

D R A F T

**City of Baltimore
Mayor's Commission on Disabilities – Bylaws**

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Article I – Name

Section 101. The name of the commission is the Mayor’s Commission on Disabilities (MCD). This name shall be in accordance with Baltimore City Charter, Article I, Section 23.

(City Code, 1976/83, art. 1, §243.) (Ord. 93-237.)

ARTICLE II – Mission

Section 201. The mission of the Mayor’s Commission on Disabilities is to work to remove barriers and promote equal rights and opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

ARTICLE III – Purpose

Section 301. It is the purpose of the Commission to advise and assist in the following areas:

- A. Advise the City on the accessibility of City facilities, programs, and services for citizens with disabilities;
- B. Assist the City to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008
- C. Assist the City in providing information and education programs to City government, businesses, and industries with regard to reasonable accommodations for employment and other issues concerning persons with disabilities;
- D. Assist the City with ensuring the implementation of the City’s Master Plan for Accessibility and Universal Design

Section 302. It is the purpose of the Commission to advocate on behalf of persons with disabilities regarding access, transportation, employment, emergency preparedness, housing, and mental health.

ARTICLE IV - Membership

Section 401. Members and Associates

- A. The Commission shall include 23 voting members known as Commissioners that include:
 1. A Mayor’s representative;
 2. A Representative of the City Council; and

3. Twenty-one (21) members appointed by the Mayor as follows:
 - a. Nine (9) persons with disabilities, not employed in the field of disabilities;
 - b. Three (3) family members of persons with disabilities; and
 - c. Nine (9) representatives of business, industry, community organizations, non-profit organizations, and organizations representing persons with disabilities, at least 3 of whom are persons with disabilities
 4. At least one (1) must be appointed from each of the fourteen (14) Council Districts.
 5. Each member appointed must work or reside in the City.
- B. Associates shall include one non-voting representatives of each of the following agencies:
1. Commission on Aging and Retirement Education.
 2. Health Department.
 3. Department of Recreation and Parks.
 4. Department of Planning.
 5. Department of Housing and Community Development.
 6. Department of Human Resources.
 7. Department of Transportation.
 8. Law Department.
 9. Community Relations Commission.
 10. Baltimore City Public School System.
 11. Office of Employment Development.
 12. Police Department.
 13. Department of Social Services.
 14. Fire Department.
 15. Department of Transportation.
 16. Enoch Pratt Free Library.
 17. Office of Emergency Management

Section 402. Members and associates shall serve without compensation.

Section 403. Members serve for a term of 4 years concurrent with the Mayor's term of office.

ARTICLE V – Officers

Section 501. The Mayor shall designate an appointed member as Chair of the Commission.

Section 502. The Chair may select a Secretary and other officer(s) as needed.

ARTICLE VI – Meetings

Section 601. The Commission shall meet on the call of the Mayor or its Chair as frequently as required to perform its duties, but not less than 6 times a year.

Section 602. A majority of the members of the Commission constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business, and an affirmative vote by the majority of a quorum is sufficient for any official action.

Section 603. All meetings convened for the purpose of conducting official business and that have a quorum of voting commission members present will be open to the public in compliance with the provisions of the Maryland Open Meetings Act.

Section 604. Meetings of the commission and committees may be held in person, by telephone, and electronically. Further, members and associates may participate in writing. The Commission shall make attempts to make meeting accessible. Each member and associate maintains responsibility his or her connection to the meeting. No action shall be invalidated on the grounds of the loss of poor quality of, a participant's individual connection presented participation in a meeting.

ARTICLE VII – Committees

Section 701. The Access Committee is responsible is responsible for increasing accessibility throughout Baltimore City. This includes increasing access to facilities, open spaces, programs, and telecommunications. The committee is available to provide technical assistance to any institution, public or private, which seeks to make its facilities, services, and programs more accessible. As opposed to coercive measures, the committee favors education and voluntary compliance for producing effective change. The committee assists in identification, evaluation, and developing recommendations for modification of all City programs and services that impact the major life activities of persons with disabilities.

Section 702. The Commission Development Committee is responsible for assisting the Mayor in recruiting, retaining, and educating new Commission members on disability issues.

Section 703. The Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee works to ensure that the City's emergency plans, and public safety services meet the needs of people with disabilities. It aims to increase the ability of people with disabilities and service providers to cope effectively with emergencies of all types. Activities toward this end include development of planning tools, public education, delivery of training, and drills. The Committee obtains input and expertise from members of public safety agencies, disability service providers, and people with disabilities. Through the collaboration of

members from the public and private sectors, the Committee will develop and promote best practices to enhance the preparedness of people with disabilities and the responsiveness of public safety agencies.

Section 704. The Employment Committee works to assure that employment-related information concerning rights, availability, and support services are readily available and accessible to all citizens of our community, including persons with disabilities. The Committee assists the City, public, and private entities in ensuring the employment rights of individuals with disabilities. It provides an aggressive program of employment information- sharing and research. The Committee is also responsible for developing an Employment Council with appropriate business entities (e.g., the Downtown Partnership, Chamber of Commerce, and Greater Baltimore Committee) to facilitate the hiring, promotion, and career advancement of individuals with disabilities.

Section 705. The Legislative Committee is responsible for developing a legislative agenda for the Baltimore City Council and state legislature. At present, this should be done in conjunction with the Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities to reflect the regional impact of legislation on people with disabilities. It will develop, review, comment, and provide testimony on proposed City, state, and federal legislation that relates to the Commission's agenda and affects people with disabilities.

Section 706. The Transportation Committee is responsible for monitoring and address the public transportation provided to individuals with disabilities. This committee was formed because transportation is a significant issue for individuals with disabilities in Baltimore City.

Section 707. The Housing Committee is responsible for educating and monitoring affordable and fair housing issues for persons with disabilities.

Section 708. The Mental Health Committee shall be responsible for providing outreach and education for mental health initiatives.

Section 709. The Chair may designate other committees as needed.

ARTICLE VII – Parliamentary Authority

Section 801. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern meetings in cases in which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with federal, state, and local laws as well as bylaws or special rules of the commission.

ARTICLE IX – Amendment of Bylaws

Section 901. They Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at a commission meeting with a 7 (seven) calendar days' notice.