

Minutes

Commission for the Disabled

Monday, Jan. 11, 5:00 pm, small conference room

Present: D. Ciota, T. Phillips, G. Romero, S. Signorelli, C. Calabro, C. Santori, W. Kenyon

Called to order: 5:00

1. The meetings of the Dec. 21 meeting were accepted as read.
2. The Commission discussed a "blistering" letter sent to the New York School System by the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York. The letter follows a 2-year federal investigation, and states that 83% of NYC schools are not "fully accessible" to children with disabilities, in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The letter gives the city 30 days to provide a response. The Education Department said it had (previously?) set aside \$100 million for accessibility projects.

The letter was particularly focused non-ADA-compliant alterations made to schools after enactment of ADA in 1992. It contained 4 pages of "minimum actions necessary."

(ref: <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/22/nyregion/most-new-york-elementary-schools-are-violating-disabilities-act-investigation-finds.html>)

3. The Commission agreed that one of its missions is to communicate to the Ridgefield public regarding disabilities and ADA -- to begin with, via articles written for the Ridgefield Press.

4. Moved and voted to adjourn: 6:25

W. E. Kenyon, secretary

Future meetings:

Feb. 8
Mar. 14
Apr. 11
May 16
Jun. 13
Sept. 12
Oct. 17
Nov. 14
Dec. 12