surge of disabled voters in 2016?

**Ken Werner:** Read the article.

**Jenny Linton:** I haven't been home yesterday.

**Ken Werner:** I only got these today, so I haven't had a chance to read them myself.

**Jennifer Barrett:** It's a lot about the activism from these groups that he mentioned. They attribute that to a higher voter registration, higher knowledge of the voting.

**Jenny Linton:** Is it across the border, is that in the disabled population in particular?

**Jennifer Barrett:** There's particular states that seemed to be larger in the voting registration, that had more of an impact in the article. I'm going to assume that being able to vote mail-in ballots, which not all states have it as easily as others, I would assume that that's a big win for people with disabilities as well.

**Ken Werner:** Correct, and the DMV... Let's just take a moment to listen to those letters. The DMV, motor voter registration, was supposed to go into effect several years ago, and they've been really dragging their feet on... When you register your car, your DMV stuff, your license, your car, you're supposed to be registered to vote at the same time, all one process. Well, the... It's still not fixed, and so people get two separate kinds of mailings, and so we're leaning on our electeds to say, "Can you please have some oversight on the DMV motor voter type of process?" So that's what I'm trying to focus on is, it's not necessarily just for disabled, but it's for all voters. Let's make it as streamlined as possible. I don't understand why it's so difficult to do that, but we're talking government, and that's not always an easy fix. But again, I'm more than happy to do whatever you need or want. Please email me and I'll be glad to, first of all, when I talk to Susan next, talk about targeting special ed. I don't know what the population... How many students are in that, but it's very easy for me, us, to do that, and we just elbow our way in where we're allowed to elbow our way in.

**Jenny Linton:** I would expect you to be welcome.

**Ken Werner:** Good, thank you.

**Leslie Morrison:** I just want to make a comment. I think the vote-by-mail works well for a number of people with disabilities, but it actually is more of a barrier for people with disabilities who have vision impairments.



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**Ken Werner:** Yeah.

**Leslie Morrison:** And so it has an upside and a downside. For people with vision impairments, voting has become increasingly challenging, because they have to rely on a proxy to complete a mail-in ballot for them, which is not equal access to voting privacy that the rest of us enjoy.

**Jennifer Barrett:** That's a good point. Thank you.

**Ken Werner:** While we're on this point, I just want to make a little shout out. There is an app called Be My Eyes. Is anyone familiar with that? Most magnificent technology I've ever seen in my life. And you can go online and "Join". It's for low and no vision citizens that... I'm not quite a Luddite, but I'm not exactly an early adopter of technology, I'm a later person, but I've done a couple of them. And what happens is there are probably a million, 1.5 million volunteers, and probably around 800,000 members who are either low or no vision. And what happens is that the phone will ring and it'll say, "Be My Eyes is calling". And I have only had the opportunity to do one because people jump on them, and it's like, "I want it, I want it."

**Ken Werner:** So what happens is, it's the most amazing thing. The gentleman that I worked with was completely blind and he needed help going through his mail. Okay, so it turns into a camera, and you can zoom in, zoom out. You can make it bigger, smaller, and you can say, "Oh, this one's addressed to Jenny," and he'd hold it up to his phone and I'd read who it's addressed to and who's it from, and I'd read it to him. It's just magnificent. So if you have the opportunity, go to their website, and/or just do some reading on Be My Eyes, just extraordinary. A gentleman, I believe from either Denmark, somewhere in Scandinavia, invented it. It's just phenomenal. So, and it's very exciting when Be My Eyes is calling and you try to get in. It's like a game show almost, hitting the buzzer first. So that's the commercial for Be My Eyes.

**Beth Kenny:** Hi, thank you very much for being here tonight. Just to disclose and brag, my wife is the treasurer for the League of Women Voters.

**Ken Werner:** Excellent.

**Beth Kenny:** But I really appreciate you taking up this issue, this is great. And a lot of things that I've never, ever really thought about before, and I've spent my adult life in the disability community. So I'm wondering about what kind of accommodations you'll have when you're trying to register disabled voters, like for people who can't sign their name, how does that work? I've never even thought about how they vote or register.

**Ken Werner:** Well, you put that flyer, that's one of the attachments here. An excellent flyer, that is, disability sensitivity at the polls.

**Beth Kenny:** Yeah, I read that, but I'm thinking more like, yeah, like people with vision impairment, how will you handle if somebody with a vision impairment or who's blind comes and wants to register to vote at the Alameda Art Fair.

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**Ken Werner:** Well, on the paper affidavit, the law says, "The only person," pardon me, "whose pen can touch the affidavit is the person registering." So for example, I can't fill it in for somebody else, unless there's a specific reason: I can't see or I have some impairment that I can't write. And then at the bottom, there's a little box that said, "Did anybody help you fill this out?" And that's where I would fill in my information. So they can verify and see, "Okay, this person, they can't see, but we know that can or anybody up here help this person to register." The other thing I would recommend is that if someone wants to register or vote and needs special accommodation, again, contact the ROV, the Alameda County Registrar of Voters. And say, "I have this particular kind of disability, what accommodations can I expect and where?" So it will require a little pre-planning for the voter or the registrar but they should have a very detailed list. I don't think every polling place will have accommodation, but as the years go by, there appears to be more and more accommodation.

**Beth Kenny:** Great. And I would love it if we could have that number at the art fair for people who are registering to vote. "Hey, call this number to find out where you can get your accommodations and what kind of accommodations you can have."

**Ken Werner:** Is that at the bottom of this, the phone number? I know it says where it's from, not even at the top? Okay, well, we certainly can do that.

**Beth Kenny:** And I love the suggestion about working with the Independent Living Center. I'm spacing on the gentleman's name, but he's come and presented, he's an Alameda... Stewart, yes. And he is an Alameda resident, so he... And he's the... I'm not sure of his title too, but he's in charge of the Independent Living Center, [chuckle] Director of the Independent Living Center. So he's great, and I think he would be open to working with... In this process. The other suggestion I have that you guys have probably already thought of is putting this out with Susan Henry, the Alameda Public Information Officer.

**Beth Kenny:** Doing a blast, especially next week when the event is. The event I know is not happening until the fair but it's the actual celebration week, is that week so you can say, "Hey, come find us at the fair."

**Ken Werner:** That'd be great. Yeah, perhaps, Laurie, can I give you an X now? Am I allowed to do that? Good.

**Beth Kenny:** But thank you, and yeah, I look forward to working with you.

**Anto Aghapekian:** Thank you for your presentation, and I have no question. It's been a learning process.

**Ken Werner:** I like that. And Lisa?

**Lisa Hall:** Thank you, Ken. I'm a proud new member of League of Women Voters since last year. I was very proud to join, that's something I've been wanting to do for a long time. And I was also very proud to represent or show the true information on Measure K and League of Women Voters information that we passed out as we were also trying to help with voter registration.

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**Lisa Hall:** Because when you say League of Women Voters, they know what you're getting is true information. Not biased, not spun, or anything, you're getting true information. So I'm happy that you guys are reaching out more with the disabled community, and I can see great... Doing great things. And yeah, Center of Independent Living is just new last year here with us, so another great way to go.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Jennifer Rolloff on the phone. Do you have anything?

**Jennifer Rolloff:** No, my only... Sorry for the noise. My only thought was, do you think you might need any help manning or woman-ing your table? Let us know.

**Leslie Morrison:** She's asking about having commissioners sit at the tables, and I think Jennifer, you're asking if you could volunteer?

**Jennifer Rolloff:** Correct. If volunteers are needed in the first place.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Right. So I had talked to you on email a little bit, but we want to try to get some commissioners. It's from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Friday, the 27th of July.

**Leslie Morrison:** A Saturday?

**Jennifer Barrett:** Yeah, a Saturday. Oh, sorry. And so we want to try to have a commissioner, maybe we'll break it out into hour-and-a-half or two-hour time periods.

**Ken Werner:** Are we doing both days? Saturday and Sunday?

**Leslie Morrison:** Oh it's Saturday and Sunday. Oh okay, sorry.

**Ken Werner:** I think it is, yeah.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Great. So I think after we have all of our presenters, we'll hash that out.

**Ken Werner:** So I just finally remembered what I was going to say. And that's specifically for you and for you. And that is the League of Women Voters is not just for women. And frankly, to be candid, I've worked with men most of my career, and it's about time that we have women leadership, so, not that that's going to reveal my vote, but enough with the men. And I went to the national conference last year in Chicago for the League, and it was about 1000 people, and I would say there were probably about 50 men, all old, White guys like me. And the best part of it was the last comment from the new CEO of the League, who said, "I want to thank all the men who are here." One of the things I did when I was at Chevron was to create a program for developing allies. So one of my goals for my job at the League is to have an ally development program, primarily for men. How can we help women be successful in this organization. So \$70 a year, best investment you'll ever make. It'll go directly to Beth's wife.

**Ken Werner:** Yeah, that's it, she is taking up her collection. But, yeah, I encourage men, up there and in the audience, to consider joining the League, particularly now, not today, but now, these

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times. It is so important to vote and to be involved. So if there is anything... Yeah?

**Leslie Morrison:** I have one other follow-up, which is, when you have the booths at the Park Street fair, can you also have available information about how they can get to the website, the Secretary of State? Oftentimes people with disabilities who have vision impairments can use their computers and the adaptive technology that they have in their homes to register. So for you to be able to rather than necessarily registering them at the fair, you can give them information about how they can get on the website to register themselves. And I see on the website that the registration is also in multiple languages. And so I don't know if there's a URL to get to that website, but if you could have little flyers or handouts that...

**Ken Werner:** We have our own. So yes.

**Leslie Morrison:** That's right. People then could register on their phones.

**Ken Werner:** Yeah. Exactly. And again, if somebody could write that action down, perfect. We'll be glad to make a little flyer to hand that out.

**Leslie Morrison:** Perfect.

**Ken Werner:** That says how to contact the ROV in Oakland, how to contact the Secretary of State in Sacramento. But all of those are great ideas, and I appreciate it. And I do have actually one question. I don't know if that's a Laurie question or Jen. But my question is, really, I know that when I've gone to the Park Street fair in the past and you're looking at the booths and you're smelling the great sausages being cooked and everything, and I've fallen off the curb. And I'm just wondering about access for people who are not fully abled to get to our booth and I don't know... I don't expect them to put ramps and/or anything other than the ones that are already there, but it's something to consider that... I don't know how that's addressed.

**Beth Kenny:** I think, Commissioner Brillinger can probably give you some information on that from our time at the Park Street fair.

**Arnold Brillinger:** We know how to make complaints. I go around checking out all the different places where people could go, to make sure that there's access. And if there's someone blocking it with their table or something, you can tell them, "You've got to have access here for people to get out, for people to get down from the street or to the sidewalk and so forth."

**Ken Werner:** Excellent! You're my guy. I love a person who has creative complaining. One last commercial, and that is, on the 16th, which is the city council meeting. We will be getting a proclamation from the Mayor about the National Disability Voter Registration and the partnership with the city and the League. So if you happen to be in this building, come and take our picture. So thank you very much.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Thank you so much.

**Casey Farmer:** Hi, everyone. I'm Casey Farmer. I'm here to present on the census. Just for

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everyone following along, we're going back to 4-A on the agenda, thank you. So very much aligned with our previous conversation about voting, the census is super important.

**Casey Farmer:** Great. So the census is vitally important for many democratic things that we need in our community, redistricting, political representation in Congress, as well as equal representation in the dollars that come back to our communities to operate lots of programs. So I'll get into this. My name is Casey Farmer, and I'm the Executive Director of Alameda County's Complete Count Committee, and my partners, Eric and Ana, want to join me as well. Eric and Ana are leading the effort for the City of Alameda. So we're working together, we've been in a few meetings today already.

**Casey Farmer:** Okay, so as I mentioned, we get our political representation out of the census. That's the total number of people counted in our communities. We also really need the data, the demographics that come out of it, because it helps us understand the needs of our communities, it helps us identify when there is inequity, and billions of dollars come to our communities by way of the census. And it really equates to \$1000 per person over the course of 10 years. So that's \$10,000 per person multiplied by the number of people in your household. So we are talking about a 6% undercount of our community would lose \$1 billion for Alameda County, so we need to get activated and organized.

**Casey Farmer:** We have 246 days until the census gets started. Who's counting? And we are looking for allies and partners, so part of the outreach effort we're doing is to get to all the commissions in Alameda County this fall, this summer, and then we'll have a lot of opportunities for people to help us spread the word. And I'll get to that in a moment. Emphasizing \$1000 per year. The county itself receives 60% of its budget from federal and state sources, which again are distributed based on our population count. And Alameda County is home to about 413,000 hard-to-count residents, so 26% of our population, and those are individuals... We'll get to that slide in a minute, but individuals needing an additional nudge to get counted. And people who might have a number of barriers to participation, such as people with disabilities.

**Casey Farmer:** So this upcoming census is quite different than one we've seen in the past. There's a lot of fear and distrust in government generally, lots of concerns about data privacy. There was a proposed citizenship question that's since been blocked by the Supreme Court, but created a lot of fear. And we have a lot of... Explain to people that it is no longer on the census, there's some uncertainty about that, but for now, it is blocked. The GAO has identified the lack of preparation by the Census Bureau and lack of financial investment as likely to cause a major reduction in self-response, up to 17%. And the Census Bureau is moving online, it won't be exclusively online but they are prompting most households to participate in that way. There's also a phone option available in 13 languages and a paper option available in two.

**Casey Farmer:** Logistically, again, there's a lot of work that they need to do to hire a lot of staff to make sure this website functions. And we have many languages spoken in Alameda County, and not all of them are on the census form, and we have a lot of translations and additional resources we want to make available to people. The state has put an unprecedented amount of money into this effort, they know that there's return on investment of us doing the outreach to yield the billions of dollars we need for social services. The programs that are funded by the census are mainly in the

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buckets of education, specifically special education and housing or Section 8 properties, for lots of healthcare and social services, so a plethora of them.

**Casey Farmer:** I won't rattle off all the acronyms, but lots of programs our communities really need, and frankly we can't afford to lose any funding, we don't have enough to provide everything we need in our community now. So here's a list of the hard-to-count populations, and a map that shows you where they're concentrated. So other populations that are frequently undercounted are children, zero to five, if they maybe live in different households during different parts of the week, un-housed individuals. We have a huge effort to count our people experiencing homelessness, very hard to reach them, but we are getting organized and building a strategy to do so. And particularly in the census, people without internet access. Here's another map of the county and some hard-to-count areas. You can see some parts of Alameda definitely need a lot of outreach to ensure that everyone has access.

**Casey Farmer:** We have over 57 languages spoken, we're 15% immigrants, many people who are on probation or parole, and 8000 people experiencing homelessness. The Census Bureau, not me, because I work for the county, but the census bureau is doing a lot to ensure that the website is secure. And they're doing a lot of encryption, their purchasing websites that could look like a faux census, to ensure that the website is secure. And we, as Alameda County, consider our role to protect the community, this is our shield. And it's three parts: It's providing information, we have a lot of handouts, we're going to have a lot more information during the census time, when people really need to see the information and we need to equip trusted messengers. So the philosophy is that we should go and equip the people who are already trusted for services.

**Casey Farmer:** So teachers are highly trusted, health providers, and a plethora of other ones or perhaps yourselves in your community. And we want to weave into the fabric of how our county, city, and community programs work during a specific window, which is really next to March through May is when the best time to take the census, during the self-response window. Census day is April 1st, but the census will get started in the mail just two weeks after the presidential primary. Here's that timeline for you, we're raising awareness and doing our planning now, or doing the education and planning now, and then we'll move into the awareness phase next spring, when we're opening up our questionnaire assistant centers, we're training people who might help folks participate in the census. We might do some information sessions with groups that need to know about why the census is important in order to motivate them to participate.

**Casey Farmer:** And then we need to activate our community, and that's really through March through July, as I mentioned, March through May, is really the time to do self-response before enumerators, census-takers go out into the community, called non-response follow-up. And then we get new data in 2021-2022. This is a lot to read, but I'll just say that we did a lot of community engagement. We have a people with disabilities subcommittee for our committee, we met yesterday, and Jenny was there. A lot of great ideas are percolating up from the ground, from people with disabilities, from organizations serving people with disabilities, and that's really helped us to make sure that our strategy is going to resonate with the community next year. So we're doing direct outreach through questionnaire assistant centers, adopting a block, we'll have a youth PSA contest this fall. We're doing lots of communications.

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**Casey Farmer:** We'd like to make this easy for people that aren't following every component of the census. We'll provide you the content and you can get that out to your organizations in your newsletters, your social media or wherever people are already accessing... Who already trust you and read your sources of information. We're also going to provide lots of trainings, I know we'll have at least one or two here in the City of Alameda, and we're working very much in partnership on all of this with our county or city leads. And providing lots of materials and we hope that the city brands them with City of Alameda logos, etcetera. I wanted to show you this slide, this was our people with disabilities subcommittee, the values that they mentioned.

**Casey Farmer:** The one I particularly like is "Do With, Not For", to really allow individuals to do the census for themselves whenever possible. And respect was important, relying on the trusted messengers and empowering support staff. Okay, and we developed two key deliverables that we want to do. We want to have a very complete outreach plan. And we'll let the City of Alameda and you all contribute to this as well. Where we need to be doing outreach, who are the trusted messengers, what service providers have the capacity to incorporate census education, which service providers could work together to have bigger events, or bigger workshops, bigger affairs? However you want to make the census interesting, we look to your bright ideas. And we're also going to create a guide to train and empower actual people with disabilities to lead that outreach with their peers, give them a leadership opportunity.

**Casey Farmer:** I won't go over the citizenship question too much, as I mentioned, it's currently blocked by the Supreme Court. However, we're waiting for them to officially print all the documents without the question per the direction of the court. And what we do know is that we can't wait for our outreach to continue, and federal law protects all... Anyone's information from being shared. Any personal, or any of your responses are protected by law. So every individual who works for the Census Bureau who's found to be having access to your personal information would be arrested, put in jail, and have a fine of up to \$250,000 for violating this law. So we have a lot of education to do to get this word out to the public because they may not know that, but again, it's every... And they may think that this goes to Trump's inbox or to ICE or local law enforcement, but it cannot be accessed by any agency. And there's a number of examples in history where people have tried to get access to the information, like the FBI or when the President was trying to move, this was President Truman I believe, and he asked for information for the entire census track so he could know about the neighbors he'd be living near for that... When the White House was being renovated, and the Census Bureau refused to give him that information. So a few examples from history. I want to invite our city leads up here as well, and we'd love to take your questions. Would you guys want to present too?

**Eric Fonstein:** Yeah.

**Casey Farmer:** Great.

**Eric Fonstein:** Thank you very much, Casey. I'm Eric Fonstein, Development Manager with the Community Development Department. And I just want to reiterate what Casey said of what's at stake with the census. A lot of federal funding is allocated based on the US census data. And so what it translates is to like housing vouchers, child healthcare programs, employment assistance programs, and similar federally funded programs. Those are the type of programs that's funded

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through the county, and money is then allocated to the city. So having an accurate account, as complete of a account, is really important. In March of 2019, the Mayor of Alameda, Ezzy Ashcraft, formed a Alameda Complete Count Committee, and Commissioner Morrison has participated in some of our steering committee meetings, and the goal of the Complete Count Committee is one, increase awareness in Alameda of how important this is, and second is to motivate residents to be counted, to stand up, be counted.

**Eric Fonstein:** And then also to help be ambassadors to these hard-to-count populations. With the citizenship question compounding the distress in government or in this exercise of democracy, there might be a feeling of, "Well, I'm not going to participate. This is an unjust type of a census or a forum. And part of it, what we want to create is a message that being part of the... Being counted is a way of protesting, of actually having an accurate count is really important for the city. So as I mentioned, we formed a steering committee, and we're forming subcommittees to help reach out, and we are looking for ambassadors to help communicate the message effectively to all of the different audiences here in Alameda. And then Ana's going to speak on what's the next steps.

**Ana Bagtas:** Thank you. My name is Ana Bagtas with the Community Development Department of the City of Alameda. And I'm working closely with Eric Fonstein, the Mayor, and the steering committee, and also with the county, so thank you for having us here today. So I just wanted to give you a flavor of what we are planning for locally here at Alameda, in terms of getting the word out there about the census and get everybody counted. So with the steering committee, they'll be the governing body of the local Alameda Complete Count Committee. The work really happens at the subcommittee level, and we formed the subcommittees based on what we think are hard-to-reach populations here in Alameda and also in conjunction and in alignment with what the county had already established as a subcommittee so that we will have representatives at the subcommittee meetings at the county level that can bring back information to us here locally.

**Ana Bagtas:** So with the subcommittees, what we want to do is to really have them as ambassadors, as Eric mentioned, they really are going to be the boots on the ground. We are forming these ambassador programs. They will be trained, they will be our spokespeople who, if we need to go out there door-to-door when we know that we're not... because we're going to be getting reports from the county on a weekly basis after it hits. How many people are actually filling out the census, and how are we doing. And so if we need to really do a big push out there, then we will really rely on our ambassadors that are really from these subcommittees that are the trusted voices of these hard-to-count communities, including the communities in the disability community. So we really need to have a lot of support from the different subcommittees and through, hopefully, this commission, you can help us identify who should be on the subcommittees, and specifically for the people with disabilities.

**Ana Bagtas:** And as the Commissioner Morrison will be our continued liaison to the steering committee, helping us identify how to best reach persons with disability on the island. So just what are we actually going to be doing? So one of the first things that we have to do is form a census website locally for our complete count, so that we can disseminate information out there to the community, we can have the subcommittee's members send this out to your network, to your social media pages, all of that stuff, so that we can really get the word out there. And we have a very brilliant high school student right now who is helping us put together this website. He's excellent.



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And we actually have this logo that we're going to be looking at. I'll be sending to the steering committee members to vote, because he came up with some incredible logos that we're going to be using to brand our local efforts.

**Ana Bagtas:** And then this will be the repository of information that's coming down from the Feds, from the county, so that we will have access to all this information through our website. We'll also post events that we will be involved in. We will be sharing a table at the Art and Wine festival, and we're working with Laurie on that. This will be our outreach table for the census. And then we are also going to be at the Mini Maker Faire on August 11th, which is that big event at the base. We'll set up a photo booth, because one of the campaigns that we are going to be doing through online, and also folks can send us, is a photo art project. So folks, we're calling at the Making Alameda Visible, so people can have their photos taken.

**Ana Bagtas:** And then those photographs, we want to collect 2020 photographs at a certain time period, and then it's going to be an art installation, a mosaic. We will commission an artist to put this together, and then this big installed art will be traveling to different places between fall, all the way to the census, so that it will be a conversation piece when people see it at the schools, at the grocery store, at the banks, anywhere where all our hard-to-reach populations go. So again, we will need folks to kind of identify where should we install this next. So maybe a weekly here and a weekly there, but it will be first installed here on... At city hall. And then in addition to the art installation project, we have a pledge, I Will Be Counted project, where folks can go online, again, on our website and say, "Yes, I will be counted during the census, and I will let my neighbors know about the census so that they will be counted as well." We'll have those printed on postcard-size cards, and then that we'll hand out at different events as well.

**Ana Bagtas:** So again, we want to collect 2020 photos. It's a way to really get the word out there, to get the buzz in, and spread it to the social media. We did apply for some grants, and we're hoping that we will get funded so that a lot of these efforts will be funded so we can really get a lot of work done. And then this art installation is also going to be revealed at a fall barbecue, free event for the entire community that we're planning at Crab Cove this fall. So stay tuned. There's going to be a lot of activities happening. We're trying to make census exciting. And that's an exciting time right now when people are really distrustful of government and so. But in Alameda, we want to make sure that the folks are really involved and we want to make it a community effort. We will continue working with Commissioner Morrison, passing on some information to you and then also getting information back from you about how can we best do this and reach the populations that we are trying to reach for the census. Anything else that I missed, Eric? So yeah, please. We would like to get your input and involvement and if you have any questions for Casey or Eric or myself, we'd be happy to answer them.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Great. Thank you guys so much for coming to speak as... A extremely important topic. So we really appreciate you guys coming out to speak to us and to the people who are listening at home. Commissioner Brillinger, would you like to start off?

**Arnold Brillinger:** Thank you very much for coming. I think that most of us, when we leave our homes, we see our neighbors and we know who they are. We know that there are several adults and two kids and all that kind of stuff. It's like a lot of us don't realize that there are nursing facilities,

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that we never see those people. They have no faces, they have no identity, nothing to us, because we never see them. They're warehoused in these big buildings, and there are hundreds of them. Down in South Shore area, by the hospital, up here by the bridge. There are hundreds of people that are warehoused and I just want to make sure that they are also counted because they're very deserving.

**Ana Bagtas:** Absolutely, yes. I totally agree with you and I will put the homeless population there as well. We will make sure that we are out there and counting those folks. So the folks who are in these facilities are easier to count because they're in one place and we can work with the administrators to make sure that they're counted. And then similarly for folks who are sort of transients and homeless, we will be setting up all kinds of strategies in how to count them. And we, in our department, actually, we do work with the non-profit organizations that are out helping and working with the homeless population. So we will be out there and make sure that... You're exactly right, that they're counted.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Commissioner Morrison?

**Leslie Morrison:** Well, I feel like I know a lot about this and I'm going to make a similar plug to make sure that everything that you have in writing, has a link to a website so that people with vision impairments can access that on their smart phones or on their computers, not necessarily thinking just about people who are sighted.

**Ana Bagtas:** Absolutely.

**Leslie Morrison:** When we select a logo, I'm probably going to talk about making sure that any images like that should be captioned so that people who are using a screen reader can then read a caption of what the image is of.

**Ana Bagtas:** Great, thank you. Yeah.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Commissioner Linton?

**Jenny Linton:** Yesterday at the census meeting, I met a graduate student working up at Cal in the School of Public Policy on the census. The group that she's working with is the group that got out the vote in 2016. So I think it's no coincidence that you're working here together today. What are we doing in Alameda to make sure those who are counted are also registered to vote or is it these independent efforts? Because you must have very similar issues with getting to meet these more difficult populations?

**Ana Bagtas:** Yeah, absolutely, makes sense. That's a good point. As far as I know right now we have not really talked about it - except for through Laurie - that we're going to be sharing a booth at the Art and Wine festival. But I think we definitely need to have this conversation and as many ways that we can partner, the better, because we're trying to do the same similar purpose of trying to get the vote out on trying to get the census completed. So, yeah.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Yeah. To your point, if we can have marketing information that you guys are exchanging so that it's like, "Okay, you want to register to vote. Well, do you know, are you

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prepared to take the census?" And vice versa. We can really leverage having many groups involved, and hopefully get a successful outcome in all of these.

**Jenny Linton:** Thank you.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Commissioner Kenny?

**Beth Kenny:** I just wanted to say thank you for your work. And I feel really confident in the two commissioners we have assisting you guys. So keep us informed of what you need and thanks.

**Anto Aghapekian:** Same with me. Thank you for coming.

**Ana Bagtas:** Thank you.

**Lisa Hall:** Thank you guys for all you're doing. I know that it is important to reach out in the census, just like when we try to get a count of, just in Alameda, of disabled people. People do not want to give out the information, they want to guard their privacy. And many people, especially within the disabled community, are leery of the government and of what. So, the fact that we can put it out there as the commission that we are supporting of what we're trying to do, whether it be voting or the census, that this is a good thing. It is a good and honest thing for people to understand that it isn't something that they should be afraid of, because there is a lot of fear and we want to spread the good truth to combat that fear...

**Eric Fonstein:** We'd just like to add that a lot of our subcommittees kind of overlap in the populations that they work with, whether it's seniors, whether it's immigrant communities, there's a lot of overlap. So as many messengers means that people hearing message from people that they trust, whether it's parents, medical clinics or whatever. I think it reinforces that message.

**Ana Bagtas:** And I'd also like to mention that we are working with Sarah Henry, who's our Public Information Officer in the messaging. So, I know she's going to be forming some kind of a media subcommittee so, if folks are interested in serving on that subcommittee as well about what's the proper way of getting that message across, and what kind of messaging should we be looking at in terms of reaching the populations we want to reach? We'd be more than happy to hopefully have some representation from you.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Commissioner Roloff. Okay. I just had one question. You mentioned that it's going to try to be doing some of it online. How are they contacting people online? Is it pulling from voter registration email addresses or...

**Ana Bagtas:** Actual census itself.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Right.

**Ana Bagtas:** Okay.

**Casey Farmer:** So every address will receive information in the mail starting March 12th, and the

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first is a letter with a 12-digit pin number and a QR code encouraging you to take the census online. And it's also mobile-friendly, but I like the idea of the app for those who are sight impaired who might get assistance in accessing that. And then you'll get a number of reminder postcards from the census, and the final notification that they send you is actually the paper form. So if you don't complete the online option, you'll have the paper form that does get to your house as well. It obviously makes it more efficient for the Census Bureau to have people type in their information, but, if you prefer paper, that is available to you, as well as a phone option, if you prefer to speak with someone directly. The only other thing I wanted to emphasize is that we have asked the Census Bureau to clarify what its blind access plan is. We know that they intend to print instructions in Braille, but that is... We don't believe that that's efficient, so we're looking for additional resources so that they are really providing the access to the blind community.

**Ana Bagtas:** I just wanted to add as well, one of the challenges for us here in Alameda is that we have had many ADUs, additional dwelling units that had been built since last census 10 years ago and, I know working with Laurie - because Laurie is our census guru for mapping our streets and our tracts - that's going to be an issue because the address is only for one household, for that one address. But people might forget that you have to count the person. Or people or families living in your ADU or additional dwelling units. And also, because of the high cost of living in the Bay Area, including Alameda, one household may have three or four families living in it, and everyone has to be counted, including children and infants. So that's another education that we have to get across to our community.

**Laurie Kozisek:** I am tracking all legal ADUs.

**Ana Bagtas:** Yeah. True.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Great. I just wanted to highlight the fact that you guys were talking about how funding comes into effect knowing our population. And a lot of our conversations, especially lately seem to be like, "Where's the funding? Where can we get more money for programs on disabilities?" So, emphasizing that if we have a fuller population count, we're hopefully going to receive more funding for programs that are needed in our communities. So, I wanted to thank all of you for coming out and talking to us about this. And we as a group will keep thinking about ways that we can support you guys and help give ideas of more ways that we can get people properly counted. So, thank you so much.

**Ana Bagtas:** Thank you very much. Thank you. Appreciated.

4-C Michael Pereira, Executive Director, Ala Costa Centers  
Services provided by the Ala Costa Centers

**Jennifer Barrett:** Okay. We'll move on to the next part of our agenda. Michael Pereira, Executive Director of Ala Costa Centers is here to talk about the center.

**Michael Pereira:** Hi, good evening everybody. Forgive me if I have a little bit of the summer cold, but... and my audience left.

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**Leslie Morrison:** We're your audience.

**Jennifer Barrett:** People watching from home. So you've got that too.

**Michael Pereira:** No, it's great. Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak to you guys as a commission. I had the opportunity to meet a few of you at an event that was held by the city in late March. It was the grand opening of a disability accessible play structure at Littlejohn Park. And that is what kind of allowed me the opportunity to meet Commissioner Roloff, and Aghapekian.

**Michael Pereira:** And it was really a eye-opening experience to obviously see that honestly, that this commission even existed, and so it was really, really terrific that you guys are taking on a lot of the issues that are facing this general community. I applaud the commission's effectiveness. They'd listen to important issues like the census, and important issues like voter registration which as you guys all know, impact the disability community directly, unfortunately for the worse. I have some slides, I guess mine is definitely not as hi-brow as that. I'm here to introduce the organization which I lead. My name is Mike Pereira, I am the Executive Director of Ala Costa Centers, and we are a service provider that provides a few services to the IDD community in particular. And so as we get going, I'll kind of just give you a quick run-down about those things. I'm wanting to obviously give you guys some context about what the organization I do serves. I had the opportunity obviously to see Commissioner Linton today at the Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council. So I'm now a member of that, which is good I guess.

**Michael Pereira:** Alright, so as I said, my name is Mike. I'm the Executive Director of Ala Costa Centers. Ala Costa Centers was an organization that was founded in 1972 by families that were looking for services. Families that at the time 40 years ago, 50 years ago there was a dearth of services. And I'm proud to say that there's much more opportunity and access for our community now, but it's certainly something that's, I think, is constantly under assault by the same things you were mentioning, Commissioner Barrett, about just general funding. It initially began as an organization that would provide after-school services which we currently still do, and that's what we're doing in Alameda currently. At the time, it also offered social recreation services, and respite care. The organization's initial mission was to provide an avenue for families that were needing services outside of school; to be able to gain access to community-based involvement and engagement. In 2008 and 2009, the organization diversified their programming options to include adults.

**Michael Pereira:** Currently our organization in total serves just under 100 people every day. The greatest percentage of those are actually adults, or in our transition program, which I'll talk about in a second. And then about 45 of them are children or what we consider children, which is age six to 22 by virtue of the way the special education system identifies by age. This is the mission. I won't read it to you. Basically it's the idea is that we want to empower folks in order to lead their fullest lives, and offering support and guidance to families that may need assistance, and kind of navigating this myriad of systems that can be a barrier at times for people to acquire services.

**Michael Pereira:** Our after-school services. Again, that's what Alameda, our Alameda program does. Serve school-aged children. Right now we have 12. The capacity we have at that program at Littlejohn is very small because the facility there that we're using, or the site that we're using, is not

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big in square footage. We're only allowed to have a maximum of 15 people. Again, that's due primarily to the size that's there, not necessarily due to the need in the community. One of the things that we have actively now is a significant waitlist. That waitlist is driven by really three things. The space of limitation is one issue. But the waitlist is primarily predicated on the fact that we can't necessarily get the number of staff that need to be able to serve the folks that we have. And then access, really, availability. And that's based upon the way that the regional center and the funders kind of promote the accessibility for families to gain services.

**Michael Pereira:** Our goal there is to provide a safe environment where students can certainly have fun, and learn. We want to promote independence and self-determination, and that's sort of the hallmarks of this program. It's an after-school program, so we're not going to necessarily be doing reading, writing, or arithmetic. But it is a real world opportunity to provide socialization... Not just opportunities, but accessible means for them to develop these skills in a very real world, very real time way. We work on functional communication. We have a number of students that have... That are non-verbal, or have communication challenges. And we also want to promote leisure, recreation and again, building life skills. We're open 250 days a year. Basically, our after-school program operates from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM during the school year. And right now, when schools are out, we have summer programs, and so we do all-day programs. Our students are arriving at 9:00 AM and leaving at 6:00 PM. And so we are that kind of lever of support, and then obviously do community integrated things.

**Michael Pereira:** The adult program that we run is vendored through the regional center as well. It's based out of Berkeley. Our office is at the Ed Roberts Center. And essentially what we do there is community-based instruction. Even though we have a site-in office, the world is really the environment, the learning environment. Our participants meet our staff out in the community. We do travel training and all kinds of things in terms of making sure that they can navigate the world around them, but also in addition to that, trying to develop pre-vocational skills and soft skills that are necessary for them to actually gainfully get a job and keep it. It's not just one thing to be able to get a job, it's another thing to keep it which is sometimes a barrier for some folks within the IDD community.

**Michael Pereira:** Really, what it is, is the opportunities to provide a least restrictive environment in order to aid successful development of skills. And that's basically what it is. And the idea is to promote independence from transition-age, which schools will designate as 18-22, into later years of our life. The youngest participant we have in that program is 22 or 18 because we run the transition program as well for Berkeley Unified, but I think our oldest participant right now is 46. It's a pretty wide swath from an age perspective.

**Michael Pereira:** Going back to after-school. Again, mentioning those tenets we have, that are five primary domains of learning. Communication and motor skills because we have some younger children who are learning how to navigate their world physically. Leisure, self-help, self-care, social adaptive, pre-vocational, and then for those that have behavioral supports or need that kind of support, we'll do that. But everything is done through the lens of trying to create an environment where self-determination overrules. It is a student-centered rationale. The notion that they can make choices about some very small things can then hopefully translate into a generalized skill that they can do for much larger things. And so the new thought process, I wouldn't say it's new, but it's

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newly coined is informed decision-making. The idea that you can give somebody, any of our students, explain to them the consequences of whatever choice it is, whether it's heating up something too hot in the microwave, it's going to burn your mouth, or something larger, like crossing the street, if you do it when there's cars coming, you could get hurt. The idea is to build your curriculum and your teaching rationales based upon that idea that we're creating avenues for them to make choices that are informed and that will hopefully, again, lead to a more effective self-advocate.

**Michael Pereira:** Those principles are also honored and certainly are mirrored in that of the adult program. What I've found in working in this population for nearly 20 years, is often times participants as adults aren't necessarily getting access to certain ideological ways of receiving service until much later. What I mean by that is, when you're young, you're used to operating within a classroom, you have parents, you have families, you have things that are kind of helping you navigate things on your own and then when you get into adulthood, thematically one of the things that was consistent when I was listening to the people from the census and the people from voter registration is, how do you get access?

**Michael Pereira:** Well, access in the world is based upon our ability to advocate for ourselves. Well, if our participants as adults don't have those skills, at least introduced to them at a young age, it's very challenging for them to navigate a world that depends upon you raising your hand and saying that, "I need something". So that's what guides our adult programming and that of our transition-based programming, it's the idea that we need to presume competence, we need to have a dignity of risk by giving safe harbor for them to be able to make those choices without fear of huge consequence, and then promote those notions of self-determination that include choice-making, informed decision-making, problem solving, self-regulation, self-awareness, and self-advocacy.

**Michael Pereira:** So one of the things that was brought up to my attention when I was putting this deck together, is that people were curious about the referral process for our programs. Our primarily regional center clients, so they... Most of our, I'd say 99%, we have a handful of folks that have come, reached out to us and are ineligible for certain aspects of program, so they would then pay out of pocket or do this and that, but primarily we're regional center funded. So the case management referral comes from the regional center, so for those who are familiar with that system, you have to register with the regional center or indicate that you are a child or you as an individual have support needs that would benefit from some services. And we would start off with a tour and a visit, and then we have a formalized intake process in each program that evaluates the student's support needs and whether the programs that we have are appropriate for what they need and are aligned with what they desire.

**Michael Pereira:** Again, that's the other thing that's part of it, it needs to be based upon what they want. So the acceptance and determination of that is determined after that. Berkeley Unified is a little bit different. As I mentioned before, my organization has a contract with the unified school district of Berkeley, where we run their transition program, all of the students that come through there from 18 to 22, enter into our program and they fold right into, again, the adult program, so they're doing community-based instruction. There is a credentialed teacher that Berkeley Unified provides in order to make sure that things are aligned and there is an IEP process just like any other student that goes through that, but we already offer FAPE.

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**Michael Pereira:** So for those who aren't familiar, that's Free and Appropriate Public Education. That is the designation from the district that says that this is the placement in which they'll be accessing their IEP objectives. Okay, not too much alphabet soup, I hope. So, ACATs are slightly different which is our, again, on there. Because of their IEP process, that offer needs to be extended, right? So that comes through a team-based approach or a collaborative situation with the parents and all of the other service providers or the educators that are on that team. And we have a programming option, so there are other options within the school district and then by extension of that the Special Education Local Plan Area or SELPA, so the North Region SELPA, for those aren't familiar is what oversees, leads a more of a collaborative notion between school districts. So, Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville, those schools are all kind of... If they can't serve a student in one district, they'll look at another district as a potential option for service.

**Michael Pereira:** So we have some students that come from Albany, some from other school districts, but it's underneath the auspices of this contract that Ala Costa has with Berkeley Unified. So again, typical type of intake thing and then we get to the acceptance or denial. If we decide to accept them or they offer FAPE as the extension for us, their start date would be at the beginning of the school year like any other school program. Our primary funding is the regional center; 98% of our income, as an organization, is drawn from the state of California. So all of it is based upon the rates that we get for the services that we offer for after-school, for our adult program. And by virtue of our contract with the Berkeley Unified, the Department of Education, obviously siphons funds from there. Our Berkeley after-school program also has a Department of Ed contract, but that's primarily... Again all of our funding is state-driven.

**Michael Pereira:** My fundraising and what that percentage of that is not a big high part of income for our organization in reference to that. So essentially, the thing that I wanted to highlight for the commission is something that I think Commissioner Linton's heard many times in DD Council meetings is that our community in general for the IDD community program has had marginal increases over the last generation. Really only two and none of which maintain with just a cost of living increase. Through a yeoman's effort, from a big collection of folks across the state, we've been able to advocate for a pretty significant increase this year of about 8.2%, which is real money for an organization like mine that's going to be going through this next budget cycle. Which is great, but it pales in comparison to the service needs that are for the 330,000 people that are receiving services in the state of California.

**Michael Pereira:** Bottom line is, special education is well-funded and rightfully so, but oftentimes, there is a gap between what's needed in the education system and then what's needed for support for those with disabilities who are adults. And that gap is something that I'm hoping will get more recognized as more of this huge incredible amount of people that are currently being served by special ed are becoming adults. The need is huge. And, while this 8.2% is going to provide some relief, the system in general is floundering. It just is. And there's a challenge here, because of all these other things that are going on, where capacity is going to be impacted significantly. What I mean by that is, programs are closing. Just here in the East Bay alone, three or four programs in the last six months have closed their doors. Which means that those people who were receiving services have to find places elsewhere. But programs like mine can't find the ability to do that because we can't find workers or we can't have the funding in order to make sure that we sustain ourselves. So,



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not to be a wet blanket on things, that's just the reality of what my organization faces, and others like it in Alameda in particular, but certainly in the East Bay. The Bay Area is a very different place to operate.

**Michael Pereira:** So, the other question was, how the commission could help. And this is sort of where I pivot here into what I'm hoping to just hear from you guys. Sort of what you guys already do, which is local advocacy, is great. Awareness is good with municipal and legislative leaders. Providing contacts to us in the overall community to help improve access to services and address the overall issue of capacity as I mentioned. Right now we are partnering with Alameda Parks and Rec. We've been successfully partnering with them for a couple of years which was how we acquired the site. And we have a very, very low rent, which is super helpful for us as a non-profit. But in order for to serve this community that needs more, we need more space because it's just too small for us to do that. I had been initiating conversations with Alameda Unified. I have a board member who works with the Alameda Education Foundation, so I've had some initial contact with them. As I'm sure the commission is aware, there's been some turn-over at the district. So those conversations have stalled a little bit, which is okay, I'm happy to resume them when things get more, I guess, streamlined.

**Michael Pereira:** But, really, what I'd like to be able to do is to serve more folks and not just people with disabilities. The conversations I was having with the district were, "How do we create an inclusive model of after-school care?", because there's a need for after-school care generally. After-school funding across the board has really declined over the last 15 to 20 years, and those opportunities aren't necessarily as viable as options as they once were. And so, the initial fruitful conversations I had with the then special ed director and some other folks was really to try to create a different model for serving folks. And, also, that would be benefit to our folks with disabilities. Right now, we serve our 13 or 15 kiddos, students, and our community integration is very happenstance. It's based upon people using the park or us doing community-based outings, which is great. But they're not getting real world opportunities to work or co-exist with their peers in productive ways outside of the classroom or outside of recess and lunch. And it's hard to create friendships. It's hard to create relationships that will sustain them for the rest of their lives. So, that's sort of what we need to do, is to look at what's next, not what's in front of us.

**Michael Pereira:** And finally, I think the thing that I think this commission can do a really great job of, is just kind of being mindful of the fact that, despite all the folks that are retaining services now, there's this huge bubble of people that are going to be coming in. The population is going to triple in the next 20 years just by virtue of the number of people who are diagnosed with disabilities. Special Ed censuses grow every year. Rate of autism has increased in the 20 years I've been here, by what, 7000%, right? From one in 700 to one in 68 boys. That is going to create a major problem when it comes to getting access to services later. And organizations like mine are going to struggle to exist. Unless we're able to adequately fund or at least create differential opportunities where capacity can be grown to accommodate for all these people.

**Michael Pereira:** I had the chance to speak with Commissioner Linton and her son David a little bit before the meeting and I asked him where he was going to a day program, and he said, "I'm not going to one." And that's great because that's a choice that he makes. But really, the question I have is there other options for him that could be better served for him? He needs to be exposed to those

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options and, to be quite frank, I think those options are relatively limited. And that's not really much of a bullet point but as much as just the notion that there just isn't enough out there that provides something that David can say, "That's where I want to go and be part of the community." So the last slide I have is really just highlights, the numbers based on the 2017-2018 Department of Education census of, along the census lines of what people are being diagnosed with and getting services from in the Special Ed community, statewide. And that's not specific to us in Alameda here or certainly Alameda County, but it's just indicative of this huge growth that's going to come and let's be honest, people are living around major metropolitan areas, typically. So, the numbers in the Bay Area are going to be, commensurately higher than that of some other areas in the state that are less populated. And with that, I'm happy to take some questions, comments, thank you very much again for the time, I appreciate it.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Great, thank you so much for coming to speak we really appreciate it. Commissioner Brillinger?

**Leslie Morrison:** Thank you very much for coming. My thoughts were, I used to be, I used to work with foster kids and we always had the problem with from the 18 to 22 year old of transitioning. It was a real problem and that's where we lose a lot of kids. So I know that this is a very important work that you're doing. And my question, which I had originally, but was answered by you at the end. Because I wanted to know how it was funded and what we could do.

**Michael Pereira:** Okay, thanks, I'm glad I answered your question already. It's pre-emptive answering.

**Leslie Morrison:** Thank you for coming tonight. I'm struck by how few people are served in Alameda, and the fact that the need is great. And so I think that we as a commission need to talk about how to support you. The great rec equipment that was put out at little John is terrific. But if your space is such that only 15 kids can benefit from that, then there was somehow a missed opportunity there, and so I'm mostly struck by the need is great and you're serving 15.

**Michael Pereira:** Yeah, I appreciate your comment Commissioner Morrison. I also want to be clear too, I don't want to necessarily denigrate the relationship we've had with the ARPD. I'm not trying to be political here, they've been really warm and welcoming. It's been great to utilize this space, but it's because we haven't been able... We've gotten a lot of people who have come and been interested in our services and because we have students who, with special needs, tend to stay at a program that they enjoy and that their families appreciate. So it's been a rarity that... I've been the executive director since November of '15. So we had a pretty stable group of folks, we just had some folks to graduate, which has accounted for these available spots. So we've had to turn away some folks, we've had to seek alternative options for, for lack of a better term, child care. Whether it be, in-home respite, out-of-home respite and those services, for those who are familiar with the regional center, are not adequately funded either. So again, there's just a lack of... There is a lack of availability, more than anything. If we had a bigger space, we could serve more students. I wish I had a better number for you about what that is. But if you just look at the rosters, of the Alameda Unified Special Ed Department, most of those families would I think, jump at the opportunity to have an inclusive environment where their child can get access to services. So thank you.

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**Jenny Linton:** I'm very encouraged, 30 years ago, there weren't any places to go after school that were inclusive, which meant it's usually very difficult to be able to stay. So I'm encouraged by that. I'm curious also, in Berkeley, you run the transition program, for the Berkeley Adult School. And then those clients then stay on with you through the adult program?

**Michael Pereira:** Some do, if that's the choice they make. Some do, if that's a choice they make.

**Jenny Linton:** Is that fairly successful? Do they tend to stay?

**Michael Pereira:** Not to get into the math at all, our attrition rate's really low. Most of our participants who come with us and transition from Berkeley Unified want to stay with us and they like the program. Our hope is that they don't need us anymore. To be frank, our hope is that they come through and learn the skills and get to a level of independence where we can direct them towards more employment-based opportunities because this program as it's currently constituted, doesn't have an employment arm.

**Michael Pereira:** Now, that said, I was able to acquire a pretty significant grant from the Department of Developmental Services to start a customized employment program in which we're starting to do the beginning stages of that now, and that funding, which is a good chunk of change for us, it's about \$267,000 is going to represent a cash flow opportunity for us to be able to start that program and the infrastructure required. So hopefully it's established, vendored, and ready to roll by the conclusion of that funding stream, which is March of 2021. That's sort of a long-term goal that I have envisioned for the organization in line with the keepers of my board of directors. So the hope is that we build that so that our folks who are introduced in transition, who are entering into our community-based program, who are learning the skills in order again, retention of the job is just as important as the skills to acquire the job. Being of the community will then lend an opportunity for them to have gainful employment, and we want to provide a service that will allow for them to discover those employment opportunities and thrive in that environment. So thank you.

**Jenny Linton:** Thank you, looking forward to seeing you be able to grow.

**Beth Kenny:** Thank you for being here tonight. My son and I play at Littlejohn all the time and love being there with your students.

**Michael Pereira:** I'm glad, thank you, that's great to hear.

**Beth Kenny:** And I'm wondering ... is there any services for children younger than six?

**Michael Pereira:** There are. The regional center does offer services for early intervention. It's usually three to six. You know my organization doesn't offer those, but I've had experience, I used to run early intervention programming in another state actually. But there are offers, opportunities for that.

**Beth Kenny:** Wonder when you talked about working with the school board, have they ever considered other use for that facility?

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**Michael Pereira:** It's Tiny Tots. Yeah.

**Beth Kenny:** Is a preschool in the morning. And so that seems like a perfect opportunity to have a more inclusive preschool program.

**Michael Pereira:** It is. I think there are a number of logistical challenges that prevent my organization from partnering with some of that. For those who aren't familiar, I'm governed by a number of regulatory bodies, including Community Care Licensing, which has an age limitation on that. Unless you are specifically for a preschool population, which my organization is not. But that said, I think it is an opportunity to do so. I think I'm really for anything that's going to be inclusive. So introducing children to difference and disability and diversity at a young age is critical for what we want to be as a society moving forward. And so, if we can start it that young, great.

**Michael Pereira:** But yes, I think there is an opportunity there. I would love to participate in something that could allow for that to happen. It really would require like anything else, a lot of elbow grease and some creative thought. My hope was to initially get into the school age group, not just because it benefits my current students and that of the district as well, but it creates a real, a bigger swath of momentum to look at inclusive practices in different ways. If you're doing it in school, and you're doing it after school, then it introduces the idea that that's possible in different areas. In school is the thing that everybody can gravitate towards, because that is right in front of them for their children, from six to 18. So that was sort of the strategy behind targeting that. And also because again I think it would benefit everyone.

**Beth Kenny:** The other thing... One other thing I wanted to ask about is the, I noticed on one screen you said respite services, are those for students or for people who are in your program or for regional center clients?

**Michael Pereira:** Regional center clients. There are a number of respite, agencies, again Ala Costa used to have a vendorization for the respite, but I won't bore you with the math, but this is before my predecessor, two predecessors before me actually, two executive directors before me had to close the program, because it was inadequately funded. Essentially, it's based, we are a business that's based on manpower like anything else. Like any other business though, most of your costs are going to be related to your wages. Well, when you have special folks with special needs whose support needs are higher, they require different levels of support, which require you to have trained and qualified staff. When you don't have that availability of staff pool, like we do now, which is again contributing to a wait list at our Alameda program, you can't serve people. So if the rates that we're receiving from the state are too low for us to do that, to maintain revenue neutrality, you can't stay open. Truth be told. And this is, I'm not saying this to have anybody to feel badly for us, I mean my Alameda program loses \$80,000 a year.

**Michael Pereira:** The reason I'm able to support it is because of my adult program and because my Berkeley Program has other contractual days, but the Alameda program itself, we added the 13, 12, 13 students that are there now, six of them require one-to-one support. So that's six staff members that I've got for those six folks. And you would think, "Oh well, the cost of that person is going to be equal because the rate will be high enough for someone who requires a level of support." Well, that doesn't work that way from a finance side. It does from a one-to-one perspective, if I'm making

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\$30 versus \$10 for serving one person, you do the math, it makes sense, but when you've got six of them and six other students who don't, makes it a little more challenging.

**Beth Kenny:** Well, thank you for doing what you do.

**Michael Pereira:** Love the work. Love our students.

**Anto Aghapekian:** Thanks for being here. And you work with Parks and Rec, right?

**Michael Pereira:** With Parks and Rec yes, yes, we have a contract with them.

**Anto Aghapekian:** And you say that you need more space?

**Michael Pereira:** Yeah, it's a conversation I've been having ongoing with Amy Wooldridge, and she's been terrific. Again, we've been really fortunate to work with her.

**Anto Aghapekian:** And the space, do you think that you can have more space at the location that you are at right now?

**Michael Pereira:** Not currently, I don't know if you're familiar. You were there at the unveiling of the playground when the Mayor spoke. It's really two small rooms, there's like a kitchenette area and then like an ante-room and then there's a very small office. I don't know what the square footage is, I'm not very good at that kind of thing, but it's not big enough to house... Because again, when we go get evaluated by licensing which tells us what our capacity is, it's based upon the number of students who would be there in addition to the number of staff who would be there. So if I was serving people with lower support needs in that program, in theory, we could serve more folks, but it still wouldn't be high enough in order for us to really meet the needs that I think that the community has for the City of Alameda.

**Anto Aghapekian:** Thank you. Parks and Rec they contribute, only the space?

**Michael Pereira:** So we have an agreement with them for the space. They offer a myriad of opportunities for us to engage in, for example, with the park in particular, Amy reached out to us and we wanted to give some input about what some of the things may look like in terms of what would be accessible for our students. That was really great. I wouldn't say we were a huge influence on that, but it was nice to be participatory in that process.

**Michael Pereira:** Besides that though and again, what I consider really favorable rent rates, which is amazing for the Bay because it's just... Everything costs a lot. That's been great. And again, she's gotten me contacts with a variety of folks from the city to look at different spaces. Parks and Rec, doesn't have as many options available to us at the moment, but I know that she's got her ear to the ground, and I'm appreciative of everything she does for us, you know. That said, I could always... If I want to be able to build a program that can not only be revenue-neutral but to serve this population that has the need, I need the room. Myself or my board, have no interest in closing this program at all, but I'm not going to lie to you and tell you that it's something that is a financial blight on the organization, it just is reality. It's part of the way we do services, is we do things in order to

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subsidize other things so that we can serve more people. The mission of our organization is to serve as many people well, as we can.

**Lisa Hall:** Well, thank you, Michael. I have never heard of this center before. So this is wonderful information, you're doing great, and I'm glad you brought all this to our attention and that you guys know a little bit about it too, so hopefully, we can do what we can to support you and going forward in Alameda, and maybe that wonderful space is out there somewhere in Alameda, right?

**Michael Pereira:** I hope so. Thank you very much, Commissioner Hall, I appreciate that.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Great, thank you so much. I have a few questions for you. I have a cousin who, in Castro Valley, she volunteers and I'm not sure if it's the same program, but she goes with adults to a new job and she kind of helps them along while they're learning their skills and stuff.

**Michael Pereira:** Right.

**Jennifer Barrett:** And it's volunteers. That's something that you guys do or could do.

**Michael Pereira:** Yeah, we do have a volunteer program. We've partnered with a variety of local high schools, so we had a couple of students from Encinal a while ago. More recently, we've had an influx of folks from about Bishop O'Dowd down in Oakland. We're happy to take volunteers. Actually, there's a program we have at our Berkeley site that... I wouldn't say it's a program, it's an agreement with the University of California there, and they'll bring some students down to us, and they'll volunteer for a few minutes, a few days at a time. One thing that I just... It's not that we wouldn't take volunteers, because we have licensing requirements, there are certainly some barriers to just being able to take volunteers on, and certainly, when you're serving in a more vulnerable population, there are requirements that are there. So that in itself sometimes is dissuasive from certain volunteers. Did you say cousin that's doing that? It's great, it's great work. Castro Valley has a good partnership with the adult school down there to help with job readiness. As a part of our ACAT program, we started a partnership with Berkeley adult school to do something very similar, so that's great. Hopefully, she enjoys the work.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Yeah. Great, and then is transportation an issue for your getting people...

**Michael Pereira:** Yes, I think truth be told, truth be told, I should say, transportation, housing, staffing, those are the three pillars of problems for the disability community, regardless of whether or not you're IDD, or other than that. These are overarching challenges. Currently, in the East Bay, there are primarily two transportation providers. First Transit and Paratransit. And both, while I think great services, have their challenges. I certainly don't want to use this as a forum to bash them, because I could be here forever. But certainly, despite the efforts of a lot of folks the transportation is the biggest problem.

**Michael Pereira:** Case in point, one of the things that's limitation for our growth in our Berkeley program is specifically school-based transportation. So what school districts are starting to do now, as a way to cut cost, is they're really adhering to the hard line of being able to only provide transportation to folks within the school district. Well, what's happened over the last 10, 15 years is

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after-school programs have gone the way of the dodo. Unless there are extensions of the school, right? Unless the school themselves are running an after-school program for the students that are there, after-school programs aren't as commonplace anymore. And so parents are having to kind of navigate that world a little bit differently where a school district will take them home, which is what they're required to do by law but not necessarily to an after-school program that is just across the city boundaries. And that's not something that necessarily this commission can necessarily address, but it is a reality of what's happening.

**Michael Pereira:** So for example, one of our students who is an Alameda resident attends high school in Oakland. So he has to take First Transit, which is super reliable for part of his day but super unreliable for another part of his day and so sometimes he has to take an Uber or Lyft or a taxi to be able to get where he needs to go, to be able to access program or things in his community. And that's something that, unfortunately, the parent had to advocate for in order to receive that service without paying out of pocket by themselves. So transportation is a major issue just in general.

**Michael Pereira:** And one of the reasons why we have travel training as a big component of what we do even for our younger students. Like for example, I'm the executive director, but I serve students too. Because of staff shortages I was serving the students and we were taking them on the 19 going down the park. To go to the dollar store or to go get something to eat or go to a restaurant. A lot of our families don't necessarily do those things with their children because of whatever reasons, and we have an opportunity to teach those skills or introduce those things to them, and so that's what we do. So thank you for your question.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Great. Thank you so much for coming to speak to us. I think we all learned a lot, and we really appreciate you, your time.

**Michael Pereira:** Thank you very much for your time and I'm appreciative of what you guys do as a commission. So thank you so much.

## **5. OLD BUSINESS**

**Jennifer Barrett:** Okay, we're going to move onto Item Number 5, Old Business: Commission and Board Liaison Reports. Commissioner Brillinger, we'll start with you.

**Arnold Brillinger:** Okay. The subject that I'm usually talking about is transportation, and here at Alameda. Now with site A getting closer to fruition. The AC Transit is working the Line 96 to include around site A to pick up people. I also wanted just say that BART has been trying to harden their fare gates, their access because you've seen on the news, all the people who just walk through there. And so at Richmond, they put up some fare gates that are double what you see now. There's the one, and another one right above it.

**Arnold Brillinger:** And I said, "I'm going to go and see how this is working. This could make a good TV show." You know, for some kind of hilarious things, as to how people are trying to evade their fare. There was one, there was a girl. She was maybe in her 20s, and probably close to my size, and she went barreling through there. It was just funny. There were several teenagers that went on their belly and snaked underneath the gates. To me, it doesn't seem like it really did much to cut

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it down. I would say probably 30% of the people who went in in Richmond during the half hour I was sitting there in my wheelchair. I would say 30% of them evaded the fare, even with the new gates. And they're going to try a different kind here at Fruitvale. We'll see what that does, but I'm not sure that that's going to be much help, either.

**Beth Kenny:** Commissioner Brillinger, I've heard reports that the new fare gates... I actually saw a video of a woman in a wheelchair, and where they were closing would be basically on her head. Has any of that stuff come up at the BART meetings?

**Arnold Brillinger:** Well, was it on the TV?

**Beth Kenny:** It was on social media. I'll find it and send it to you.

**Arnold Brillinger:** Well, as far as I know... See, if the bottom one is open, the top one will also be open. They're on the same thing that opens and closes. I don't think that there's a way of just getting your head trapped as you're going through.

**Beth Kenny:** Good, because yeah. It was a scary video, to watch this woman.

**Arnold Brillinger:** If someone could just have some cameras there just to see the way that people try to get through there because some of them are looking at it, and they say, "Oh, this is new. How can I get through there?" And the side fences are a little bit higher now than they were before but people will still jump over them. And BART knows it. They've got some cameras. They ought to be the ones putting on the TV show. They could probably make enough money off of these people. They've got some cameras there, and it... The people downtown in the BART's office get to see it, and I don't know if they laughed as much as I did on the inside or not. But I just wanted to share that with you.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Commissioner Morrison?

**Leslie Morrison:** Well, I don't have to give an update on the complete count because I luckily had lots of people who were much more expertise than I was, but I've been attending some of those meetings. I'm also on SHHRB, but I don't believe that they've had any meetings lately, but I do have it on my radar, that the next time they convene, I will be a liaison to that group.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Great. Commissioner Linton?

**Jenny Linton:** I don't have anything, either. I went to the complete count meeting yesterday, but I think we got a pretty good summary. Debra came too.

**Leslie Morrison:** Thank you for going for me.

**Beth Kenny:** I don't have any update at this time.

**Anto Aghapekian:** I don't have anything major, except that at Mastick things are moving pretty well. The accessibility is becoming more and more accessible, should I say? Mastick is doing just



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fine. I haven't been to the city council meetings. I find them to be a lot of time that we have absolutely nothing to do with. And other than that, I have nothing to report.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Commissioner Hall?

**Lisa Hall:** I just want to announce that everyone may have seen there's a flyer about free legal help, and this is being paid for by our wonderful city of Alameda. They're having clinics at the Alameda Free Library, and also at the Centro Legal De La Raza offices in Oakland. And it's free legal advice, housing advice, and other questions. And it's all free, and it's great information, and the next clinic at the Alameda Free Library is July 15th, if anybody wants to go, and more information.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Great. I have a few updates. I spoke at the Downtown Alameda Business Association for my little ADA project that I'm working on to increase accessibility for our local businesses, had a huge group there to talk to. So that was nice and I got a few questions afterwards, so that's been going well. I have been in contact with people in the city on the facade grant that I know we asked about whether we could get funding for it. From my understanding from the city officials is that the purpose of the facade grant is to beautify our streets, and they are operating on a limited budget, and so they're not going to allow us to be part of that. But they did say that they got this funding from the city council, so I think that it's something that we can maybe come up with a formal statement to the city council and see if we can get similar funding.

**Beth Kenny:** Were you ever able to find out about that funding?

**Jennifer Barrett:** Specific for CASp inspections. Laurie.

**Jennifer Barrett:** I believe it's a percentage of when you've submit it to the building code your plans, a portion of that fund goes into advertisement.

**Laurie Kozisek:** And I believe it is being used by the permit office to advertise the availability of CASp program.

**Jennifer Barrett:** People who are submitting for building permits are being given that information?

**Laurie Kozisek:** Yes.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Okay. Great, thank you.

**Beth Kenny:** So are they taking all the funding or is there any available for this? Because it seemed like when you mentioned it before that there was a pool sitting there, so I'm just wondering if it's all going that way, or if there's any that could be used for this program?

**Laurie Kozisek:** I heard that there was a pool of money sitting there.

**Beth Kenny:** Yeah, so if we can access that pool, can we find out how we can access that pool if possible or if it's been taken by the Planning Department? So we know what we're dealing with.

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**Jennifer Barrett:** Right. We have to use it specific to the CASp, but at least we're doing something, and I think that would be great if we could send flyers out and stuff like that.

**Laurie Kozisek:** So what would you be using the money for?

**Beth Kenny:** To talk about the program that our Chair Barrett has designed, and that it's kind of a precursor to CASp. It's a step before CASp, so it goes hand-in-hand with CASp. And so, if we could get some funding to get her program off the ground, I don't think it would require a ton of funding.

**Jennifer Barrett:** No, I think starting off with being able to send flyers in the mail to local businesses and potentially, I mean, if it's a large pool that we can use to help businesses achieve that, I mean, that would go a long way towards getting places more accessible.

**Laurie Kozisek:** I'll ask about it.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Great.

**Beth Kenny:** Thank you.

**Arnold Brillinger:** My question is how were you received at ADA?

**Jennifer Barrett:** Very well. Yeah, there is definitely a lot of people. They were very thankful for me to speak there, and I got to talk to a lot of people before the meeting. So very positive, but not a lot of follow through afterwards. So I think people are really thankful that we're doing this, and they're really excited to hear about it, but there's not too much follow through, encouragement on actually implementing this. And I think that I personally should do a little bit more research into the tax benefits, because I know that there are certain benefits that businesses can get tax write-offs for providing accessibility, and I think if we push that more angle, because businesses don't have unlimited funds to do large upgrades, and so the more that we can find out about how much funding we can receive for them, I think that's going to encourage them, because they do want to make it a... Make places accessible, but if funding is an issue, yeah, I think that's something we need to look into.

**Beth Kenny:** And maybe it's just me, but if we could use that to get some funding where we could have a sticker that they could get once they go through the program. I mean, I don't know if it's just me, but I see a sticker in one store and then like three days later, five more stores have that same sticker for green businesses sort of like it happened that way.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Right. So I do have a poster. I don't have it with me, but it says, "Alameda businesses support people of all abilities." And then it has our logo and a handicap accessible logo on it. There's no funding, so I was planning on just laminating them and sending them out myself. But yeah, that would be great.

**Lisa Hall:** Yeah. Why don't you send your design.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Yeah, I'll send you guys again. Yeah, it's been a long time since I brought it up in the commission, yeah.

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**Lisa Hall:** I think that's a great idea, and businesses would be proud, and they're putting their little sticker, and once business sees it and another and another, and it shows their empathy for the community.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Right. And they seem to be very popular around Alameda. Everyone has their different cause that they love to show that they're supporting, so that's a great idea.

**Anto Aghapekian:** Doesn't this commission have a fund, Laurie? Don't we have some kind of a fund, like when we go to seminars.

**Beth Kenny:** The seminar money, that's fund that we have that's specifically for education for the commissioners, so we couldn't access something like that, we don't have a formal budget that we can pull from. Or that I know of. When I was chair, it was very much I would present, "Hey, can we get a banner made?", or something like that. And it would be on a case by case approval basis. So we could also try if there isn't that funding available, we can say, "Hey, can we get this approved just through normal city funding, you know."

**Jennifer Barrett:** Right, right. Okay, well that's a great avenue to look in. So, if I could partner with you since you seem to have a little information on that, that would be great.

**Anto Aghapekian:** Is there any possibility of asking the city to provide us with the funding for special project?

**Beth Kenny:** I think it's not that they don't or won't provide us with funding for special projects they think that we just need to present them with the special projects. It's not like we have a pool of money sitting there waiting for us to take special projects or whatever, we're doing out of. The city has been very receptive when I have asked for things. So it's not like there's some tight purse strings that we're not getting stuff. This is our annual budget for this year that I'm aware of.

**Lisa Hall:** So we get the perfect logo designed and then we all agree and then we ask city council and there you go.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Great, okay. Those are great points.

**Leslie Morrison:** For people who are wheelchair users, there are some more updated logos for wheelchair users that show more motion.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Definitely.

**Leslie Morrison:** This logo could adopt those.

**Lisa Hall:** We want that logo to replace the old logo.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Right, right.

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**Lisa Hall:** When we marched in the disability contingent that led the Women's March parade, the Women's March, excuse me, we had that logo on our signs and everything, showing in motion. That was so awesome. And so many people had never seen it, never seen it. And I told him, I said, "Well, eventually we want that to be the only logo you see."

**Jennifer Barrett:** Right. Okay, and then, oh sorry, sorry Commissioner Brillinger.

**Arnold Brillinger:** I, just in line with what you're talking about, if you need to send something to businesses, can't you see if the city included in something that they sent to all businesses, maybe when they get their business license renewed or something like that. Just a little blurb on the sticker or whatever, the acknowledgment, maybe if you're going there, I think that'd be a separate funding issue.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Right, yeah, that's great. Okay, and then just a few additional notes. Commissioner Hall pointed out to me that July 26th is the anniversary of the signing of the ADA, so that's a very exciting day. And then I wanted to mention that the Kiwanis Group working with the Center for Independent Living, they'll be having an adaptive cycling and fun barbecue event at Jean Sweeney Open Space on August 25th, and they would like people to RSVP [alamedakiwanis@gmail.com](mailto:alamedakiwanis@gmail.com). If you're interested, they'll have adaptive bikes that people can try, and seems like a great event. So.

**Beth Kenny:** And that went out with to our email listserv, right?

**Jennifer Barrett:** Oh, okay.

**Beth Kenny:** I believe I saw that but I just want to make sure that we should send that out to our listserv if it didn't go out.

**Anto Aghapekian:** It did. Yeah.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Okay, great. I know I had received it, I just didn't know. And then a member of the school board had reached out to me during graduation time, and Jennifer Roloff as well about accessibility concerns for getting grandparents and other family members out to the field at Encinal High School. So I went out and tried to evaluate what's the best route to get family members there quickly and safely. I'm not sure if you guys are familiar with it, but they hold their graduation out on the football field, which is on the far end of the school, very far away from the accessible parking which is at the front of the school. There is a small parking lot for the Bay Trail with two accessible spaces, but there's very limited parking back in that area, and the terrain for wheelchairs is not friendly.

**Jennifer Barrett:** And there is limited things that I could do, I made little suggestions about cutting the grass short and directing people to the best location. But it's something that we should think about for next year because it's going to be a continuing issue. And then on top of that, Encinal High is doing a lot of construction and as you look around drive-by Alameda, all of our schools are having a lot of construction and this is disrupting the normal accessibility paths that we have, and so it might be something else that we can work with the parent-teacher board and the school district to

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make sure that when they're closing off whole areas for construction, that we're still providing accessible routes that are short for people who have limited mobility. So. I think that covers it, yep. Okay, and then moving on to the next part of our agenda, I believe it's staff communications.

**6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

**Laurie Kozisek:** Thank you, Madam Chairman. I have no communications to give you, do you have any to give me?

**Jennifer Barrett:** Okay. So just to make sure we're all on the same page on this, we received an email yesterday stating that it will be on the city council's agenda for the upcoming city council meeting. It's not a high priority, so it might be moved to another agenda, but it's saying that they want to talk about decreasing the number of peak commissioners on the Commission of Disability and potentially decreasing the number of meetings that the Commission of Disability has due to a lack of quorum at meetings and lack of city staff availability. So I just want to pass it on to Beth for a little bit of background.

**Beth Kenny:** Yeah, I asked, because I did have the same discussion with the previous administration when they first arrived. And at that time, the commission was meeting quarterly, so we only had four meetings a year and first, I just... I would need to go back and talk about the lack of quorum issue, because that was something that happened in my first year on the commission when we were meeting quarterly, and it did not... It hasn't happened since. So I had asked the previous mayor to stop saying that and presented her with our actual record, but it didn't happen. Let me just let you know that I've been on this commission for six years. It happened once. I believe you were attending that meeting that time, Arnold, where it happened, but you weren't on the commission yet.

**Arnold Brillinger:** Right.

**Beth Kenny:** And it was before our former Mayor was even the Mayor, she just happened to be wanting to attend that meeting. Anyways, so what we decided was how we came up with if we wanted the commission to increase to nine, A, because it gave us a little bit more flexibility in meeting the quorum. We had, at the time, where we didn't meet the quorum, I believe was when Niels Tham had just passed away. There were seven of us, and it was flu season. And so there was only six commissioners left at that point.

**Beth Kenny:** And so we decided for it partially because of the quorum issue that was being brought up, but mostly because of the diversity within the disability community that the bigger representation... More representation would give us a better understanding of what's going on, because there are so many things that you can spend your life in this community and not understand what's going on with other parts of the community. And so that's why we thought nine was a good number, and then we had asked to go monthly at that point, and the quorum issue was brought up and said... So that's why we agreed on every other month at that point. And it's also when we moved from being in the room by the elevator.

**Arnold Brillinger:** The tower room.

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**Beth Kenny:** The tower room into the council chambers, and so we could be a little bit more accessible for people to watch at home and stuff like that. So that's the reason why we are right now. I don't really know why this came up and I am disturbed that this quorum issue is out there as facts, when it's just not the case. But I wanted to give you guys that background before we have any discussion about this.

**Arnold Brillinger:** Did this come only to our commission or to all the commissions?

**Beth Kenny:** I don't know.

**Jennifer Barrett:** I don't know.

**Laurie Kozisek:** I don't know.

**Lisa Hall:** And I can just reiterate from since I've been on in 2016 that we have never had a meeting where we didn't have a quorum. Right, so never seen that, right.

**Beth Kenny:** And I also want to thank Liam, yeah, for bringing it to our attention, because this was a referral that was made to City Council, and I saw in the email chain that you had asked, "Hey, does the commission know about this?"

**Laurie Kozisek:** Right, because this is the first we've heard of it.

**Beth Kenny:** This is Liam Garland, the Public Works Director.

**Liam Garland:** Good evening, commissioners. Thanks for having me. Let me walk through a little bit about the council referral process, because I think a lot of people aren't aware of how it works, and it might help fill in a little bit which is that essentially, I think, it's 10 days before the city council meeting, council members can submit a referral, and then that referral... if they get to it that night, it's discussed between the city council members and it's a decision for city council about whether to vote yes on the referral and provide direction to staff. So it's the first step before the council can take some kind of action or none depending on the referral and just answer the prior question. This referral was specific to this commission, it wasn't broader around the number of board members or commissioners and for other boards and commissions, does that make sense?

**Jennifer Barrett:** Yes.

**Beth Kenny:** Do you know what the impetus was behind this?

**Liam Garland:** I don't, I don't. And what I can say is that what Laurie and I can do is take some of the comments tonight, share them with our city manager who is going to be there, obviously during that discussion and ask for some of those comments to be related. Obviously, there's an opportunity to show up that night, and be a public speaker for that item as well, so there'd be other opportunities to share your viewpoint.

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**Beth Kenny:** Is there an opportunity to request that the item be postponed until we have a chance to find out why it was referred in the first place?

**Liam Garland:** Not that I'm aware of, I don't know anything within the council referral process that would accomplish that.

**Jennifer Barrett:** We would like to talk to the Mayor. I believe the Mayor and the Vice Mayor, the ones who brought it up. So it would be nice if we were able to talk to them prior to it coming up on city council.

**Leslie Morrison:** When is the next city council meeting, when it will be discussed?

**Liam Garland:** This coming Tuesday.

**Leslie Morrison:** Because the other issue that I have is how inaccessible it is to attend these meetings if you can't physically be here. And I think I feel very strongly, we cannot get members of the public here, people with disabilities to expect them to come to this meeting is discriminatory and there ought to be ways that the city makes public participation and the participation of council members, commission members, more convenient. We did have one commissioner who joined by phone tonight and it's not ideal. And in this day and age, it is ridiculous to me and then for the commission to be punished because they are not making it easy for commissioners who have busy lives, and people with disabilities in their lives to participate, is discriminatory. I feel that strongly about it.

**Liam Garland:** Understood. I hear you loud and clear. I would encourage all of the commissioners to make sure to look at the actual referral. It's online, it's public, it's easily viewable and obviously, it's for the city council to take action on that referral, or not. And again, just to underline, there might... The referral might not even be heard on Tuesday night, given what's on that agenda, which is, it's a pretty significant agenda and it's not uncommon for these referrals to go over a few council meetings before they're actually heard by the council.

**Beth Kenny:** I think that one of the things like I said, it is very upsetting to me that it's on the public record that this commission can't make a quorum. That is so disturbing to me.

**Leslie Morrison:** It's wrong. It's inaccurate.

**Beth Kenny:** To me, it also shows that maybe I dropped the ball part of the time, of not reaching out to the Mayor yet. And I think that you're right, Jenn, we should try and get face time with the Mayor and the Vice Mayor and let them know what the commission is about, because we do... I think they want to work with us, and I think we have a great city council and I think we can do a lot, and I think it's clear that from this that they don't know us.

**Jennifer Barrett:** It feels like they're not appreciating the work that we're doing in the community. And I think that this year, in particular, we've been branching out on all aspects, all of you guys are very heavily involved in our community and you have your special projects and it's huge and I think that I'm disappointed because the Vice Mayor was at our meeting last time, and he did stay for the

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whole time, even though he said he was only going to stay for a small portion, so I figured that he was excited as we are to work on these projects. And we don't know why it's being brought up, we're just kind of assuming. But yeah, I think it would be really great if we were able to talk to the Mayor and the Vice Mayor, prior to this going and being talked about in the public. And I, 100% will definitely be at the city council meeting next week and I very much encourage you guys and anyone that you know who has been helped or has helped the commission in the past, because the louder the voice we can provide, the more we can show that we're an important part of Alameda and... It's important. Yeah.

**Beth Kenny:** And I also think a couple of things. Like I didn't open the lines of communication with the Mayor when she first came into office, I just was overwhelmed from own personal stuff. And so it would be good to have those communication lines open for beyond this stuff for everyday stuff because we are a board that's to advise them.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Yeah, and I have introduced myself to the Mayor and invited her to our meetings and Laurie invites her to all of our meetings as well, but we can definitely do more kind of showing what we're doing. And so maybe that is regularly going to city council meetings and say, "Hi, I'm representing the commission, this is what we're working on." Maybe having more of a voice if they're not able to watch or read the notes.

**Anto Aghapekian:** Just listening to the today's presentations, it's mind-boggling that the board or the commissioners are thinking of minimizing the number of our members and minimizing the number of meetings. I'm thinking that with all this work that's coming our way, and it's on our agenda three nights out... We need to meet once a month, we need to meet more. We should have committees to take care of this. And this is really a very big surprise for me. And I think it's political. I think that there are some people in the city hierarchy that are not very happy with the work that this commission has done during the last few years. And I would use the word, they're trying to clip our wings, and that's my take on this.

**Beth Kenny:** I hear what you're saying Commissioner Aghapekian. Certainly during the last administration, I had feelings similar to that often, I do feel like there is a lot we can do to work with the current administration. I think that this is just a misperception more than anything else. And I think that since the question is out there of changing the number of meetings, who wants to change the number of meetings? I mean, why not meet once a week? Kidding you guys.

**Leslie Morrison:** And I think some of it is that they don't recognize the work that we're doing on the census and I think probably the work we did to get them at least we've talked about doing on engaging voters and the work with CASp, I'm not sure that they necessarily understand the work that we do outside of these council meetings.

**Beth Kenny:** And I think one thing that we talked about at our retreat was going to city council and kind of just during the public comment time, giving them an update of what we are doing, which could really help I think, communication. If they know what we've been working on. So that might be a good idea too. Along with meeting.

**Lisa Hall:** We need to get the record straight going forward. About our quorum, about our



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meetings. Obviously, if they look and they understand, they'll see how important the work we're doing and hopefully have a little more acknowledgement and respect. And it will be written in there, the true facts that, yes, the quorum has been met for the last four or five, six years. So please put that to rest.

**Jenny Linton:** Was the Vice Mayor here the night that we started late?

**Beth Kenny:** I don't know, I can't remember.

**Jenny Linton:** Like sometime in the last couple of meetings we started a quarter to 8:00 PM.

**Arnold Brillinger:** I didn't hear the question?

**Jenny Linton:** I said was the Vice Mayor here the night we started late, we started at 7:45 PM one night. The last two or three meetings.

**Beth Kenny:** The thing is we can speculate about what it is.

**Jenny Linton:** I guess it was 6:45 PM.

**Beth Kenny:** That the best thing that we can do is talk directly and find out what's going on and why this is coming up?

**Jenny Linton:** Fifteen minutes late.

**Arnold Brillinger:** Because we do have such a varied group right here. And the quality of people that we have here and their ability to speak and to compose things, for example, that letter that was sent by Shannon. What I'd like to think, I said we've really got something good going here, we've got a lot of people. And really we should be meeting like monthly instead of every other month because there's too much space in here to do something. So instead of cutting it back. Because when I first came these were quarterly meetings. So that was half a year that there was nobody there. I said, "This is crazy." I went to the city council, and I said, "What kind of events group is this because they haven't met for half a year?" And after that, we came on and so now we've got a very good group going.

**Beth Kenny:** Yeah, and I believe one of those was a meeting that had been rescheduled and the other was not making the quorum.

**Jennifer Barrett:** And to your point of having more meetings, I know it's a concern from the previous Mayor and I don't know if the current Mayor is. The attendance level of having that 75% attendance for all of our meetings. And I think Commissioner Morrison, you've touched on it too, we have people with disabilities, people get sick, things come up and I think that if we have meetings monthly, it's going to be much easier to achieve that 75% than when you're having six meetings a year. If you miss one you're already down almost close to 75%.

**Leslie Morrison:** And the meetings need to be so that if we're traveling, if we're unable to be in the

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building.

**Jennifer Barrett:** But you're free during the time.

**Leslie Morrison:** You can still participate in. I've been on other boards and there are ways that you can still be counted in the quorum without needing to be present in this room.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Right.

**Leslie Morrison:** Yeah. I feel strongly about that. So, the plan then is that we show up on Tuesday. But it also sounds like we're going to try to have a meeting or at least ask them to put it off until we can have a meeting?

**Jennifer Barrett:** Correct. And everyone comment in agreement or whatever, is that we, "we" meaning... I'm sorry, I'm electing people right now, Vice Commissioner Morrison.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Vice Chair Morrison and former Chair, Commissioner Kenny, and myself to try to reach the Mayor and Vice Mayor to speak to them prior to. And if we can't, arrange a meeting for post. And then as many of us as possible come. If it does go forward and is on the agenda, that we speak during the public comment period at the beginning of the council meeting.

**Leslie Morrison:** Aren't you able to be there on Tuesday with the data around the quorums?

**Lisa Hall:** You guys are going to try to send an email, or something to that?

**Beth Kenny:** Oh yeah. I can be there. I have to be at a meeting at 8:00 PM, but I can be there 7:30 PM.

**Leslie Morrison:** Or could you provide us by email with the data.

**Beth Kenny:** Definitely. And I've asked Laurie and Liam to provide the Mayor with the data as well.

**Laurie Kozisek:** Someone mentioned speaking at the beginning of the meeting. At the beginning for the public to speak is only for topics that are not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

**Beth Kenny:** Laurie, say I am not able to be at the city council meeting, and it is going forward, I will send an email to the city council. Can I include the commission. Can I include that email to the commission, not to have them respond, but just so that they know what I've sent out? Or is that a violation?

**Laurie Kozisek:** My understanding is that you can send it to me. I can send it. Correct me if I'm wrong, but I can send it out and CC everyone and say, "Don't say anything, but here's a CC of what is going on because my understanding with the Brown Act is that you just can't discuss it." But if you're sending something, it won't be on the public record though, because it's too late. The agenda is already published.

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**Beth Kenny:** I will be sending it to the city council, so that's public record as well.

**Laurie Kozisek:** Yes.

**Beth Kenny:** It won't be attached to the agenda.

**Laurie Kozisek:** Can she send it directly, or does it have to go through me?

**Liam Garland:** I think you can send it directly. You're not sending it on behalf of the commission, you're sending it as an individual.

**Beth Kenny:** Okay.

**Liam Garland:** Does that make sense?

**Beth Kenny:** Yep. Thank you.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Okay. Great. Any objections or comments to the plan? Okay. Great. And then one last thing, I know we're running really late tonight, but if you are available to volunteer at the Food and Wine Festival, if you could email Laurie and I, and the times that you're available. And we can try to coordinate that from there.

**Beth Kenny:** Could you send out the times that you need people?

**Laurie Kozisek:** Yes.

**Beth Kenny:** And the time slots maybe?

**Jennifer Barrett:** Yeah.

**Lisa Hall:** The date and the times. Yeah.

## **7. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Jennifer Barrett:** Item 7, announcements. Oh, Commissioner Brillinger.

**Arnold Brillinger:** I have one. I forget after the other meeting about that notice in that store front. The address is 1431 A, Park Avenue or Park Street.

**Laurie Kozisek:** 1431 A, Park Street. Okay.

**Jennifer Barrett:** That was the CASp certificate that wasn't signed. So we were going to take a look at it. Okay. Adjournment.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

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**Jennifer Barrett:** Adjournment. I'll make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Leslie Morrison:** Second.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Okay. All in favor?

**All:** Aye.

**Jennifer Barrett:** Aye. Thank you guys.