

Commission meetings

The COD typically meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00pm on the 2nd floor of Newton City Hall. Meeting agenda and minutes can be found on the COD webpage- www.newtonma.gov/cod

The COD is a thirteen-member commission where the majority of the members are persons with diverse disabilities. All members are residents of Newton.

Contact

The city's ADA coordinator staffs the Commission On Disability and ensures equal access to facilities, programs, activities and services. For more information contact Newton's ADA Coordinator at,

Email: ADACoordinator@newtonma.gov

Phone: (617)-796-1253

Address: Newton City Hall,
1000 Commonwealth Avenue,
Newton Center, MA, 02459



Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon at Newton Centre

Newton Accessible (HP) Parking Information

In Massachusetts, where can the holder of a valid disability placard/ plate park?



- In authorized parking spaces signed with the International Symbol of Access (ISA).
- In a metered parking space at no charge and no time limit.

Violation Fines

\$200 First Offense - Parking in an accessible parking space without a valid disability placard or plate.

\$300 Second Offense and Repeated offense

\$200 First Offense Blocking curb cut/ ramp

\$300 Second Offense and Repeated offense

The Commission receives and administers fines from violations of the Disability Parking Laws under MGL C.40, Section 22G. Funds collected pursuant to this law is kept in a separate account and shall be used solely for the benefit of persons with disabilities.

Massachusetts White Cane Law M.G.L. c. 90

section 14A: Whenever a blind pedestrian, guided by a guide dog or carrying a raised or extended cane that is white or white tipped with red, attempts to cross a street, drivers must stop for the dog or cane user.

An accessible copy of this leaflet is readily available upon request.

© 2020



Disability Icons

Commission Disability Newton, MA



History

Formed in 1975, the Newton Commission On Disability (COD), (formerly The Mayor's Committee for the Environment of the Handicapped, The Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities) was chaired by attorney Jason Rosenberg for over 30 years.

The work of the Commission slowly but surely changed the landscape of Newton by addressing accessibility and removing physical barriers for persons with disabilities with curb cuts for sidewalks, ramps for buildings, accessible pathways in parks, Accessible Pedestrian Signals. Since the beginning of the federally funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, the COD has recommended the expenditure of millions of dollars in access projects to benefit people with disabilities, and create a safer and more welcoming environment for all Newton residents. The COD, under the leadership of Girard Plante and Rob Caruso who followed Jason Rosenberg as the Commission Co-chairs, successfully advocated with the city to hire the city's first full time ADA coordinator in 2015.

“The City of Newton recognizes that in order to grow as a community, it needs the active participation of persons with disabilities.” - 2011 Ramping up Report

Mission

The Newton COD's mission is to foster equal access to community life and activities for people with disabilities. Through education and advocacy, the Commission works to raise

disability awareness and the importance of increased accessibility to programs, housing and facilities in municipal and commercial buildings, and other public entities.

Purpose

The purpose of this Commission is to cause the full integration of people with disabilities. In accordance with Newton ordinance (Z74 and MGL Chapter 40, 8J, Section 22G), the COD shall:

- (a) research local problems of people with disabilities;
- (b) advise and assist municipal officials and employees in ensuring compliance with state and federal laws and regulations that affect people with disabilities;
- (c) coordinate or carry out programs designed to meet the problems of people with disabilities in coordination with programs of the Massachusetts Office on Disability;
- (d) review and make recommendations about policies, procedures, services, activities and facilities of departments, boards and agencies of the city as they affect people with disabilities;
- (e) provide information, referrals, guidance and technical assistance to individuals, public agencies, businesses and organizations in all matters pertaining to disabilities;
- (f) coordinate activities of other local groups organized for similar purposes.

The COD promotes adherence to Federal, State and City laws and regulations that prohibit discrimination against people with disabilities such as:

- The Americans with Disabilities Act
- Sec. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act 1973
- MA Architectural Access Board
- Fair Housing Act as amended

CDBG Access Projects

The COD analyzes project priorities and provides recommendations for use of CDBG funds in projects that remove architectural barriers and increase accessibility throughout the City of Newton. Here are some samples of projects undertaken through the years:

- Installation of accessible restroom- Hyde Community Center
- Installation of automatic entrance doors - Newton Free Library
- Installation of exterior entrance ramp- Auburndale Library
- Installation of Exterior Porch lift -NWW
- Creation of accessible asphalt pathways- Newton Centre and Newton Highlands Playgrounds.
- Creation of an accessible all gender restroom- Newton City Hall
- Installation of Accessible Pedestrian Signals- in all signalized intersections.
- Installation of RRFB's (Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon)- mid block crosswalks
- Accessible Trails at Dolan Pond, Flory's Path



Photo of exterior entrance ramp at the Auburndale library