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(213) 202-2764 TEL.
(213) 202-2755 TTY
(213) 202-2715 FAX

CALIFORNIA



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY

201 NORTH FIGUEROA STREET
SUITE 100
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

(213) 202-2764 TEL.
(213) 202-2755 TTY
(213) 202-2715 FAX
www.Disability.LACity.org

REGINA HOUSTON-SWAIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 23, 2012

Councilmember Krekorian, Chair
Budget and Finance Committee
Attention: Erica Pulst
Office of the City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

PROPOSED BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2012-13

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding our proposed Department on Disability (DOD) budget allocation for Fiscal Year 12-13. We appreciate the cooperation and assistance of the Mayor's Office, the CAO and CLA and the support of the Council, in working with us to restore positions critical to ensuring the City's compliance with the mandates of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

After a three-year vacancy, the ADA Compliance Officer position has recently been back-filled. It is expected that the vacant AIDS Coordinator position will be filled by the end of May 2012. We are requesting that the managed hiring approval process be expedited to facilitate the backfilling of other vacant positions that are essential to efficient Department operations. It is imperative that DOD has the resources to complete mandated tasks designed to guarantee that all City programs and services are accessible to people with disabilities.

With adequate resources, the Department will continue to provide the level of service necessary to meet the needs of the citizens of Los Angeles.

The description below provides a brief summary of our four (4) primary program divisions:

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY**

SERVICE COMPARISON AMONG 10 LARGEST U.S. CITIES

In response to a request to evaluate service delivery through a comparison with our national peers, the Department on Disability is providing this short descriptive report. The Department evaluated its service by gathering information on the ten (10) largest cities as determined by the 2010 census.

Program evaluations traditionally have four components: Goals, objectives, measures and standards. Such components ensure that a study evaluates the same dimensions of performance for all peers in the study. However, the limited time to prepare this report has restricted the Department on Disability to provide only a descriptive report, limited to one dimension of performance, which is the *type* of provided services.

A study focusing on the type of provided services is not comprehensive, but it can point to areas of improvement for the City of Los Angeles, and act as a preliminary for a future in-depth evaluation.

CITY RANK, 2010 CENSUS		
1	New York City, New York	8,175,133
2	Los Angeles, California	3,792,621
3	Chicago, Illinois	2,695,598
4	Houston, Texas	2,099,451
5	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	1,526,006
6	Phoenix, Arizona	1,445,632
7	San Antonio, Texas	1,327,407
7	San Diego, California	1,307,402
9	Dallas, Texas	1,197,816
10	San Jose City, California	945,942

In the **City of New York** the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD) addresses disability issues and is very similar to that of the City of Los Angeles, insofar that it provides programs like the national Disability Mentoring Day, emergency preparedness, and a complaint system.

Service Comparison

April 30, 2012

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demonstrate their awareness and commitment to disability issues. The policies are accessible through the web.

The **City of Dallas** appears to limit disability services to EEO Disability grievance procedures through the City's Human Resource. However, its website likely belies the effort that is being made to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The **City of San Jose** has an ADA Coordinator housed in the Public Works Department. The ADA Coordinator fulfills the traditional duties of providing technical assistance to City departments in complying with ADA, training city staff on disability awareness and reasonable accommodation, and addressing grievance associated with allegations of non-compliance with the ADA.

Please note that this report must restrict itself to a description of the type of provided services, and therefore, cannot be comprehensive and cover all dimensions of performance, which would require more time.

If you have further questions, please call me at (213) 202-2764 or Tony Abraham at (213) 202-2746.