



HOUSTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2005-2006

- ❖ Co-sponsored the second annual Health and Wellness Town Hall Meeting for People with Disabilities.
- ❖ Ongoing review of parks in cooperation with Parks and Recreation to recommend accessibility and functionality improvements for people with disabilities.
- ❖ Advised the City of Houston in revising the city ordinance to add a hearing process and penalty for taxicab drivers who refuse service to citizens, including people with disabilities.
- ❖ Conducted the annual Mayor's Disability Advocate of the Year awards including the first ever Youth Disability Advocate Award culminating in a ceremony with the Mayor and Council at City Hall.
- ❖ Provided input to the Houston Parks Board on Playgrounds Without Limits, a \$1 million fundraising campaign of the Houston Parks Board to build inclusive playgrounds in Houston.
- ❖ Established working partnership with METRO, including feedback and recommendations regarding services for people with disabilities.
- ❖ Held a commission meeting at METRO headquarters. Received a guided tour of the METROLift offices with an explanation of the updated systems and processes for handling ride requests.
- ❖ Advised the Houston Parking Commission on issues related to disabled parking placard abuse. Advocated for more accessible parking spaces in the central business district and at public entertainment venues.

- ❖ Participated in BluePrint Houston's Citizen Congress II.
- ❖ Received presentation on the issues facing the hard of hearing population from a Hearing Loss Resource Specialist from Communication Access Ability Group.
- ❖ Received a presentation from the Office of Emergency Management regarding registration for emergency evacuation.
- ❖ Heard public comments from citizens who participated in aquatic programs at the West Gray Metropolitan Multi-Service Center. Served as liaison to Parks Department to help resolve these concerns.
- ❖ Presentation by PWE Director Michael Marcotte regarding audible pedestrian signals (APS) and budgeting to review existing APS and upgrading of the signals in downtown and Medical Center.
- ❖ Received presentation from the Houston Parks Board on Playgrounds Without Limits proposed for Memorial Park, Tidwell Park and 1475 West Gray.
- ❖ Representation at the National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament, held in Houston in 2006.
- ❖ Received a presentation on the Accessible Parking Ticket Program (VIP). This is a program that trains and deputizes citizen/volunteers to write citations to vehicles that are illegally parked in accessible parking spaces.