

The mission of the Mayor's Office on Disability (MOD) is to ensure that every program, service, benefit, activity and facility operated or funded by the City and County of San Francisco is fully accessible to, and useable by, people with disabilities.

Director's Report to the Mayor's Disability Council

Nicole Bohn, Director
September 15, 2017

This month, in addition to supporting the efforts of the presenters that we will hear from today on Deaf Awareness, the CA Deaf/Blind equipment distribution program, 2D Vision, and City and County of San Francisco Emergency and Disaster Preparedness efforts applied to people with disabilities and those with Access and Functional Needs (AFN), some of the Mayor's Office on Disability (MOD) efforts, activities and collaborations since the last Public Hearing are highlighted, here:

- The Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) reconvened on September 12 to a refreshed membership of about 20 representatives from the disability community, non-profit organizations serving people with disabilities and seniors, accessible technology experts, and poll workers. The VAAC is co-chaired by Director John Arntz from the Department of Elections, and myself as the Director of MOD. The first meeting focused on the following:
 - Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail System
 - The Department of Elections is required by California law to make electronic ballots available to voters with disabilities and military and overseas voters at the next scheduled election, which is June 5, 2018 in San Francisco
 - Two systems are currently being reviewed by the California Secretary of State and Director Arntz will be attending the voting technology hearing held on September 27 in Sacramento learn more about the vendors seeking approval
 - Potential New Voting System for 2019 (Replacement Voting System)
 - San Francisco currently utilizes a Dominion Voting System and the current contract is set to expire in December 2018
 - The Department of Elections is in the process of leasing a new system beginning in 2019, however this will not be a long-term solution

- Director Arntz plans to complete the RFP in November and there will be a pilot program, to include user testing, and an opportunity for VAAC Members to provide feedback.
 - Possibly Developing an Open Source Voting System
 - The Board of Supervisors requested that the City consider the possibility of developing an open source voting system
 - The Elections Commission passed a resolution supporting the City developing an open source voting system
 - The Mayor's Committee on Information Technology (COIT) allocated \$300,000 to fund an assessment of the City's options to develop an open source voting system.
 - The VAAC discussed the challenges of open source software and accessibility, including the need for accessible features to be designed at the front end of voting hardware and software. This can be a challenge, because open source means modules can be freely added on to the software package, which may or may not have been designed with accessibility in mind. The VAAC intends to monitor this effort.
 - VAAC meets every other month from 2-4 PM in City Hall. The next meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2017. Additional participation from members of the public is welcomed and encouraged. To get involved, contact the Department of Elections, MOD, or complete a VAAC interest form at <http://sfgov.org/elections/participate-advisory-committees>
- In collaboration with the Department of Public Works and SFMTA, MOD is providing ongoing accessibility feedback on the Better Market Street design process. This project, as well as multiple Bus Rapid Transit street projects now in various stages of development (and various stages of accessibility approval), may be a topic for in-depth consideration at an upcoming Mayor's Disability Council Public Hearing.
- SFMTA is currently exploring interest with San Francisco disability community stakeholders on the possibility of supporting State Disabled Parking Placard reform. This effort is in the very early stages of gauging interest. This item may also be a topic for in-depth consideration at an upcoming Mayor's Disability Council Public Hearing.
- The San Francisco Tech Council, which focusses on highlighting the technology needs of seniors and people with disabilities, heard from a panel that included MOD, The Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and the ADA

Coordinator from the SF Public Library on technology advancements and challenges that remain for people with disabilities in the City and County of San Francisco. As with the other efforts mentioned, feedback from the public on the intersection of technology and disability, and the gaps that remain, is encouraged.

- MOD completed a collaboration with the Entertainment Commission on the incorporation of current accessibility guidelines and recommendations into their SF Outdoor Event Planning & Permitting Guide. Following these guidelines will help enhance the accessibility, safety and enjoyment of our large scale public entertainment events for people with disabilities.
- In staff news, MOD welcomed Dawn Anderson in a 3-year Senior Building Inspector position on September 5, 2017. Ms. Anderson's work will focus on accessibility plan review and inspection efforts as San Francisco moves forward with additional city-funded housing construction across districts.
- The September Director's Report to the Mayor's Disability Council, as well as future MOD Director's Reports, will now be posted to the MOD website homepage under "What's New." Please visit: <http://sfgov.org/mod/> to review the reports. Additionally, MOD is in the process of improving the sign-up process for members of the public who would like to be part of the MOD e-mail distribution to receive news and updates. MOD anticipates that this feature will be live on the MOD homepage by the end of this month.

For questions or comments, or to get involved in or provide feedback on any of the items mentioned in this report, please contact MOD at 415 554-6789 or mod@sfgov.org.