

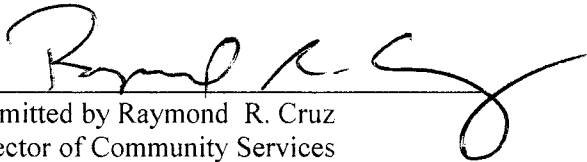


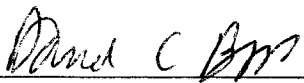
City of Carson

Report to Mayor and City Council

May 21, 2013
New Business Consent

SUBJECT: CONSIDER REVISING THE POLICY FOR ENTRY AND SEATING BY THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED AND SENIORS AT CITY-SPONSORED SPECIAL EVENTS


Submitted by Raymond R. Cruz
Director of Community Services


Approved by David C. Biggs
City Manager

I. SUMMARY

This item is on the agenda at the request of Mayor Pro Tem Santarina.

On February 6, 2007, the City Council adopted a policy that provided priority admission and preferential seating for the physically challenged and seniors (Exhibit No. 1). Staff has recently received a request to modify how the priority seating works for events held at the Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center at Carson (Community Center), and to provide an additional row of seating that is more visibly noticeable for programs held at the City's parks. Staff has evaluated this proposal and believes that this policy would assist in the comfort and enjoyment of this clientele for these presentations.

II. RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE providing for the physically challenged and seniors early admission to preferential seating at City sponsored events held at the Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center at Carson, and adding one more row of preferred seating at City sponsored park programs.

III. ALTERNATIVES

TAKE any other action the City Council deems appropriate.

IV. BACKGROUND

On February 6, 2007, the City Council adopted a policy that provided priority admission and preferential seating for the physically challenged and seniors. Specifically, the City would utilize the standard set forth by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): For a given room capacity, a defined number of wheelchair locations must be provided (Exhibit No. 2). In addition, these wheelchair locations must provide an easily accessible route that serves as a means of egress in case of an emergency, and at least one companion seat must be provided next to each wheel chair seating area (Exhibit No.3). As this standard applies to "fixed" seating and the city utilizes temporary seating, staff has had to make some adjustments to the guideline in order to make it applicable to the seating arrangements at City events, as well as to the needs of other attendees.

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Staff has recently received a request to provide for the physically challenged and seniors for early admission, similar to an airline's early boarding process, to the preferential seating at City sponsored events held at the Community Center, and adding one more row of preferred seating at City sponsored park programs. Furthermore, at the park events the expanded preferred seating will be more visible through signage that indicates seating is reserved for the disabled and senior citizens. Staff has examined this proposal, and believes it would improve the comfort and enjoyment of City programs by these individuals. The only caveat to this would be City sponsored senior events, where only physically challenged seniors would get the seating priority.

V. FISCAL IMPACT

None.

VI. EXHIBITS

1. Minutes, February 6, 2007, Item No. 12. (pgs. 3-4)
2. ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities, Section 4.1.3 (19) Assembly Areas. (pg. 5)
3. ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities, Section 4.33.3. (pg. 6)

Prepared by: Cedric L. Hicks, Sr., Superintendent Recreation and Human Services

TO: Rev09-04-2012

Reviewed by:

City Clerk	City Treasurer
Administrative Services	Public Works
Community Development	Community Services

Action taken by City Council

Date_____ Action_____

**ITEM NO. (12) RESERVED SEATING FOR SENIORS AND PHYSICALLY-CHALLENGED
ATTENDEES AT CITY-SPONSORED SPECIAL EVENTS (PUBLIC
SERVICES)**

Administrative Services General Manager/Acting City Manager Acosta summarized the staff report and recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION for the City Council:

1. INSTRUCT staff to draft a policy that will establish, upon approval by the City Council, senior citizen and physically-challenged event entrance and reserved seating at city-sponsored events.

ACTION: It was moved to send this item to the City Council Senior Citizen and City Council Policy Sub-Committees on motion of Dear and seconded by Williams.

Council Member Santarina offered a substitute motion to adopt a policy of the City Council to provide priority admission to and preferential seating for senior citizens who are physically challenged consistent with Federal ADA laws at all City-sponsored events, which was seconded by Gipson.

Public Comments

Joe Merton, 21314 Selwyn Avenue, Carson, California 90745, offered comments in support of a city-wide policy.

Upon inquiry, City Attorney Wynder stated that the substitute motion was a legal substitute motion.

Council Member Williams moved to call for the question and end debate, which was seconded by Gipson.

Mayor Dear offered a substitute motion to the substitute motion to adopt this as a policy and for staff to illicit input from the public and bring the details forward to the City Council Policy Sub-Committee so as not to create problems.

Whereupon, Council Member Gipson raised a point of order and inquired into the status of the motion to end debate by Council Member Williams and seconded by Council Member Gipson.

City Attorney Wynder stated that the motion to call for the previous question and to end debate was properly seconded and that the substitute motion to the substitute motion was out of order.

The motion to close debate was unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Ruiz-Raber, Council Member Santarina, Council Member Williams, and Council Member Gipson

Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

The substitute motion was carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Ruiz-Raber, Council Member Santarina, and Council
Member Gipson
Noes: Council Member Williams
Abstain: None
Absent: None



ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities (ADAAG)

4.1.3 (19) Assembly Areas:

- a. In places of assembly with "fixed" seating, accessible wheelchair locations shall comply with 4.33.2, 4.33.3 and 4.33.4 and shall be provided consistent with the following table:

Capacity of Seating In Assembly Area
4 to 25
26 to 50
51 to 300
301 to 500
Over 500

Number of Required Wheelchair Locations
1
2
4
6
6 plus 1 additional space for each total seating capacity increase of 100



ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Building and Facilities (ADAAG)

4.33.3* Placement of Wheelchair Locations. Wheelchair areas shall be an integral part of any fixed seating plan and shall be provided so as to provide people with physical disabilities a choice of admission prices and lines of sight comparable to those for members of the general public. They shall adjoin an accessible route that also serves as a means of egress in case of emergency. At least one companion fixed seat shall be provided next to each wheelchair seating area. When the seating capacity exceeds 300, wheelchair spaces shall be provided in more than one location. Readily removable seats may be installed in wheelchair spaces when the spaces are not required to accommodate wheelchair users.

EXCEPTION: Accessible viewing positions may be clustered for bleachers, balconies, and other areas having sight lines that require slopes of greater than 5 percent. Equivalent accessible viewing positions may be located on levels having accessible egress.

