



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Meeting Minutes - Approved DISABILITY RIGHTS COMMISSION

*Consider: Who benefits? Who is burdened?
Who does not have a voice at the table?
How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?*

Thursday, August 28, 2025

5:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

The City of Madison is holding the Disability Rights Commission meeting virtually to help protect our community from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

1. Written Comments: You can send comments on agenda items to DisabilityRights@cityofmadison.com

2. Register for Public Comment:

- Register to speak at the meeting.
- Register to answer questions.
- Register in support or opposition of an agenda item (without speaking).

If you want to speak at this meeting you must register. You can register at <https://www.cityofmadison.com/MeetingRegistration>. When you register to speak, you will be sent an email with the information you will need to join the virtual meeting.

3. Watch the Meeting: If you would like to join the meeting as an observer, please visit: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/watchmeetings>.

4. Listen by Phone:

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
877 853 5257 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 834 0635 1912

Passcode: Request via email at DisabilityRights@cityofmadison.com

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 9 - Joann Pritchett; Brett Maki; Joseph A. Frost; Rebecca Y. Back; Kristen E. Luppino Witzling; Kathleen M. Callen; Nakia S. Wiley; Wendi Dwyer and Lynn A. Olson

Excused: 4 - Larry D. Love; Melissa A. Madole; Nicki Vander Meulen and Casey Edmonds-Estes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Callen, seconded by Commissioner Witzling, to Approve the Minutes from July 24, 2025. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. [89688](#) Public Comment (August 2025)

There were no public comments.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures and recusals.

NEW BUSINESS

2. [89689](#) DRC Meeting Schedule

Chair Wiley and Hoyt gave an overview of options and led the conversation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dwyer, seconded by Commissioner Olson, to add a half hour to meetings every month. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

3. [89690](#) November and December Meetings

Hoyt gave an overview of options and led the conversation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson, seconded by Commissioner Witzling, to move both meetings to the third Thursday to sidestep the holiday conflicts. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. [87483](#) Adopting the Updated Elected and Appointed Official Code of Ethical Conduct

Sponsors: Bill Tishler

Attachments: [PROPOSED: Updated Elected and Appointed Official Code of Ethical Conduct](#)
[IN EFFECT: Elected and Appointed Official Code of Ethical Conduct Updated](#)
[BPW Presentation Elected and Appointed Official Code of Ethical Conduct.pdf](#)
[Updated Presentation Elected and Appointed Official Code of Ethical Conduct](#)
[Updated 7-17-25 Elected and Appointed Official Code of Ethical Conduct.pdf](#)

Disability Rights Commission considered file 87483 at the meeting of August 28, 2025. No action was taken.

Kapusta-Pofahl led the discussion.

Feedback submitted via email -

- Wendi: I felt that it was fairly straightforward and I don't have any changes.
- Nakia: I was impressed by the ethics code's presentation. I do have a concern pertaining to the reversal of unethical behaviors from non-appointed and non-elected politicians. How can we ensure that we will not be bullied, harassed, and targeted by people who think we have money or can provide them with favors. In addition, what can stop someone or groups of people from telling lies on appointed and elected officials to get them removed from their seats or in trouble with the law? How can we ensure that we are protected?
- Kathleen: Changes to the Code of Conduct should never be taken lightly or done hastily as they need to be done thoughtfully and as a response to the changing times and needs of the city, not only as a reaction to a particular incident. The proposed changes are clearly meant to foster a safe and respectful environment to conduct the important work of the city. Having heard the presentation and read the proposed updates to the Code of Ethical Conduct again I can say that I support these changes.

5. [87667](#) ADA Transition Plan Update

Hoyt gave an update.

REPORTS

6. [62729](#) Report from the Common Council

Alder Pritchett gave an update.

7. [88395](#) Transportation Commission Liaison

There was no update.

8. [89242](#) Housing Committee Liaison

There was no update.

9. [88396](#) Beyond Compliance Subcommittee Liaison Report
Hoyt gave an update.
10. [88398](#) Week Without Driving Liaison Report
Dwyer gave an update.
11. [15340](#) Report from the Department of Civil Rights
Hoyt gave an update.
12. [24056](#) Report from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award Commission
There was no update.

OTHER

13. [80509](#) Future Topics City of Madison
- Commissioner Dwyer - community concerns about construction going around town, especially the right turn on red, and how people with disabilities are affected by it. Inviting people to talk about their experiences.
- Chair Wiley - community of disabled people experiencing transitional housing. Inviting another commission or group(s) in the community that can speak on this.
- Commissioner Olson - ADA apartments going to people that actually need them.
- Alder Pritchett - consider having signage in BRT stations for people that may benefit from braille. Commissioner Dwyer also added lighting up bus stops for better visibility at night.
- Hoyt - emergency planning will be on the September meeting agenda. Other topics in the queue: streets & snow removal, explore long-term care pilot project with Commissioner Maki as presenter, housing incentive follow-up, developing best practices guide for new projects and initiatives (for example, universal design, working to ensure that commission is being utilized as a resource when there are new projects or initiatives, etc), comprehensive accessibility guide, right turn on red, support for transitional housing population, signage for bus stations, and lighting at bus stops.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alder Pritchett, seconded by Commissioner Callen, to Adjourn. The motion passed by voice/other. The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 pm.