



City of Oakland

Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD)

Monday, July 20, 2026 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Hearing Room 1, First Floor

One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza (City Hall), Oakland, CA 94612

Minutes

Commissioners: Anwar Baroudi (Chair), Jia Wilson (Co-Vice Chair), Fatimah Aure (Co-Vice Chair), Benjamin Bartu, James Carter, Nadia Morales-Saleh, Cynthia Gutierrez, Emily Habansky, Brian Hollander, Keana Giles

Commission staff: Anh Nguyen-ADA Programs Division Manager, Mark Romoser-ADA Programs Division Program Analyst I

Presenters: Kaleo Mark, Zurvohn Maloof, Anwar Baroudi, Khalilha Haynes, Noel Pond-Danchik

Other attendees: none

Attendees on Zoom: Sheela Gunn

Mark Romoser begins the meeting with a reminder of rules for in-person meetings:

- No food or open drink allowed in Hearing Room 1 to maintain a clean and professional environment.
- Drinks must be in a closed container to prevent any spills or accidents.
- When commissioners speak- please press the top red button that says "mic" and when you are finished, please press the button again.
- To ensure clarity and transparency, when commissioners speak, please state your name before speaking.
- When a member of the audience is speaking or commenting- please first state your name and any affiliations you may have.
- Restrooms are located outside Hearing Room 1, near the elevators.

Chair Baroudi called the meeting to order at 5:30.

Roll Call

- At roll call, quorum was established with eight of ten commissioners present.

Exhibit A

Commissioners	Present (x)
Anwar Baroudi (Chair)	X
Jia Wilson (Co-Vice Chair)	X
Fatimah Aure (Co-Vice Chair)	Absent (excused)
Benjamin Bartu	X
James Carter	Absent (excused)
Nadia Morales-Saleh	X
Cynthia Gutierrez	X
Emily Habansky	X
Brian Hollander	X (via Zoom)*
Keana Giles	X

*Just Cause rule was used

Open Forum:

- Sheela Gunn mentioned that there would be a county access and functional needs committee meeting on the 21st. The topic will be their work with the county board of supervisors. The following week, there will be a meeting with VOAD (volunteer organizations active in disaster), also concerning its work with the board of supervisors. The hope is that the board of supervisors will come to understand what it takes to work with people with disabilities.

Approval Of Minutes

- The June minutes were approved 8-0. Motion by Co-Vice Chair Wilson, seconded by Comm. Gutierrez.

Commissioner's Announcements

- Comm. Giles introduced herself. She mentioned that she has ten years of nonprofit experience with youth and the formerly incarcerated, and that she is happy to be working with the Oakland community. She added that she would bring an equity lens to the commission.
- Co-Vice Chair Wilson mentioned that she and Comm. Hollander have started work on this year's survey, that she and Comm. Gutierrez had been working on resource consolidation, and that she and Comm. Habansky were working on comments on the general plan.

Exhibit A

- Comm. Habansky mentioned that she had been a point of contact with OakDOT for the 73rd Ave. project and construction sites.
- Chair Baroudi mentioned that he had also met with OakDOT staff about the 73rd Ave. project and the recent walking tours, and added that July 26th is the 36th anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act. He noted that MCPD is older than the ADA, and added that the ADA has provided the impetus for improved access in many areas.

Connect Bay Area

- Kaleo Mark gave his presentation.
- Co-Vice Chair Wilson asked how paratransit fit into Connect Bay Area. Mr. Mark replied that paratransit service areas are based on fixed bus routes, so that cuts to routes would result in cuts to paratransit. Co-Vice Chair Wilson then asked if there were any plans to change the finance structure of transit as opposed to stopgap tax measures. Mr. Mark replied that BART and Caltrain have been heavily dependent on fares collected, and that there are efforts to change that unsustainable structure.
- Comm. Gutierrez mentioned that June was a very high-ridership month for BART, and asked what services were covered by the \$10 million allotment for accessible services. Mr. Mark replied that how that money will be spent has not been decided yet.
- Comm. Morales-Saleh asked which Oakland routes would be affected by the possible 30 percent cut to AC Transit service. Mr. Mark replied that many Oakland routes were part of the priority transit network, which would be less likely to be cut, and added that routes in less dense areas would bear the brunt of the cuts.
- Comm. Giles noted that she feels the impact of transit, and asked whether there was a plan to fund transit without raising sales tax. Mr. Mark replied that several funding sources had been considered, such as a payroll tax, a gross revenue tax, even an income tax, but legislators decided on the sales tax.
- Co-Vice Chair Wilson asked if equity had been considered when deciding which BART stations to close. Mr. Mark replied that that decision would be made by the BART board if the measure fails to pass.
- Chair Baroudi asked what the threshold was to pass the measure. Mr. Mark replied that because signatures were submitted, the measure would need 50 percent plus one. Chair Baroudi then asked if some counties pass it, but it fails overall, no one would get anything. Mr. Mark replied that that was correct. Chair Baroudi then noted that different counties require different service levels. Mr. Mark replied that transit operators should use the money to maintain service levels.

Exhibit A

- Comm. Hollander emphasized the importance of the measure, and asked if the measure would create a regional paratransit system. Mr. Mark replied that it would not, but that it could fund pilot programs to increase paratransit connectivity, such as a current one among the three operators in Contra Costa County. Comm. Hollander then asked how the figure of \$10 million for accessible services was selected. Mr. Mark replied that the \$10 million is part of \$45 million for improvements, which represents 5 percent of the total tax revenue from the measure. Comm. Hollander then asked what the leadership structure would be. Mr. Mark replied that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) handles regional transportation issues, and added that the measure would create a new district within MTC, which would likely elect a director from within mTYC. Comm. Hollander then asked what input had been obtained from the disability community. Mr. Mark replied that transit advocates, including ILCs and other disability advocates, had been pushing for the measure for years.
- Sheela Gunn mentioned that BART and AC Transit, along with SamTrans and other agencies, have been trying to figure out what to do if the measure doesn't pass. They added that BART and AC Transit fund paratransit in Alameda County, and noted that the contingency plans were publicly available. They mentioned that there would be listening sessions for AC Transit, and likely BART. They then called for further advocacy in support of the measure.

Action Items: Mr. Mark will send information on proposed AC Transit service cuts to Comm. Morales-Saleh.

Office of the Inspector General

- Zurvohn Maloof gave his presentation.
- Co-Vice Chair Wilson asked about OPD policies relating to disabilities besides mental illness. Mr. Maloof replied that there were such policies, but his office had not reviewed them. Co-Vice Chair Wilson then asked about police interactions with people with multiple disabilities, and added a question about whether the policies protected people such as unhoused people who are using drugs. Mr. Maloof replied that he did not have an answer, but would consider the issue. Co-Vice Chair Wilson then spoke about the importance of qualitative research into interactions with disabled people. Mr. Maloof thanked her for the suggestion.
- Comm. Gutierrez asked whether OPD officers are trained in substance use disorder in crisis interventions. Mr. Maloof replied that he would take that under advisement. Comm. Gutierrez then asked how often the list of mental health

Exhibit A

resources was updated. Mr. Maloof replied that policies are generally reviewed every two years, but noted that there was one that hadn't been updated since 1974. He added that policies not advocated for by the community are less likely to be reviewed. Comm. Gutierrez then asked how MCPD could support the inspector general's office. Mr. Maloof replied that they're always looking to do community outreach, that he'd love to present to any organization we may be affiliated with, and that MCPD could advocate for the inspector general's office at city council.

- Comm. Giles asked if the office had done any work with local community-based mental health organizations. Mr. Maloof replied that they did not, but that the Coalition for Police Accountability included some such groups. Comm. Giles then asked how police evaluate someone presenting with mental illness, and if trauma-informed care or harm reduction were involved. Mr. Maloof replied that they worked with Youth Alliance.
- Comm. Habansky asked whether OPD would start a program like MACRO, and if there were any policy changes planned to support mental illness. Mr. Maloof replied that the city relies on MACRO and intentionally keeps it separate from OPD, and noted that the inspector general's office is separate from OPD and thus does not create policy.
- Chair Baroudi asked about interactions with people with invisible disabilities and relevant OPD policies. Mr. Maloof replied that the two policies in the presentation are the only ones he's aware of. Chair Baroudi then asked if there had been a review of individual cases to ascertain officer compliance with policies. Mr. Maloof replied that the investigative unit does that. Chair Baroudi then asked how complaints become audits. Mr. Maloof replied that his office is required to audit the negotiated settlement agreement, and added that community input determines what gets audited.
- Comm. Hollander asked if there was a goal to reduce the number of police interactions with people with disabilities in favor of programs like MACRO. Mr. Maloof replied that if a person in crisis had a weapon, police would respond. Comm. Hollander then asked if there were ways to approach such situations that reduced police response overall. Mr. Maloof reiterated that police would respond if a person in crisis posed a danger to someone, and added that police could use less than lethal force, such as batons or tasers. Comm. Hollander then asked if there were guidelines to determine what a weapon is, and what the use of force policies were. Mr. Maloof replied that anything that could hurt someone could be considered a weapon, giving the example of makeshift machetes. Comm. Hollander then asked about objects that could be classified as a weapon, but could not cause great harm. Chair Baroudi suggested that the discussion be continued online. Mr. Maloof noted that his office has office hours on the first Thursday of the month.

Exhibit A

- Mx. Gunn spoke against ableism. They noted that people without disabilities try to have doctors fix disabled people, that people think they're being helpful by grabbing them, and that assumptions are made about people with disabilities. They suggested that crisis responders be trained in the proper ways to interact with people with disabilities.

Chair Baroudi asked staff if the commission was able to endorse ballot measures. Mr. Nguyen replied that he would look into it.

Chair Baroudi yielded the chair to Co-Vice Chair Wilson before giving his presentation.

General Plan Update Walking Tours

- Khalilha Haynes, Anwar Baroudi, and Noel Pond-Danchik gave their presentation.
- Comm. Gutierrez noted that many new commissioners were not around for the March presentation. She then asked if more walking tours were planned, especially in lower-resource areas. Ms. Haynes replied that they are analyzing feedback from the walks this spring, and noted that the draft general plan element would be released in fall, with community feedback to follow next spring, and that that would be the time to hold additional walks.
- Comm. Hollander noted that the walks included District 4, where sidewalk and curb issues need attention.
- Co-Vice Chair Wilson noted that ADA Programs Division is understaffed, and that since Oakland is such a large city, things like misaligned intersections are bound to happen occasionally. She then asked if OakDOT had implemented a quality assurance/quality control process, so that errors like those mentioned in the presentation could be caught. Ms. Pond-Danchik agreed that ADA Programs was understaffed, and added that OakDOT does have construction inspectors and project managers who do site visits. Co-Vice Chair Wilson added that she would consider doing the review during the design process.
- Comm. Habansky agreed with Co-Vice Chair Wilson that ADA access needs to be incorporated into the process from the very beginning.
- Mx. Gunn noted that bulbouts are not accessible to blind people because they interfere with traffic cues needed for wayfinding, as do full-stop intersections, pedestrian islands, and the like. They added that these designs were implemented without enough consultation from the disability community. Co-Vice Chair Wilson added that it was important to learn how people with different abilities travel through space, using things like sensory clues.

Exhibit A

Action Items: Comm. Hollander will contact staff about getting involved in the process of developing additional walks.

Staff Announcements

- There were no staff announcements.

Chair Baroudi reclaimed the chair.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25.