

# City of Los Angeles

CALIFORNIA

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## DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY

201 NORTH FIGUEROA STREET  
SUITE 100  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

(213) 202-2764 TEL.  
(213) 202-3452 TTY  
(213) 202-2715 FAX  
www.Disability.LACity.org

(213) 202-2764 TEL.  
(213) 202-3452 TTY  
(213) 202-2715 FAX

STEPHEN DAVID SIMON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 21, 2016

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

Dear Councilmember Krekorian:

### PROPOSED BUDGET FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2016-17

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding our proposed Department on Disability (DOD) budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 16-17. We appreciate the support of the Council as well as the cooperation and assistance of the Mayor's Office, the CAO, and CLA, in working with us to provide resources critical to ensuring the City's compliance with the mandates of the Americans with Disabilities Act and other disability laws. Most of the ongoing services we sought to fund in the coming year are included in the Mayor's Proposed Budget, but allow me to highlight brief concerns and discuss related recommendations.

#### \$86,784 AIDS Coordinator's Office (ACO).

To offset equivalent cuts in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for DOD, the Department is seeking the restoration of \$86,784 to continue the ACO's core capacity building functions, including technical assistance grants, one research contract, and minimal travel that allows the City AIDS Coordinator to participate in vital national planning functions including the U.S. Conference on AIDS. This funding request is particularly important given Council motion (C.F. 15-1381) on the feasibility of developing a City of Los Angeles strategic plan to achieve zero new HIV infections and conversion rates.

#### \$96,749 Section 508 Remediation Team & Compliance Resource.

The Department is seeking funding for this project, which consists of two full-time Management Analyst I positions to be housed in DOD to remediate existing City documents under an in-house Remediation & Compliance Resource Center (\$96,749). The Blue Book recommended an alternative proposal consisting of \$35,000 to produce an online training module (\$25,000), and for outside contractual remediation services (\$10,000). We agree that

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an online training should be available for City employees and resources should be available to utilize outside vendors on an as-needed basis, and after further examination we believe that the alternative proposal will not adequately address bringing the City into compliance with federal law and a recent legal settlement. For this reason, we continue to request funding to staff this project.

\$16,662 Adjustment of Classification for Sidewalk Repair and Small Business Liaison.

DOD has encountered difficulties hiring a candidate with CASp qualifications as a Project Coordinator (Class Code 1537-0) at a maximum annual salary of \$88,468 to fill this position. The Department believes that the compensation is not commensurate with the expertise required of a candidate with CASp certification. For that reason, we request authorization and funding in the FY 16-17 Adopted Budget for replacement of the position of Project Coordinator with the position of Senior Project Coordinator (Class Code 1538-0) at a maximum annual salary of \$105,130. The additional funding to be provided either from the General Fund or the Sidewalk Repair Fund or a combination thereof.

\$20,400 Staff Development Training and Related Travel.

DOD staff members are highly trained specialists in the area of accessibility and compliance, and must possess up-to-date information about the interpretation and application of disability law. In order to most effectively address City compliance with various state and federal mandates, we make this conservative funding request to secure training from sources not available within the City, including but not limited to our work with:

1. National Association of ADA Coordinators
2. International Association of Emergency Management
3. National ADA Symposium
4. Federal Communications Commission

The Department stands ready to continue providing the high quality of service expected by the City to reduce accessibility-related risk for all City services, programs and facilities. If you have additional questions, please contact me at (213) 202-2764.

Sincerely,



Stephen David Simon  
Executive Director

c: Barbara Romero, Deputy Mayor, City Services  
Margaret Wynne, Mayor's Office  
Leah Chu, City Administrative Office