

COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

October 14, 2003

ATTENDEES: John Gentile, Janet Ross, Tony Vitti, Robie Barile, Kris Ginty, Doris Pietras, Carlene Barker, and Kenny Lee

ABSENTEES: Chad Sinanian, Roberto Perez

Meeting Commenced 6:30PM

- John distributed the NEW AGENDA for this meeting.
- September meeting minutes reviewed and accepted.
- Robie went to the City of Danbury's website @ www.ci.danbury.ct.us to show the Commission the changes she has made and the information that is available to the citizens of Danbury. She also suggested that we might like to add additional information such as the Commission's Mission Statement, goals and accomplishments.
- The Webmaster is Melissa Adams. Kris will try to send her a copy of the September meeting minutes so that the minutes can be viewed on-line. This can be done on a monthly basis. John may want to send the agenda to Melissa for posting also.
- Does the Commission have a mailbox in City Hall? Other Commissions do. People may want to mail correspondence to this box. Something to think about.
- Robie went on-line and copied ALL the guidelines regarding the National Disability Mentoring Day and put them in a BIG binder. We would need sponsors to help us if we decided to do this next year. It is a very involved undertaking. John will take the binder home and review it. He will also give Mark Define at Independence Northwest a call and get his opinion of the program. Pitney Bowes was a big sponsor this year. Janet mentioned that Roy Young @ Fairfield Processing might also be a good contact.
- John distributed a flyer from the CT Association for Community Transportation (CACT) for attending a public meeting with author Rachel Simon Oct. 30 in Hartford. She wrote the book RIDING THE BUS WITH MY SISTER, a story of the transportation industry. Rachel's' sister, Beth, is an independent person who has mental retardation and traveled the fixed bus

routes in her Pennsylvania city. Rachel rode the bus with Beth for one year and learned first hand of her sister's experiences.

- John also passed out information on Access and Accessibility, presented by the CT Business Leadership Network. It looks at transportation throughout the State.

- Robie brought about a complaint regarding the lack of access of transportation within our City with HART due to a power wheelchair and a weight limit issue. This complaint comes from the same individual who was mentioned in September 9th meeting minutes. This individual did get the letter from Rich Schreiner and is unhappy about it. Apparently the main issue is SAFETY. This individual must be able to safely access the bus service using 2 wheelchairs (her 200lb+ motorized wheelchair and a lighter weight push wheel chair). Kenny knows this individual and has offered to speak further with him/her regarding this issue. Another person who may be able to help in this situation is Robert Yastremski @ HART, 744-4070, ext. 126. Janet mentioned that if this individual is on Title 19 then there is transportation available for going to and from doctor's appointments. More to follow.

- John spoke about another HART issue regarding an elderly person who lives in Kimberly Place who attacked a bus driver recently. The man is suffering from dementia. John was asked to help with this matter. The INTAKE DEPT. (Dept. Of the Elderly) of Waterbury will help to intervene and get this man the services he may need. Janet mentioned that Marnie Emerito @ 80 Main might also be a good resource in this matter.

- The Commission is still short 2 alternate members.

- John will be working on getting reappointment for those members whose term has expired.

- No phone calls last month. Janet still has the phone log.

- City Hall will be closed Nov. 11, 2003 so the Commission's next meeting will be Nov. 18, 2003. John will mail out reminders of the change.

Meeting adjourned 7:32pm