May 13, 2020

Mayor Richard Kriseman and  
City Council Members  
City of St. Petersburg  
P. O. Box 2842  
St. Petersburg, FL 33731

Dear Mayor Kriseman and Honorable City Council Members:

It is with great privilege that I present the 2018-2019 Biennial Report on behalf of the members of the Committee to Advocate for Persons with Impairments (CAPI). Through CAPI's advocacy and leadership role in the disability community, the City of St. Petersburg has continued to demonstrate its strong commitment to ensuring equal access for individuals with disabilities to facilities, programs and events.

This report demonstrates CAPI's continued focus on building awareness of the extensive range of resources and accessibility features offered throughout the City. It also highlights the relationship between CAPI and their community partners in the City of St. Petersburg and Pinellas County.

CAPI remains committed to providing important educational opportunities through our ADA Awareness training offered to City employees. CAPI generously supports funding of accessible programs and equipment for the citizens and guests of the City of St. Petersburg. CAPI has proudly funded captioning services for all City Council meetings and recorded programs as well as UBI-Duo 2 devices for communication for the hearing impaired.

The City's Engineering Department has graciously attended CAPI meetings to review plans to ensure the New Pier project, specifically the playground, is accessible for all visitors.

The City hosts a wide variety of co-sponsored events through the waterfront parks and recreational areas. These events attract thousands of citizens and visitors to our community. CAPI has provided a slide show to help educate event organizers about key accessibility issues and how to avoid mishaps at their events. This resource is now distributed to all event organizers of co-sponsored events.

St. Petersburg has been proudly showcased in the national spotlight during the annual Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg. CAPI has consistently nurtured a partnership with the event organizers to ensure the event is accessible and enjoyable for its citizens and visitors with disabilities. CAPI funded Mobi Mats, which are used on uneven terrain, grass, or sand, and makes the surface accessible for persons using mobility devices. The Grand Prix is an example of how we can work together to offer safe and accessible mobile events.
In addition, the City offers beautiful waterways, parks and recreation programs that are major attractions for both residents and visitors. Beach wheelchairs are available for public use, increasing access to our stunning beaches. CAPI’s strong commitment to accessibility for recreational endeavors continues with the review and the advisement toward renovations for parks and playgrounds throughout the City. CAPI works with the Parks Department to enhance accessible play components in coordination with their renovation schedule.

CAPI members diligently work to ensure that the City of St. Petersburg’s website is ADA compliant by performing periodic review and updates to CAPI’s webpage and City's website, making it more meaningful for residents and visitors. Committee members realize the website is often the first point of contact for many who are seeking information about St. Petersburg’s programs, activities and opportunities.

The Volunteer Road Patrol members are extraordinary in their commitment to help our community by ensuring that vehicles parked in the spaces designated for individuals with disabilities have the appropriate state issued placard or plate to legally do so. CAPI recognizes the efforts of our volunteer road patrol on a biennial basis at a City Council meeting. CAPI applauds these volunteers and appreciates their hard work, unselfish gift of their time and commitment to our citizens with disabilities.

Abilities.com, a resource for the disability community, ranks the St. Petersburg as the 5th most accessible city in the United States. This is a great accomplishment brought to fruition through the commitment of City leaders and staff and the dedication of CAPI’s members to ensure that events, programs and facilities throughout our beautiful Sunshine City is accessible for our citizens and our guests.

It was my honor and pleasure to serve as CAPI's Chairperson during the period of 2018-2019. I am tremendously pleased with the extensive work and scope of accomplishments from our CAPI members, a group of dedicated volunteer city residents. Our goals could not be achieved without the endless support from City staff members who are as equally committed to ensuring the City of St. Petersburg’s facilities, programs, and events are accessible and enjoyable by all persons, regardless of disability or ability.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula Orandash, Chairperson
Committee to Advocate for Persons with Impairments
City of St. Petersburg

PO/ajd
MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Committee to Advocate for Persons with Impairments (CAPI or the Committee) is to advocate, advise and formulate positions on issues facing persons with impairments and to provide the City Council, Office of the Mayor, other departments, committees and offices there under and, whenever possible, private entities with guidance and support relative to the affairs, concerns, rights, special needs and dignity of persons with impairments to ensure their full participation in and enjoyment of the City’s facilities, programs and services. (Resolution 95-197 and CAPI Bylaws, Section 1, Article I).

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

CAPI was originally established by City Council in 1972 as primarily an advisory body without the significant financial resources that it currently enjoys. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA or Act), which was signed into law on July 26, 1990, signaled a new era in advocacy for persons with disabilities as well as the role that the City would play in creating an accessible community. The ADA is a civil rights law that offers protection to persons with disabilities from discrimination in the areas of employment, transportation, and access to public facilities, services and programs.

The ADA also mandated that the City examine its programs and services and, where necessary, to make reasonable accommodations that would allow persons with impairments to have equal access to and the enjoyment of the City’s programs and services.

A serendipitous result of this examination was a redefining of the mission of CAPI by City Council in 1995 and its transformation to that of being more pro-active. In doing so, the City reaffirmed and better defined its commitment to persons with impairments.

To its credit, the Council also saw fit to provide access to funding to the Committee from the state mandated reserve which is a set-aside of fines from handicapped parking space violations.

CAPI has thus become an integral part of defining the future course of the City of St. Petersburg in ensuring equal access to persons with impairments.
PROJECT FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2018

- ADA Playground Components: North Shore Playground and Park
- Fitness Zone and Center Advocacy Reviews
- Service and Emotional Support Animal Training
- Jennie Hall Pool Entrance Accessibility
- Biennial Recognition-Volunteer Road Patrol
- Accessibility Site Visits for Co-Sponsored Events: Grand Prix, Dr. MLK Jr. Parade and Family Fun Day, Blues Fest, Taste of Pinellas, Rib Fest, Pride Parade, Reggae Rise Up, Holiday Parade, Etc.
- The Pier Working Group Accessibility Review
- CAPI ADA Awareness Workshops for City Employees
- CAPI Biennial Report
- Support for the Ms. Wheelchair of Florida Pageant
- City’s Self-Evaluation Surveys
- City Facilities Accessible/Directional Signage
- Accessible Restrooms: Main Library, Childs Park, Sunshine and Walter Fuller Recreation Centers
- Emergency Management Training Review
- Purchase of Accessible Golf Cart
- Sidewalk Café Accessibility

STAND DOWN FOR VETERANS

NEW ST. PETE PIER CONSTRUCTION

MISS WHEELCHAIR OF FLORIDA 2019
CHRISTINE GARNER
PROJECT FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2019

- Pier Accessibility Updates
- Purchase of Two Beach Wheelchairs
- Review of City Website for ADA Compliance
- Accessibility Site Visits for Co-Sponsored Events: Grand Prix, Dr. MLK, Jr. Parade and Family Fun Day, Blues Fest, Taste of Pinellas, 95.7 Beats by the Bay, Pride Parade, Reggae Rise Up, Holiday Parade, Etc.
- Purchase of Closed Captioning Program Hardware and Software Maintenance for Closed Captioning
- ADA Awareness Training for City Employees

- ADA Transition Plan Implementation
- Cross Bay Ferry Accessibility
- PSTA Accessible Stops
- Sidewalk Café Accessibility
- Funding of ADA Document Compliance Training
ONGOING PROJECTS

• Monthly Review Citizens’ Complaint Log
• Annual Accessible Park Review
• ADA City Staff Training
• Annual Review of CAPI Website
• Updating the CAPI Multimedia Production Distribution
• Accessibility Education for Co-Sponsored Events

DID YOU KNOW?

Florida Statute 316.008(4)(b) provides that a portion of the fines collected for disabled parking violations be used “to provide funds to improve accessibility and equal opportunity to qualified persons who have disabilities in the county or municipality and to provide funds to conduct public awareness programs in the county or municipality concerning persons who have disabilities.” As an advisory body, CAPI has made project funding recommendations to the City’s Administration, and paid for reoccurring operational expenses such as sign language/CART services for each monthly meeting, and the cost of the City’s ADA Consultant.
STAND DOWN FOR VETERANS OUTDOOR EVENT TABLES

CAPI MEMBERS
Paula Orandash, Chair
Michael Robinson, Vice Chair
Scott Stephen, Previous Vice Chair
Rhonda Abbott
Howard Bell
Micheal Bender
Mary Bucca
Gary Deavers
Pam Evans
Jennifer French Gerald Junevicus
Catherine McGarry
Sandra Perillo
Kimberly Rankine

CITY SUPPORT TEAM
Lendel Bright, P.A., CPO, ADA and Diversity Coordinator
Community Affairs Division, Human Resources Department

Danielle Weaver-Rodgers, Esquire, Assistant City Attorney
Legal Department

Barbara Van Camp, Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor
Parks and Recreation Department

Anita Dreyer, Administrative Assistant
Community Affairs Division, Human Resources Department

Jack Humburg, Director of Housing Development,
Americans with Disabilities Act Services, Boley Centers, Inc.
City ADA Consultant

NOTE:
This Report will be made available in alternate formats for persons with disabilities upon request.