



MAYOR STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE

“Continuing to Grow Baltimore”

Better Schools, Safer Streets & Stronger Neighborhoods

Lou Ann Blake, Esq., Chair

Nollie P. Wood, Jr., Ph.D., M.P.H., PDF, Executive Director

Mayor’s Commission on Disabilities FY 2016 Annual Report



MCD Committees and Members

- **Commission Development and Hospital Partnership**

Lou Ann Blake, Nollie Wood, Jr.

- **Hospital Partnership**

Frederick Murphy, Selwyn Ray, Lori Patria

- **Access**

Carole R. Young, Leandre Bowling, Sagirah Palmer, JoAnn Cason, Beverly Harris, Christian Fuller, Brenda P. Haynes, Ph.D., Sarah Hope, Phillip Scott, Ade Shittu, C. Maria Stokes, Erin Kelly, Rashard Barkley, Velma-Early-Boykins

- **Emergency Preparedness and Response**

Cecil Fox, William Brewer, Crystal Bright, Bernard Douglas, Khalilah Yancey, Shannon Snyder, Kim Eshleman

- **Employment**

Lou Ann Blake, Joe Chin, Kimberly Grade, Gloria Diggs, William Fields, Raymond Holmes, Ph.D., Linda Doughty, Jessica Salmond, Ruth Ann Wynegar, Sol Mogilensky

- **Legislative**

Carolyn Cornick, Robert Curran, Daniel Ewald, Jack Elam, Adam Levine, Victor Tervalá

- **Transportation**

David Greenberg, Betty Smoot, Gladys Hurwitz, Ivor Quashie, Marlene Hendler, Carmen Morasan

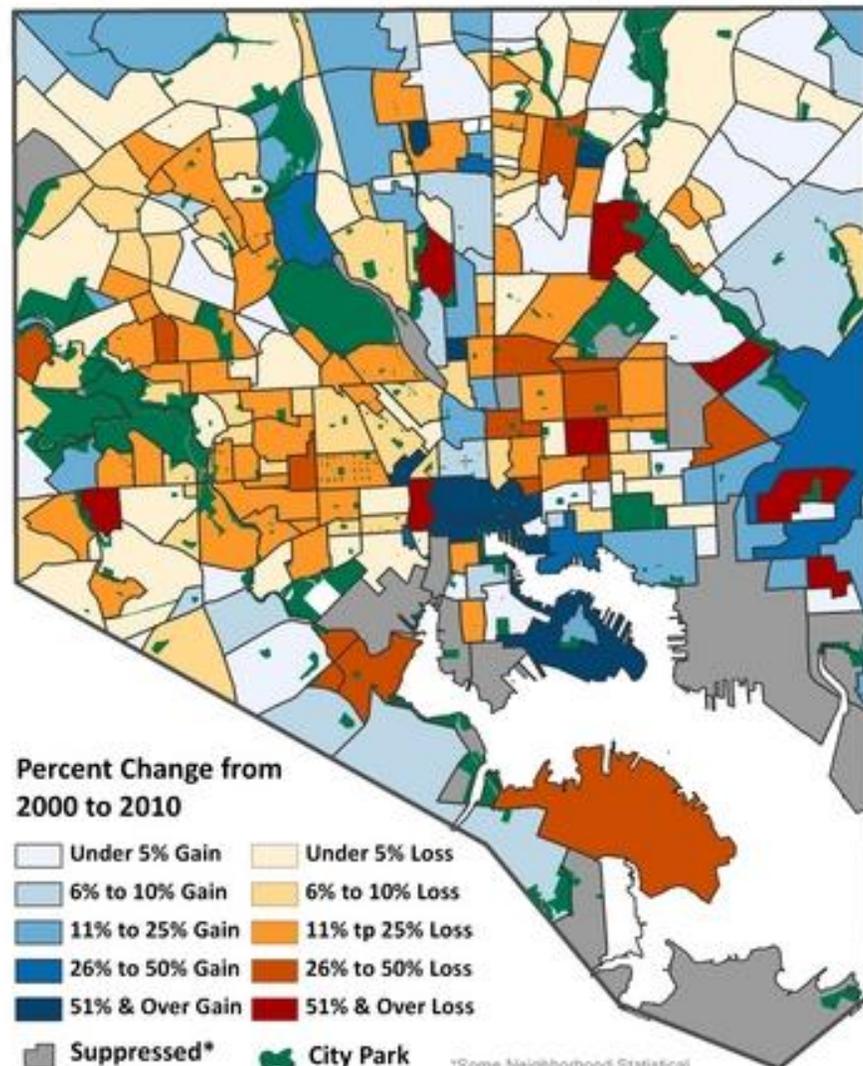
Mayor's Primary Goal

Primary Goal: Increase the population of Baltimore City by 10,000 households/families.

Accomplishments:

- Since 2010, the city's population grew by an estimated 888.
- From 2000 to 2010, 17 neighborhoods grew by more than 20%, while this was true of only 11 neighborhoods between 1990 and 2000.

City of Baltimore Neighborhood Population Change



Mayor's Primary Goal

Primary Goal: Increase the population of Baltimore City by 10,000 households/families.

14.6% of Baltimore's current population claims a disability, one of the highest portions in the nation.

Comparison of Cities with Populations between 500,000 and 1,000,000 persons and percentage of population with disabilities, Census -2014;

Baltimore City ranks 6th of 24 Cities

(Source: Percent of People With A Disability - United States - Places by State: Universe: civilian non-institutionalized population 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates;

Universe: civilian non-institutionalized population 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates; GCT1810; U.S. Census Bureau - American Fact Finder)

American Cities between 500, 000 and 1,000,000 population	City Population	Percent of people with disabilities	City Rank
Detroit city, Michigan	680281	19.8	1
Tucson city, Arizona	527948	15.6	2
Louisville/Jefferson County metro government, Kentucky	612775	15.6	2
Indianapolis city (balance), Indiana	851353	14.9	4
Oklahoma City city, Oklahoma	620553	14.9	4
Baltimore city, Maryland	622793	14.6	6
Memphis city, Tennessee	656876	14.4	7
Jacksonville city, Florida	853376	14.3	8
Milwaukee city, Wisconsin	599653	14.2	9
Fresno city, California	515985	14	10
El Paso city, Texas	679024	14	10
Portland city, Oregon	619445	13.7	12
Las Vegas city, Nevada	613590	13.3	13
Albuquerque city, New Mexico	557172	13.1	14
Boston city, Massachusetts	656051	12.8	15
Nashville-Davidson metropolitan government, Tennessee	644008	12	16
Washington city, District of Columbia	658893	11.7	17
Columbus city, Ohio	836293	11.4	18
San Francisco city, California	852469	10.4	19
Fort Worth city, Texas	812553	10.1	20
Charlotte city, North Carolina	809974	9.8	21
Seattle city, Washington	668337	9.8	21
Denver city, Colorado	663862	9.4	23
Austin city, Texas	912798	8.4	24

COMMISSION DEVELOPMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Primary Goal: Identify Commission vacancies and recruit appropriate diverse individuals for membership categories.

Accomplishments:

- Recruited, oriented and assisted three potential Commission members with the Mayoral nomination process.
 - Achieved representation from all City Council districts, except 10, 12, and 13.
 - Oriented new volunteer members from the University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, and City Agencies- Planning, Transportation, and Health.
- Monitored attendance, and where appropriate, intervened to assist the Commission member or representative to attend the required number of meetings.
- Represented the Commission at meetings and events, e.g. The Maryland Transit Administration's Citizens Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation, The Maryland Commission on Disabilities, and The Maryland Disability Forum.
- Re-oriented membership to assist in supporting the recording of minutes of Commission meetings and their dissemination.

HOSPITAL PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Primary Goal: Form partnerships with healthcare providers and targeted populations to disseminate information and raise awareness of the identified topics of community needs and interests of the Mayor's Commission on Disabilities.

Accomplishments:

- Identified two Baltimore City hospitals that evaluated existing portals of communication to healthcare providers and consumers reflecting the call for population management
- Developed a process for MCD committees to filter information to the Hospital Partnership Committee for dissemination
- Disseminated over 250 flyers for the Emergency Preparedness workgroup featuring free smoke detectors for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing

ACCESS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Primary Goal: Evaluate, educate, train, and assist with the improvement of accessibility at City businesses, facilities, and public/private accommodations.

Accomplishments:

- Visited and evaluated various types of buildings for accessibility compliance.
 - Reginald F. Lewis Museum
 - Sarah's Hope St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore (Follow-up from 2010)
 - Morrell Park Recreation Center
- Created an access handbook for new members as well as a survey checklist and report template to assist in meeting goals in a timely manner.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Accomplishments

Primary Goal: Educate the community about emergency preparedness and responses, the effects of disasters, and their role in disasters.

Measurable Accomplishments:

- Awareness of availability of information regarding vibrating smoke alarms for the hearing impaired has been broadened through distribution of flyers to community associations. Flyers were given to neighborhood associations in East and West Baltimore, starting in February through May, to distribute at their meetings.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Accomplishments

- A Train-the-Trainer program for the Fire and Police Departments on the topic of “First Responders Awareness of People with Disabilities” was held on May 26, 2016. The training took place at the Fire Academy and was attended by fifteen (15) trainers from both departments. The presentation was given by The Chimes, Inc.
- BEACON emergency alert system will be expanded to include providers of services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The new and improved system will be on line by May 2016 with the following organizations added:
 - Creative Options
 - NCIA
 - North Star Special Services, Inc.
 - Shura, Inc.



EMPLOYMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Primary Goal: 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.

Accomplishments:

- Continued to work with the Department of Human Resources (DHR) to identify ways to provide and educate the communities of Baltimore City's Hiring Preference for People with Disabilities (and Veterans).
- Created and submitted sample flyers to be reviewed by the Department of Human Resources to use in their creation and implementation of a marketing campaign to educate Baltimore City Governmental Departments, City Agencies and community resources of Baltimore City's Hiring Preference for People with Disabilities.
- Appointed Ms. Ava-Lisa Macon from the Department of Human Resources as the designated person to work with the Employment Committee.

EMPLOYMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Ms. Colet Mitchell, from the Federal Department of Labor Partners, Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), met with the Employment Committee on November 18, 2015. She assisted with goal development and plans on how to improve the effective use and application of the *Hiring Preference Ordinance* that was enacted into law in March of 2011.
- On April 27, 2016, Ms. Ava-Lisa Macon from the City of Baltimore Department of Human Resources - Shared Services met with and is working with the Employment Committee of the Mayor's Commission on Disabilities for the implementation, application and execution of the proposed "**MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES HIRING PREFERENCE INITIATIVE PROPOSED 5 YEAR PLAN OF ACTION - FINAL DRAFT REPORT.**" See: (FILE: MCD Federal Labor Commissioner Plan Proposed Committee Plan FINAL DRAFT REPORT – Submitted May 31, 2016.

EMPLOYMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- With the assistance of DHR & ODEP, the Committee drafted and submitted a plan entitled: **“MAYOR’S COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES HIRING PREFERENCE INITIATIVE PROPOSED 5 YEAR PLAN OF ACTION - FINAL DRAFT REPORT, (FILE: MCD Federal Labor Commissioner Plan Proposed Committee Plan FINAL DRAFT REPORT – Submitted May 31, 2016),”** for review and approval.
- **DISABILITY LAW SYMPOSIUM** - Lou Ann Blake, Chair of the Mayor’s Commission, coordinated the ninth annual Jacobus tenBroek Disability Law Symposium, *“Diversity in the Disability Rights Movement: Working Together to Achieve the Right to Live in the World,”* on March 31 - April 1, 2016.
 - Hosted by the National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute.
 - Brought 200 disability law scholars, advocates, and government officials from throughout North America to Baltimore to examine the status of diversity in the disability rights movement and explore ways to increase diversity to achieve equality of opportunity for all.
 - Keynote speaker was US District Judge Myron H. Thompson, US District Court for the Middle District of Alabama.

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Primary Goals: Monitor City legislation as well as develop and provide testimony during the Maryland General Assembly with respect to five (5) bills that affect the lives of individuals with disabilities.

Accomplishments:

- State legislation: Evaluated all disability-related bills before the Maryland General Assembly. Tracked the progress of seventeen (17) bills and submitted testimony on the following bills of which ten (10) became law.
 - House Bill 22 and Senate Bill 147: Interagency Disabilities Board – Membership and Duties – Community Inclusion Oversight
 - House Bill 85: Children with Disabilities – Support Services –Parental Notification
 - House Bill 86: Special Education- Translation of Individualized Education Program – Native Language
 - Senate Bill 171: Guardianship of a Minor or Disabled Person – Criminal History Records Check

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- House Bill 431 and Senate Bill 355: Maryland Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program - Establishment
- Senate Bill 413 and House Bill 1499: Developmental Disabilities Administration - Crisis Resolution Funding
- Senate Bill 417: Minimum Wage - Individuals with Disabilities (Ken Capone Equal Employment Act)
- Senate Bill 465: Community Colleges – Tuition Waiver for Disabled Individuals - Requirements
- Senate Bill 818 and House Bill 928: State Personnel – Individuals with Disabilities – Hiring Preferences
- House Bill 1501: Governors Office for Children – Family Navigators Program
- House Bill 1537: Priority of Purchasing Preferences – Individual with Disability Owned Business

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Senate Bill 417: Minimum Wage: Individuals with Disabilities (Ken Capone Equal Employment Act)
- House Bill 1537: Priority of Purchasing Preferences – Individual with Disability Owned Business

TRANSPORTATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Partnered with the Parking Authority of Baltimore City to provide feedback and awareness for Project Space initiative to improve accessible street parking in Baltimore. 100% completion of Phase I meter installation and on-going monitoring underway.

PROJECT SPACE

 MORE SPACE FOR ALL

- The percentage of vehicles displaying a disability placard or plate while parked at a meter is at 3.8%
- The percentage of total metered parking spaces occupied is at 74% (ideal number is between 80 and 85%)
- The percentage of parking meters/spaces reserved for people with disabilities that are being used is 50%
- The number of disability placards reported as stolen to the Baltimore City Police Department is averaging less than 3 per month
- Total parking meter revenues are up by \$967,282 (9.2%) vs. same period last year



TRANSPORTATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Partnered with the ADA Participation Action Research Consortium (ADA-PARC) to develop a workgroup to address transportation needs of the Baltimore Metropolitan Area.
- Developed a Transportation Statewide Conference at the National Federation of the Blind in Baltimore City.
- Hosted the Maryland Transportation Summit on October 28, 2015 in partnership with the Mid-Atlantic ADA Center, Central Maryland Regional Transportation Corporation, the National Federation of the Blind, the Maryland Department of Disabilities, and the Maryland Department of Transportation. Issues addressed included the current state of accessibility, best practices, needs, and updates of the Maryland Transportation System.
- One hundred forty-two persons registered for the Baltimore City Public Forum on Disability Issues for the October 2015 Disabilities Awareness Month event.
- Reviewed City information on ADA Self-Evaluation of Pedestrian Facilities, identifying over 2700 non-compliant ramps and nearly 215,000 feet of non-compliant sidewalk in the Central Business District (Downtown).

TRANSPORTATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The ADA-PARC sent out a survey monkey to all summit attendees. The following are highlights from their responses.

Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following:

Content of the Summit:

Excellent – 45%

Good – 45%

OK – 7%

Fair – 3%

Poor – 0

Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following:

Presenters/Speakers at the Summit:

Excellent – 38%

Good – 55%

OK – 7%

Fair – 0

Poor – 0

TRANSPORTATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Monitored thirteen (13) requests for right-of-way repairs related to ADA non-compliance of which six (6) have been resolved.
- Partnered with the City of Boston's proposal to create Google Wayfinding tool.
 - The goal of the project is to develop a navigation tool for people with disabilities that will allow them to map out directions to a destination with the most efficient and barrier-free pedestrian path available.
 - This tool will use data from participating cities that measure accessibility in the public right-of-way, such as sidewalk slopes, curb ramp conditions, and identified areas of non-compliance.

TRANSPORTATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Advocated for improved Mobility services for paratransit users in Baltimore City through MTA's Citizens Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation as well as other local advocacy groups. This advocacy has resulted in a Mobility 90 day improvement plan that the committee will be monitoring. The plan includes:
 - Maximizing number of vehicles during peak hours
 - Putting thirty-four new vehicles into service
 - Revamping the No-Show validation procedures
 - Hiring twelve more Call Center agents to greatly reduce telephone hold times

Mayor's Office Additions - ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Collaborated with the Board of Elections and Baltimore City Public Schools to inspect twenty-five election sites to ensure accessibility. Installed twenty-one new accessible poll entrance signs at eleven schools.
- Worked with the Board of Elections and Department of Transportation to ensure that Yorkwood Elementary-Middle School had a temporary ramp installed for accessibility. Installed a special forty-three foot ramp for accessibility at Catholic High School.
- As of June 10, 2016, responded to 358 complaints and requests for assistance regarding disability services, accessibility and accommodation.
- On Saturday, April 16, 2016, partnered with Global Abilities Foundation, Kennedy Krieger Institute, and the Baltimore Department of Recreation and Parks to put on Recfest 2016, a day of fun, games, music, and education for over 100 volunteers and 100 attendees at Patterson Park.

Mayor's Office Additions - ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Partnered with the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts to ensure a more comprehensive Accessibility Plan for Light the Nights 2016 Festival in Baltimore.
- Partnered with Best Buddies of Maryland and the Department of Human Resources in hiring a person with intellectual disabilities effective September 14, 2015 as per the Mayor's commitment to the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The employee's work performance is reported to be "commendable" by DHR. "When a project is assigned to her, she asks thoughtful questions and collaborates and cooperates with team members effectively and efficiently" stated DHR.
- Responded to and completed five ADA complaint requests for the following Departments: Public Works, Fire, Social Services, Housing, and the Parking Authority.
- Provided Technical Assistance for ADA complaint resolution to the following organizations and facilities: Baltimore Museum of Art, East Mitchell Courthouse, and North Avenue District Courthouse.
- Worked with the Department of Recreation and Parks on the ADA review of pool accessibility and updating their ADA monitoring report.

Mayor's Office Additions - ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Partnered with the Department of General Services on the development of an Able Wolman Non-Ambulatory Elevator Service Plan for the City to continue to provide government services at the Veterans War Memorial in the event of an elevator shutdown.
- Partnered with the Department of Transportation and Law Department on the development and implementation of the 2016 Seniors/People with Disabilities Snow Removal Program.
- Partnered with the Department of Transportation on the finalization of the Audible Pedestrian Traffic Signal Policy.
- Coordinated with six city agencies for the use of American sign language interpreter services for residents seeking information on government services.
- Worked with the City Curator and Deputy Chief of Staff's Office on designing accessible signs for the public for City Hall.

Mayor's Office Additions - ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Worked with Baltimore Housing, Baltimore Development Corporation, Office of the Comptroller-Real Estate Bureau, and the Finance Department's Bureau of Revenue Collections and Budget and Management Research to develop monitoring steps to determine if the City Visitability Housing Code is activated in new developments on vacant lots that provide residential housing.
- Took primary responsibility to plan the 25th Anniversary celebration of the ADA. Partnered with the Governor's Office, Maryland Department of Disabilities, Maryland Stadium Authority, Baltimore Orioles, and the ADA Mid-Atlantic Center to implement a State-wide celebration attended by over 200 individuals at Oriole Park at Camden Yards on July 26, 2015. Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and House Minority Whip, Rep. Steny Hoyer (MD-02) were keynote speakers.
- Partnered with the Parking Authority and the Department of Transportation and issued 2,000 citations for violations of accessible parking.