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STEPHEN DAVID SIMON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 28, 2014

Stephen David Simon
Executive Director
Department on Disability
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chair
Budget and Finance Committee
Attention: Erika Pulst
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring St. Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY PROPOSED BUDGET FY1415

Dear Councilmember Krekorian,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the proposed Department on Disability (DOD) budget allocation for FY1415. We appreciate the cooperation and assistance of the Mayor's Office, the CAO and CLA, as well as the support of Council, in working with us over the last few years to authorize a base level of staff positions critical to ensuring the City's compliance with the mandates of the Americans with Disabilities Act and other disability law and regulation.

Over the past five months we have endeavored to realign staff responsibilities, establish clear departmental operating procedures, and improve our ability to provide technical assistance to City Departments; resolve constituent service requests and complaints; and reduce the potential costs of City liability.

AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY-AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

The FY1415 proposed budget recommends the elimination of one general budget funded regular position and one CDBG-funded resolution position, denies funding for the first phase of our Technology Access Program that would provide videophone technology and underlying service for LAPD, and sufficient funding to fulfill the City's obligations for Sign Language Interpreting and CART services.

The Department respectfully requests the following amendments to the proposed budget:

Restore the Management Analyst I position. This position is expected to open upon the retirement of a current staff member later this calendar year. While the current staff person has played an administrative role, our intention is to replace the position with significant policy and writing expertise. The new staff person will develop and coordinate the department's ability to provide technical assistance to City departments, manage our SLI and CART services, and coordinate ADA Title III programs for small businesses.

Funding: \$106,793 (73,853 salary + 32,940 related costs)

Restore the Management Analyst I position for the AIDS Coordinator's Office. This position had been authorized in the FY1314 budget, approved for exemption, and authorized by the City's Managed Hiring Committee, resulting in the Department having recently made a job offer and the candidate accepting it. **The current request is for the CAO to authorize the resolute authority for FY1415 and unfreeze the position in the PAYSR system.**

Funding: N/A

Fully Fund Computerized Information Center (CIC). CIC funding currently covers the expense of two staffmembers with no additional non-salary expenses. CDBG 40th Program Year funding is expected to provide \$128,741, while actual salaries are projected to be \$165,000.

Funding: \$36,259 + related costs

Sign language Interpreting and CART. Funding for the SLI and CART contractual services has been insufficient to cover demand over most of the past seven years, requiring an array of actions to backfill funding for the contracts on an annual basis. DOD also projects an increase in services due in part to the recent trainings for all City Departments held as part of the emergency preparedness settlement. \$145,000 in SLI and \$80,000 in CART for a total of \$225,000.

Funding: \$35,000

Technology Access and Advancement Program. This technology upgrade includes TTY/TDD upgrades, and the initial phase – centered on LAPD – of a City-wide Communication Enhancement project incorporating various City Departments with key points of public contact. Video relay interpreting utilizes a Sign Language Interpreter at an off-site ~~agency to interpret~~

Councilmember Krekorian

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between sign language users and non-sign language users. Service could be provided in lieu of an on-site sign language interpreter, saving time and cost while improving public safety response. Implementation at 22 Police Stations (as well as booking areas: 77th Street; Foothill; Hollywood; Metro; Pacific; and Valley Jail Divisions) would be \$48,000; concurrent reactivation and modification of the City's TTY system would be \$14,000 (due in part to the recent elimination of computers running on XP).

Funding: \$62,000

Thank you for your consideration. The Department on Disability remains committed to expanding accessibility to meet the needs of City employees, City Departments, and most importantly, the citizens of Los Angeles.

Respectfully,



Stephen David Simon
Executive Director

C: Doane Liu, Deputy Mayor, City Services
Patricia Whelan, Associate Director, Neighborhood Services
Emmett McOsker, Policy Analyst, Neighborhood Services
Miguel Santana, Chief Administrative Officer
Patrick Delahanty, Administrative Analyst II
Commission on Disability
Angela Kaufman, ADA Compliance Officer
Ricki Rosales, AIDS Coordinator