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# CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## Commission On Disability

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Meeting Date: October 19, 2020

MINUTES

Room Zoom

Time: 6:00PM \* New Start Time

Ruthanne Fuller  
Mayor

This meeting will be a virtual meeting on Zoom, by phone or by computer/iPad:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/415115921>

Meeting ID: 415 115 921

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,415115921#

Barney Heath,  
Director, Planning &  
Development

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 415 115 921

Amanda Berman  
Director, Housing &  
Community Development

Tiffany Leung  
Planner  
Community Development

### Commission Members Present:

Anne Marie Killilea, Co-chair, remotely on Zoom

Lakshmi Kadambi, Co-chair, remotely on Zoom (joined late)

Jane Brown, Treasurer, remotely on Zoom

Warren Abramson, remotely on Zoom

Rob Caruso, remotely on Zoom

Sandra Lingley, remotely on Zoom

Barbara Lischinsky, remotely on Zoom

Girard Plante, remotely on Zoom

Eileen Sandberg, remotely on Zoom

Matt Volpi, remotely on Zoom

### Commission Members Absent:

Lucie Chansky

### City Staff and Advisors Present:

Jini Fairley, ADA/Section 504 Coordinator

Sgt. Dan Devine, Police

Dana Hanson, Mayor's Office

Shelby Booth, The Carroll Center

Alfredo Vargas, Engineering

### Guests:

Nancy Krintzman

**Members**  
Lakshmi Kadambi, Co-Chair  
Anne Marie Killilea, Co-Chair  
Jane Brown, Treasurer  
Warren Abramson  
Rob Caruso  
Lucie Chansky  
Rosemary Larking  
Sandra Lingley  
Barbara Lischinsky  
Girard Plante  
Eileen Sandberg  
Matt Volpi

Jason Rosenberg  
Chairman Emeritus

**Advisor**  
Sergeant Dan Devine  
Newton Police Department

**Staff**  
Jini Fairley  
ADA/Sec 504 Coordinator  
617-796-1253

1000 Commonwealth Ave.  
Newton, MA 02459  
T 617-796-1240  
F 617-796-1254



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**CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**Commission On Disability**

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**Barbara Wallace**  
**Lisa Keshet**  
**Jen Mallett**

**1. Introductions (6:00-6:05)**

**At the time of introductions, 3 members were absent, Lucie, and Lakshmi and Warren both joined late. Anne Marie reminded everyone to say their name as they begin to speak, to keep to 3 minutes or less when commenting, to use Yes/No when roll call votes are taken, and have patience with her as she needs time to wait for the captions to be displayed and for her to read them.**

**2. Approval of 9/14/20 Meeting Minutes (6:05-6:10)**

**Girard had a question about Tiffany's report in the minutes, why there was only 2 intersections/curb cuts for CDBG project. Since Jini had stepped away for a phone call, Rob explained to Girard that the cost for the Edinboro/Watertown cost more and there were only funds enough for 2 locations of curb cuts. Girard appreciated the clarification from Rob. Rosemary made a motion to accept the September 2020 minutes as read and distributed. Jane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 9-0.**

**3. CDBG Access Projects Report (6:10-6:15)**

**In Tiffany's absence, Matt read the CDBG report submitted to members in advance of this meeting. This report can be found on page 8. At this point in the meeting, Warren joined the meeting, remotely on Zoom**

**4. Access Project Ideas for FY 2022 CDBG Funds (6:15-6:25)**

**Sandra put together a list of a number of curb cut locations, some had been considered for at least 10 years, and potential RRFB crossings. This list, not distributed in advance, can be found on page 9. Lincoln & Walnut- Sandra said that it is located at the Newton Highlands T station, COD members have been told it will be reconstructed as a state project for more than 17 years, and it is very difficult for someone who is blind to find the APS buttons, which seem not to be functioning. There are several old apex curb cuts here, too. Jini had also included this intersection earlier in the year and she will inquire with DPW as to when these curb cuts will be updated. She said that APS are installed there and she will check about the volume**

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settings. Beacon & Walnut/4 Corners- Sandra said this has also been requested to have improvements for 17 years or more, supposedly as part of the same state project as the previous location. There are slip lanes that are not signalized, there are islands, and no APS, a pedestrian who is blind has great difficulty crossing here. Jini said that this intersection is on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and she will check as to when it will be funded and approximately how costly. Jini did say there are APS there, and again, she will check in with DPW to raise the volumes of the APS. Beacon St. between Washington St. and Angier School- recently paved with new crosswalks but very old and crumbling curb cuts. Members were told that when a street is repaved that sidewalks and curb cuts were also improved. Homer & Walnut- Jini mentioned that part of this intersection will have new curb ramps, at the limits of the repaving of Walnut St. between Forest and Homer.

**RRFB potential locations: NWH driveway at West entrance, 1860 Washington St./ crosswalk to Temple Rayem, Washington St. at Grove St. in Newton Lower Falls. Rob asked about the intersection mentioned last month at Beacon/Langley/Sumner. Jini said that she and Girard, Tiffany, Alfredo (DPW), and Isaac (DPW) made a site visit there. Jini will check as to whether it is on the CIP, she said perhaps all of Newton Centre may be considered, in the future, for a streetscape, like West Newton or Newtonville. This intersection alone looks like it will be a very expensive intersection where most if not all curb cuts need to be designed and reconstructed.**

**5. Accessible Fines Reports (6:25-6:30)**

**Sgt. Devine gave 2 Fines reports, which can be found on pages 10 & 11. Again, as in previous months, not very many tickets have been issued for accessible parking violations, only 2 for September, and only 7 for the fiscal year (since July 1, 2020).**

**6. Operation Access This Year? (6:30-6:40)**

**Jini wanted to ask the members if they were interested in having the Holiday Operation Access, targeted enforcement of the accessible parking violations, in effect this holiday season. In the past 3 years, the COD has used some of the Fines collected to pay overtime to Police Officers to specifically issue violations during the weekend and some evenings. In the past, the fines collected has more than paid for the overtime cost. But that**

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was when many tickets were issued. During this Covid crisis, there are more regular parking spaces available so the violations are not happening. It might make sense, for this holiday season, to suspend the Holiday Operation Access, for 2020. Sgt. Devine agreed, saying that he used to take some of those shifts of overtime, and, besides being frustrating by not issuing many tickets, as evidenced by the last 6 months, it is also difficult for the Police Officers to find the time to sign up. Rob agreed saying that we should skip this year, there is too much going on. Jane made a motion that, for this year, the COD does not utilize Operation Access. Rob seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 10-0.

**7. Treasurer's Report (6:40-6:45)**

Jane announced that the balances of the COD accounts have not changed since the September meeting. The Treasurer's report can be found on page 12.

**8. ADA Coordinator's Report (6:45-6:55)**

Jini's ADA Coordinator activity report can be viewed on page 13. She elaborated on her site visit she referred to earlier in the meeting at the intersection of Beacon/Langley/Sumner. There are at least 12 curb cuts, very old, and most are steep and may not be compliant. Alfredo will work up a conceptual plan and give us a rough estimate of the cost. Jini will update the members either in November or December. Girard added to truly reconstruct all the curb cuts would entail Police detail, and could add up to a half million dollars. He did say that there are APS there, and Jini said that they are the newest version, which are working. She mentioned some events to participate in from the Police Reform Task Force, one this week on Implicit Bias, and one next week, on October 28, there will be a community meeting for the public to speak about experiences with the Newton Police.

Rob asked about the BCIL DAAHR forum that Jini attended. It was well attended and many had issues/complaints with MassHealth. She had heard from Rosemary that MassHealth is has an RFP out to consolidate their Fiscal Intermediaries, from 3 to 1 for the PCA program. The ADA Coordinator's report can be viewed on page .

**9. Accessible Parking Space Request (AP3-20) (6:55-7:10)**

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Barbara Wallace, speaking on behalf of her 95 year-old mother, Gertrude, who lives at 62 Bourne St., is requesting a residential accessible parking space out front of her home. Her mother apologizes not being in person on Zoom. It is very difficult for her mother to get in her car in the driveway as it goes around back where the stairs from her home are very difficult. Out front affords her to get right in to the car at the level of the sidewalk there. Often, cars parked in front of her house, as there are several apartment buildings in the area. Girard mentioned to Barbara that the space would be for anyone with a valid placard and can't be used during the overnight winter ban. At this point, the Zoom meeting ended, as somehow the reservation for this meeting ID number was given to another staff person holding a city Zoom meeting. Dana was able to arrange for another meeting ID number and Jini and Dana sent it out to the members. Unfortunately, it took about a half hour to get everyone on, but 3 members did not rejoin (Warren, Barbara, and Eileen) and Lakshmi was then able to join the meeting. Once we had a quorum and guests were also back on this new Zoom meeting, a motion was made by Rob to approve the request for an accessible parking space. Jane seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0-1 (Lakshmi abstained, as she wasn't present for the discussion). Anne Marie thanked Barbara for her patience during this 'interruption' to the meeting.

**10. Level Up Your Home (7:10-7:30)**

At this point, Warren had not yet rejoined the meeting. Lisa Keshet told us of her involvement in the disability community and as a realtor, and introduced Jen Mallett, the CEO of Level Up Your Home.

Jen presented what her company does, making many innovative changes to people's homes, making them 'Smart Homes', using connected technology, which can be hands-free, voice-free (automated programming), from locking doors, turning on lights, adjusting the thermostat, a fan, an air conditioner, even shades, and much more. Many of her ideas and technology can be very advantageous for someone with a disability, the technology now can be customized to an individual person's needs. Jen described automated scenes, such as goodnight scenes, morning scenes, movie time, which can be very empowering, all programmed in advance, and enabled with a word, a button, or however that person has created their scene. Jen had different categories, such as wellness and comfort, safety, entertainment, which helps us all live healthy, safe and fun lives, and so much easier. . Her presentation can be viewed on page 14.

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**11. MAAB Variance-Edinboro at Watertown Sts. (7:30-7:50)**

**Alfredo Vargas, Design Engineer Manager of Newton's DPW, presented the reason for the need for a MAAB variance for the NE intersection of Watertown and Edinboro Streets. Alfredo shared parts of the application (page 13) which the COD members received in advance, to demonstrate where the sidewalks at this corner (where Yogurt Beach is) have cross slopes steeper than 2%. Alfredo assured us that the path of travel/pedestrian access route, will always have compliant slopes, but not the entire width of the sidewalk, but at least 4 feet will have the 2% or less cross slopes. The ADA only requires that the pedestrian access route of 4 feet have the maximum 2% cross slope, not the entire sidewalk. Girard asked about the boundary between the public right of way and the private property, and construction will not affect this building structure. Rob asked exactly where the 3 planters will be located, on the Watertown Street sidewalk.**

**A motion to support this variance was made by Jane. Rosemary seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 9-0.**

**12. Mayor's Meeting (7:50-7:55)**

**Anne Marie gave a brief outline of the topics discussed with the Mayor on September 15, including the July ADA events, status of students with IEPs, remote or in-person- still in flux but mostly in-person, transportation, how is NewMO doing, can it expand to residents with disabilities – taken under advisement – and Rosemary's RIDE incident. Lucie also joined Lakshmi and Anne Marie at this meeting with the Mayor.**

**13. Letter about Rosemary's RIDE Issues (7:55-8:10)**

**All members received a copy of a letter that Rob and Girard and Rosemary drafted and can be viewed on page 17. Rob said to include PM next to 9:00 in the letter to emphasize that this was after dark. Girard mentioned that RTAG has directors, and he included 2 RTAG members, also. Jini said she would check with Jessica from BCIL to find out the names of the 5 directors of RTAG. Rob suggests that this letter also be sent to the Governor.**

**A motion to accept the letter with the additions mentioned here, was made by Rosemary. Jane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 9-0.**

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**14.NWH Committee (8:10-8:15)**

Sandra, Chair of the NWH Committee, reported that she and Jini have been playing phone tag. Jini left a message for Erin Miller, who spoke to the COD at July's meeting, to help facilitate an upcoming meeting with NWH staff. It will be an open and public meeting and once we get some dates from NWH staff, a date will be chosen that the majority of the members are available. Sandra will circulate the agenda used at last year's meeting with NWH for members to add to it. Rosemary wants to know what kind of training the employees receive, especially in the ER, on disability sensitivity/etiquette. Sandra mentioned one that she experienced when working in the business office of a nursing home, many years ago.

**15.Service Dogs Pamphlet (8:15-8:30)**

All members received a copy of the Service Dogs pamphlet, and can be viewed on page 18. Matt was the primary author, and this final version has been updated with members' comments from last month's meeting, including a photo of Matt's daughter, and a quote from Barbara, and laid out as a pamphlet by Lakshmi. Girard and others are interested in getting this into print to distribute at the Library, at City Hall, and other locations, as well as electronically on the COD Facebook page. Sgt. Devine said as soon as he gets the green light, he will distribute to all Police Officers for their reference, and maybe a future training. Lakshmi thanked all members for making the COD meetings interesting and informative and this brochure and other ones will bring more people to the COD. A motion to approve this pamphlet was made by Jane. Girard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

**16.Adjournment (8:30)**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55PM (late, due to the half hour interruption with the Zoom meeting snafu).

These minutes were prepared and respectfully submitted by Jini Fairley, ADA Coordinator and staff to the COD.

**NEXT MEETING DATE: November 9, 2020**

The location of this meeting is wheelchair accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities requiring assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of

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# CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## Commission On Disability

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Newton's ADA/Sec.504 Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: [jfairley@newtonma.gov](mailto:jfairley@newtonma.gov) or (617) 796-1253. For Telecommunications Relay Service, please dial 711 or call City Hall's TTY/TDD line at 617-796-1089.

Reports:

### **Newton Commission on Disability CDBG Access Projects Report October 19, 2020**

**FY21 Curb Cut** – (CD21-03C; Budget: \$84,043.00; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$84,043.00) Installation of curb cuts at the following intersections: Watertown Street/West Street and Watertown Street/Edinboro Street. **DPW will be requesting a MAAB variance for the Watertown/Edinboro Street intersection. Staff is preparing a MOA with DPW.**

**Phase I Marty Sender Pathway Installation** – (CD21-03A; Budget: \$52,000; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$52,000) Reconstruction of the Marty Sender Trail with an accessible route, covering approximately ¼ mile of the trail. **Staff is preparing a MOA with Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Culture (PRC).**



Access Project Ideas for FY22 CDBG Funding

From Sandra Lingley:

CODPotentialProjects102020.pdf

COD Potential Projects (10/2020)

Some of these have been on the list or discussed for a very longtime.

Walnut & Lincoln: Have been told for more than 17 years that the state will be doing something big with it... how much longer do we wait? Some work has been

done here, (diagonal crosswalk, oddly designed curb cut, there is no audible signal or it's not working...) How does someone who is blind coming from the

train find the signal? What is the status with it and the state?

Beacon& Walnut: Signals need upgrading to "sound". Busy intersection with slip lanes. I dropped someone who is visually impaired off at Walgreens to cross

diagonally to Whole Foods. They could not cross without someone stopped in a car directing them to cross. It was dangerous. Again, part of state project

have been waiting over 17 years... What is the status? at what point does the city do the work?

Newton Wellesley Hospital: RFB to cross driveway. Ongoing...over 5 years requesting and over 3 years since first meeting with Newton Wellesley Hospital

in June 2017 about it.

Beacon Street from Washington Street to Angier School: Put in newly painted crosswalks for mid-block crossings when road was done but did not fix curb cuts.

Curb cuts are the old, original ones which are crumbling and overgrown in places. The commission was told by Shane Mark several years ago that when a street

was done, everything was fixed including curb cuts and sidewalks as needed.

Crossing at Temple Reyim 1860 Washington St. needs RFB.(rapid flashing beacon) Only crosswalk between Woodland MBTA Station and Commonwealth Ave. Used by

people going and coming from the nearby neighborhoods, Lasell students & people going to the temple.

Crosswalk on Washington Street,(route16) at Grove Street intersection (Newton Lower Falls): This is a frequently used very wide crossing. Has bright yellow

pedestrian signs but no RRFB. Drivers often don't pay attention to pedestrians and sometimes beep at them for crossing.

Very close to Wellesley border where drivers

are used to pedestrians using RFBs.

Homer & Walnut: busy intersection crossing to carriage road.

# NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

## NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

### PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2020

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TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	2
TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED	\$ 400.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 200.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 000.00
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$ 200.00

#### CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	1
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 200.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 000.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 000.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 200.00

#### CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	1
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 200.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 200.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 000.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 000.00

# NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

## NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

### PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

#### FISCAL YEAR 2021

*As of September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

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#### FY 2020 Year-to-date Parking Ticket Totals

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	7
TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED	\$ 1,400.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 400.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 000.00
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$ 1,000.00

#### CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	5
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 1,000.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 200.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 000.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 800.00

#### CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	2
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 400.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 200.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 000.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 200.00

# Treasurer's Report

Given by Jane Brown, Treasurer of the Commission On Disability

Presented at the October 19, 2020 COD Meeting

As of October 16, 2020, the balances of the COD accounts have not changed since the September meeting and are as follows:

Account # 5500-335518 H-P. Fines-Disability Commission

Type: Receipts Reserved for Appropriation (These funds have to go before the City Council to be appropriated before being used)

Balance: \$61,939

Account # 01C10802-513010 Operation Access – Disability Commission

Set up to pay for targeted enforcement of accessible HP Fines violations by the Police

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: \$1880.89

Account#C401083-586005 Set up to purchase and install Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) units at the Waverly/Tremont intersection

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: \$**50.50** (8 APS units installed in December 2018)

Account #13D10901 Set up in Fall 2015 to receive Community Access Monitor Program fees and pay expenses)

Type: Revolving Account

Balance: \$29**0.00**

# ADA COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Given by Jini Fairley, ADA/Section 504 Coordinator, and presented at the October 19, 2020 COD meeting.

## Site Visits:

**Auburndale Cove Parking Lot- with DPW about missing accessible parking signs  
Intersection of Beacon/Langley/Sumner for possible CDBG project- with Girard, Tiffany, Alfredo, and Isaac**

## Trainings:

- Webinar: Part 2 of Chapter 8 of ADA/ABA Standards
- Webinar: Criminal Justice and the ADA
- Analysis of Impediments- presentation by consultants preparing this 5-year required plan
- Webinar: Managing for Accessibility Throughout the Acquisition Lifecycle
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## Meeting/Events/Conference Calls:

- Police Reform Task Force- attend weekly, one of several city staff resources to task force
- 9/17/20 Traffic Council- Taking parking for bike lanes on Beacon and Washington Streets
- DRT- business parking lot on corner of Washington and Kempton Place
- BCIL/DPC DAAHR Forum on Masshealth issues
- MCB Town Hall- on Assistive Technology
- Joint Council Committees (PS and PF)- on NewCAL
- Newton Historic Commission- on NewCAL
- MassDOT Public Hearing on Needham St. Project
- Comm Ave Carriage Way from Ash to Charles River with consultants- bi-weekly with city staff
- Community Mtg on NewCAL
- 10/8/20 Traffic Council- accessible parking space request
- MOD – submitted grant application- 3 playgrounds in 2 parks-Auburndale Cove and Davis
- Sidewalk Snowplow -Meeting weekly- reviewing 6 routes with DPW
- CIP Steering Committee- with several departments
- NewCAL- every other week meeting
- Fair Housing Committee- I attend this monthly
- Complete Streets Committee & Road Paving- I attend every week
- CODA- monthly meeting- with other CODs' members and ADA Coordinators
- West Newton & Newtonville Streetscapes Working Group- every other week updates

Level\_Up\_Automation Newton Council.pdf

AUTOMATED

T

ECHNOLOGY

PROFESSIONALS

image of empty picture frames on a wall

A picture containing outdoor, grass, building, holding

Description automatically generated

10

A sign in the dark

Description automatically generated

Image result for person raising hand revolution

Our Mission

To be trusted advisors to end users and business partners in the ever evolving world of connected technology.

We are technology teachers.

We Serve

list of 5 items

- Residential Automation
- Commercial Automation (small to medium businesses)
- Multi-Dwelling Units (i.e. apartments, schools)
- Government Entities
- Trade partners –architects, builders and interior designers

list end

A picture containing drawing

Description automatically generated

Logo

Description automatically generated

Northeast Arc | Changing Lives. Discovering Abilities

iRobot Media Kit - Media Kits

101

list of 9 items

- Outdoor Televisions
- Outdoor Audio
- Automated Shades
- Automated Lighting
- Water Monitoring and Leak protection
- Smart Mirrors
- Automated Bathroom/Kitchen products
- Smart security window/door sensors with alarms
- Video Conferencing

list end

list of 9 items

- Automation through voice
- Wireless networks
- Audio and video entertainment
- Smart Smoke & CO Detectors
- Security Cameras
- Keyless Locks
- Connected Thermostats
- Smart garage doors
- Smart Air

list end

214

Elements of

Connected Automation

Some  
automation  
brands we  
integrate...  
231  
232  
233  
234  
Yale (company) logo.png  
Image result for schlage lock logo  
237  
238  
Image result for clare controls logo  
240  
Image result for coastal source logo  
Image result for luma logo snapav  
Araknis Networks Logo  
244  
OvrC Logo  
Luma Surveillance Logo  
Consult  
Design  
Service  
Meeting  
Ruler  
Tools  
Image result for person raising hand revolution  
Image result for consult in home  
Image result for nest installation  
U.S. consumers will buy more than 485 million connected devices in 2021  
How can we help create and promote new abilities, independence and enjoyment with underserved populations through automation technology?  
Image result for Parks associates enabling voice in the home  
304  
305  
CONNECTED TECHNOLOGY AS AN EQUALIZER  
list of 3 items  
•Hands free, voice free  
•Customizable based on need  
•Automated through scenes and routines  
list end  
Checkmark  
339  
Not one size fits all  
Smart Phone  
348  
Multiple modes can be used  
Gears  
357  
Use and preferences evolve  
OPPORTUNITY: EQUALIZER AND  
EMPOWERER  
list of 4 items  
•How do we make businesses in our towns more inspiring?  
•How do we make public spaces more inspiring?  
•How do we make homes more friendly and fulfilling places to be?  
•How do we help accelerate Disabled Owned Businesses?  
list end  
Your Goal:  
Wellness/Comfort

list of 3 items

- Comfort
- Convenience
- Natural Biorhythms

list end

A picture containing drawing

Description automatically generated

Image result for haiku smart ceiling fan

Image result for LIFX smart light bulb

Image result for lutron blinds

Image result for nest

Image result for sensibo

452

Scene

Automation

list of 6 items

- Good Morning
- Good Night
- Quiet Time
- Movie Time
- Study Time
- Game Night

list end

Google Home Hub is the Pixel of Smart Displays - and a rival to ...

Lighting Sound Security Information (weather, traffic, reminders)

Like to start a conversation?

Levelupyourhome.com (residential)

A screen shot of a computer

Description automatically generated

516

517

Levelupautomation.com (commercial)

Jen@levelupyourhome.com

(508

-

341

-

9428)

Consultative and Educational Services for Spaces

Free Home Consultations (virtual, home, phone) 1

-

800

-

979

-

2791

hello@levelupyourhome.com

,

chat on our website, visit our showroom



**Friday, October 9, 2020**

Brian –

It has been brought to our attention at the September 14 meeting of the Newton Commission On Disability, that longtime consumer of The RIDE, Rosemary Larking, was stranded by TRAC on August 17.

Specifically, Rosemary, her husband Donald, along with her Personal Care Attendant (PCA) scheduled a two-way trip to The Cove in Auburndale, one of the 14 villages in Newton. She scheduled in advance to be picked up to return home at the Warren House in West Newton at 5:20 p.m.

As The RIDE failed to arrive at that 5:20 p.m. pre-scheduled time, Rosemary began calling TRAC to learn why the driver was 40 minutes late. Upon her initial call, she waited and waited and waited. But not one scheduler answered the telephone at TRAC.

Moreover, Rosemary contacted the Newton Police Department to call TRAC, too. Still the call to TRAC went unanswered. At that moment, she asked the Newton police officer to drive her husband home because he needed to leave. His disability disallows him to walk long distances.

Rosemary told the members of the Newton Commission On Disability: “I was willing to wait as long as it took for the driver to return to pick me up. But decided at 9:00 to travel home with my PCA.” That trek took 40 minutes in the dark as sun set already occurred.

The RIDE drove Rosemary to The Cove without a problem. But failed terribly in not returning at the appointed time of 5:20 p.m. – nearly four hours waiting! We find the situation that Rosemary endured unacceptable. That is an extreme breach of the public trust to the most vulnerable members of our society.

**cc: Ben Schutzman, Chief of Paratransit Services, Transportation Access  
Stephanie Pollack, Secretary, MBTA  
Jessica Podesva, RTAG Member, BCIL Community Organizer  
Andy Forman, RTAG Member, BCIL Advocate**

# Service Dogs Pamphlet

## Background

Newton Commission On Disability (COD), a voluntary citizens group appointed by the Mayor, informs city leaders of the needs and priorities of residents with disabilities. Commission members are a diverse representation of Newton's disability population. Through education and advocacy, the COD works to raise disability awareness and the importance of increased accessibility to programs, housing and other facilities. Its mission is to foster equal access to community life and activities for people with disabilities. With this pamphlet on service dogs the COD hopes to raise awareness and recognition of the important role service dogs play in our community.

**Service dogs** are a more common sight these days, but many people don't really understand the many reasons someone may use a service dog, or the important rules governing their presence in public places. These working animals help individuals with a variety of disabilities live their lives more independently and provide numerous benefits to those with a legitimate need.

There are several types of service dogs. Individuals with vision loss use guide dogs and are best understood by the general public. They ensure their owners can safely navigate streets, sidewalks, public transportation, and buildings, helping their handlers avoid obstacles and vehicles while finding stairs, entrance ways, and curb cuts.

*"My guide dogs have restored my self-assurance, and my self-reliance both necessary tools to tackle the tough road we all call life. Autumn is always by my side. My Guide, and my companion. A trust forged between us that no one but another guide dog handler can understand. We are a team, attached at the hip always. Walking in sync."*

*-Barbara. Lischinsky, COD member*

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Service dogs that assist individuals with mobility issues are also increasingly common. These dogs will retrieve and deliver items, open and close doors, and perform other tasks for people who may be physically unable to do those things or greatly benefit from the help. While these dogs are often associated with folks using mobility aids such as wheelchairs, there are plenty of people with "invisible disabilities" that rely on them as well for similar tasks and for stability.

Hearing dogs are another category of service dogs. These animals are trained to alert their handlers when they hear specific sounds, such as smoke and fire alarms, doorbells, timers, and car horns.

There are also dogs specifically trained for early detection of potentially life-threatening symptoms for people with serious medical conditions. These alert dogs can, for example, help individuals with Seizure Disorder, diabetes, and autism. They're trained to preemptively notice the onset of an episode and ensure they get their required medicines or that they're in a safe space or position to prevent any injuries to themselves or others.

Another type of service dog is for individuals with Psychiatric needs, such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). These dogs are able to help their handlers go out in public when they otherwise wouldn't feel comfortable doing so, as well as wake them up if they're having nightmares, apply deep pressure during upsetting situations, and create a physical separation between their handler and other members of the public.

## ADA protection

Service dogs differ from other assistance animals in some key ways. First of all, under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals and their service dogs have public access rights, which means they can take them almost anywhere. Other than a few special circumstances, their access cannot be legally denied. Therapy dogs and Emotional Support Animals (ESA) do not have the same level of protection and access rights, and for good reason. Service dogs go through extensive training to not only perform specific tasks for their handlers, but also to behave properly in public and not draw attention to themselves when they're not working.

Under the ADA, if someone attempts to enter a public place where dogs normally aren't allowed, there are only two questions that can be asked:

- Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?
- What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?

Unfortunately, confusion and deception have also led to a rise in service dog fraud. People will try to take their pets places by putting fake vests on them or getting phony online certificates. This makes it harder for people with legitimate reasons to use a properly trained service dog, and it creates a public health issue as these dogs aren't always well behaved and could attack other people or legitimate service dogs.

## Our Story

COD member Matt Volpi shares this story: Our family got a service dog for our daughter, who has a neuromuscular disease. She fatigues easily, needs to rest often, and normal everyday tasks such as bending over to pick something up off the floor are much harder for her than a typical person. Her service dog can help her with tasks such as retrieving items, helping her up the stairs, or getting up into a standing position.

And, because she has to rest often and misses out on many traditional activities that her peers participate in, she has a companion to keep her company. Service dogs also make a great ice breaker for people with disabilities, as people who may be uncomfortable approaching someone will be more likely to engage when there's a dog involved. We got our service dog from Canine Companions for Independence, which has been providing service dogs free of charge since the 1970s. All the dogs are bred, raised, and professionally trained to be service dogs, ensuring they're properly behaved, have the right temperament, and hopefully lead long healthy working lives. Our service dog has changed our lives for the better. My daughter is able to conserve her energy for important tasks and she's never lonely. We take the dog everywhere, and she's made my daughter's many medical appointments and procedures far less stressful for everyone. Now that my daughter uses a wheelchair much of the time, her dog performs even more helpful tasks.



#### How to approach someone with a service dog

Service dogs may be dogs, but they should also be regarded as a medical device or aid. That's why it's important to never try to pet a service dog, offer it a treat, or call it over to you without first speaking with the handler. Even if it may not look like the dog is working, it may be providing an essential service and shouldn't be distracted.

You can, however, talk to the person who is handling the service dog. They're usually happy to talk to you about the dog and what it does for them. Remember when you're interacting with them to speak to the person and not the dog!

After speaking with them, you may ask to pet the dog, but don't be surprised or offended if they decline. When dogs are working, it's important they stay on task. It's really up to the handler whether they think it's a good idea and an appropriate time and location.

Remember, service dogs are not pets! Sure, when they're "off duty" they still get to be dogs, but when you see them with a vest or harness or in a public place you should treat them with the same respect you would treat anyone who's trying to get their work done.

Service dogs are not required to have certification or identification.

#### **For more information on service dogs:**

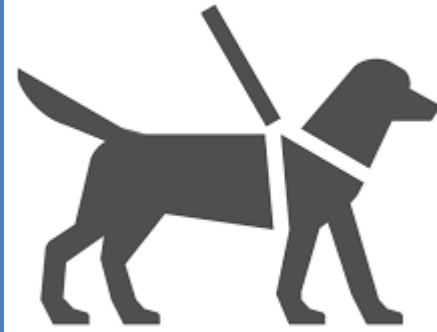
To learn how ADA protects the Service Dog Team and are protected under [https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service\\_animal\\_qa.html](https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html). More information can be found at:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/about-service-and-assistance-animals>

And, to find out more about Canine Companions for Independence, visit <http://cci.org>

*An accessible copy of this pamphlet is readily available upon request.*

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Service Dog Icon

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