

***BIC Regular
Meeting of
March 16, 2022***

Agenda Item 9

Access Appeals Commission

Purpose

To serve the City and County of San Francisco and the general public by hearing written appeals brought by any person regarding actions taken by the Department of Building Inspection in the enforcement of the requirements for Access to Public Accommodations by Physically Handicapped Persons (Part 5.5, Sections 19955-59 of the Health and Safety Code of the State of California), as well as action taken by the Department in the enforcement of the disabled access and adaptability provisions of this code. San Francisco Building Code Section 105.3.

Mission Statement

The Access Appeals Commission (AAC), consisting of a five-members, conducts hearings to approve or disapprove the Departments interpretations of applicable disability access regulations and actions taken by the Department to enforce said regulations and abate violations. It shall establish reasonable rules and regulations for its own procedures, choose its officers, conduct public meetings, designate an official reporter, and make decisions and recommendations by resolution.

The Access Appeals Commission

The AAC consists of five commissioners: two from the disabled community, two experienced in the construction industry, and one public member. The Commissioners are appointed by the Building Inspection Commission and serve at its pleasure. The Commission consists of:

Mr. William Scott Ellsworth, President
Mr. Kevin Birmingham, Vice-President
Ms. Alyce G. Brown, Commissioner
Mr. Walter Park, Commissioner
Mr. Arnie Lerner, FAIA, CASp, Commissioner

How to Contact the AAC

Thomas Fessler, Secretary to the Access Appeals Commission, may be reached at:

Access Appeals Commission
Department of Building Inspection
49 South Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103
(628) 652-3721, FAX (628) 652-3518
Email: Thomas.Fessler@sfgov.org

Meetings

The Access Appeals Commission meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month. Meetings are accessible, open to the public, and are held commencing at 1:00 p.m. at:

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 416
San Francisco, CA 94102

Disability Accommodations

To request assistive listening devices, sign language interpreters, readers, large print agendas, or other accommodations, please contact Thomas Fessler 628-652-3721 or Thomas.Fessler@sfgov.org at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing.

Language Access

For questions about the Language Access Ordinance, please contact OCEIA at (415) 581-2360 and ask for the Executive Director or Language Access Compliance Officer. Language Assistance: To request an interpreter for a specific item during the meeting, please contact Thomas Fessler 628-652-3721 or Thomas.Fessler@sfgov.org at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing.

Agendas

The Agenda is published on the Friday before the regularly scheduled meeting. Agendas are posted on the Department's website www.sfdbi.org under Agendas & Minutes, at the Main Library in the Government Documents section, and are also available by contacting the AAC Secretary at (628) 652-3721.

[2022 AAC Meeting Calendar](#)

Minutes

Minutes are posted on the Department's website www.sfdbi.org under the Agenda and Minutes link 10 days after approval by the AAC.

Filing an Appeal

An Information Guide with Appeal Forms is available by contacting the Commission Secretary at 628-652-3721.

[Access Appeals Commission By Laws \(pdf\)](#)

[Information Guide and Appeal Forms \(pdf\)](#)

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***Agenda Item 9
Resume #1***

ALYCE G. BROWN

San Francisco, CA 94109

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Education

San Francisco State University
Graduate Courses – Public Administration

University of Michigan
BA American History 1971
Minor: Political Science
Michigan, California Teaching Credentials

Work Experience

- 1984 – 2002** **Owned and operated L.L. Brown Jeweler, a retail fine jewelry store that was located at the Embarcadero Center, San Francisco**
- 1978 – 1984** **Owned and operated LBA Jewelry Co., a wholesale diamond and jewelry business in San Francisco, designing and manufacturing jewelry for the retail trade throughout the United States**
- 1972 – 1978** **Substitute teacher (Michigan, Oakland, CA)**

Civic Experience

- 2000 – present** **Access Appeals Commission**
- 2000 - present** **Delegate, California State Democratic Convention**
- 2010 - present** **Public Code Advisory Committee, SF Building Department**
- 2010 - present** **Assisted in development of AB 090 for destination elevators**
- 2010 – present** **Member of CARA (California Association of Retired Adults)**
- 2000 - present** **Member of the following California State Caucuses: Disability Caucus, Women's Caucus, Progressive Caucus; Labor Caucus**
- 2000 - 2015** **FDR Democratic Club (representing seniors and disabled)**
- 2011 - 2020** **Raoul Wallenberg Democratic Club**
- 2002 – 2004** **Outreach Committee, Small Business Commission**
- 1992 – 2010** **Secretary-Treasurer, member, S.F. Condo-Coop Association**
- 1978 – 2002** **Participated in Small Business Forums in San Francisco**

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CONFIDENTIAL

REFER TO

Alyce G. Brown

[REDACTED]
San Francisco, CA 94109
[REDACTED]

November 1, 2021

Building Inspection Commission
c/o Sonya Harris, Secretary
1660 Mission St. 5th floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Commissioners:

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit my resume and this letter of intent to be reappointed Commissioner to serve another term on the Access Appeals Commission.

Along with my other civic and business activities, I believe my experience as a current commissioner has given me a unique perspective to address the challenges facing the Access Appeals Commission. For example, when reviewing a particular accessibility issue, I often visit the site, which invariably offers an opportunity for a creative solution to the accessibility problem that might not have occurred in the absence of the site visit. I would be honored to continue to serve the City and County of San Francisco in this capacity.

If there is any additional information you require, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Alyce G. Brown

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***Agenda Item 9
Resume #2***

Sonya Harris, and Commissioners:

I am interested in being re-appointed as Commissioner on the Access Appeals Commission.

You already have my C.V., but here I will summarize my education and experience.

When the state authorized Access Appeals Commissions, I wrote the ordinance which took advantage of that to create San Francisco's commission. The bill was introduced by Supervisor Harry Britt and signed by then-President John Molinari. The AAC's differ from other appellate bodies in that they specialize in one subject, accessibility, and develop technical expertise in that area. Also, they encourage fairness with two members designated from the disability community and two from business, with a fifth public member.

I was founding executive director of Independent Housing Services, a community non-profit arranged accessible and affordable housing for low-income people with disabilities and seniors. We served approximately 2,000 clients per year, locating appropriate housing (public or private), move-in costs, rental subsidies, and related social services. Our architects reviewed about 2,000 units per year for architectural access, working closely with the Council of Community Housing Organizations and others. I personally did a lot of advocacy with state agencies including DSA and HCD on accessibility regulations. Later this expanded to working with HUD on Fair Housing Amendments. We trained architects, contractors, and community organizations and individuals in the new Fair Housing Amendment Act under a contract with HUD.

Shifting to Title III areas, in 1999 I was appointed founding executive director of the SF Mayor's Office on Disability. As a 'start-up,' we defined methods for promoting inclusion and access to city and county's programs, activities, services, and facilities. Scope was every department from the Art Commission and Airport to the Zoo, working especially with the departments that have a large impact on citizens' daily lives: Health, Rec and Park, Social Services, Public Works, police. We developed training programs in nearly every area, improved effective communication MOD handles ADA complaints. We also provided citizens ways to communicate with the mayor, created and staffed the Mayor's Disability Council, and received and resolved ADA complaints.

In retirement, I'm continuing disability advocacy activities. A group I work with is currently in discussions with state agency leadership, including the CPUC and the Office of the Attorney General to better serve and integrate people with disabilities living independently. I am, of course, still an active member of the AAC.

I will be happy to provide other information and answer any questions.

Walter Park
San Francisco

Walter Park

San Francisco, CA 94117

(415) [REDACTED] voice/fax

Internet [REDACTED]

Employment: 1981-1995

Independent Housing Services, Inc. Founding Executive Director

Founding director of non-profit community-based organization serving the housing needs of people with disabilities and the elderly. Agency provides housing counseling and placement to over 1,000 clients per year who are seniors or have disabilities; information and referral for another 1,000; technical and architectural services to architects, designers, builders, local governments; educational seminars and materials; and advocacy on issues of access. IHS is lead agency of CHIPS, San Francisco's Centralized Housing Information and Placement Service for people with HIV/AIDS, and the SF Housing Clearinghouse, an inter-agency homelessness prevention program. It is currently Technical Facilitator for a court-approved settlement agreement governing the creation of 500 units of newly accessible public housing.

1979-1981 San Francisco Charter Commission
Staff, Personnel Administration Committee.

Development of three city charter articles concerning personnel administration (civil service), employer-employee relations, and public employee retirement system. Worked under fifteen-member elected commission.

1979 Policy Implementation Project
Institute of Governmental Affairs. U. C. Berkeley
Post-graduate researcher.

Research project studying minority incorporation into local governing coalitions in ten San Francisco Bay Area cities. Organized conference on "Proposition 13: Impact on Minorities" (state tax cut initiative).

Partial listing of accessibility projects:

1992 - 1995
Technical Facilitator in court-approved 504 accessibility settlement of *Ivy Williams, et al v. SF Housing Authority*. Monitor architectural and programmatic compliance with terms of agreement for a five year period, during which 100 units per year are to be retro-fitted for accessibility. Final report on findings.

1991
PHB 504 Transition Plan. Self-evaluation and HUD transition plan for six projects operated by PHB Corporation. Seven hundred seventy-four units in over 65 buildings in six projects located in two cities. Overall construction cost projected at \$565,000.

Other recent accessibility design review projects have included: offices of Bill Graham Presents, University Gardens, Yerba Buena Gardens, 401 Main Street, Peter York Towers, Catholic Charities Jones and Turk housing.

Older projects include Smith Ranch Road (Marin County) senior retirement housing access review for Tishman Associates. In 1985 supervised project architect for 50 secondary unit clients under contract to the San Francisco Development Fund program to expand housing opportunities for Bay Area seniors.

Code Development:

Negotiated state Title 24 regulations in 1982, 1985, 1991 at each major step in changes to OSA and HCD accessibility regulations changes, as part of community negotiating team. Testified before the California Building Standards Commission at each step of code changes. Wrote the first CalBO training manual, funded by HCD.

One unusual technical project was the development of a report proposing building code revisions to prevent injury, under contract to the San Francisco Trauma Foundation. 1991.

Community affiliations:

- Since 1991 California Residential Earthquake Recovery Advisory Committee, Department of Insurance, appointed by Speaker Willie L. Brown, Jr.
- Since 1988 Member, San Francisco 504 Accessibility Task Force
- 1987-1994 Member, Community Council, CHIPPS (Community and Home Injury Protection Project for Seniors).
- Oct 86-Jun 87 Member, SF Office of Community Development Re-housing Task Force.
- Sep 86-May 87 Member, Mental Health Association Housing Task Force.
- Since Aug 86 Member, California Department of Housing and Community Development Residential Accessibility Advisory Committee.
- 1984-1987 Member, Coalition of Agencies Serving the Elderly (CASE).
- 1982-1988 Founding member, Mayor's Council on Disabilities Concerns. Appointed by mayor Dianne Feinstein.
- Since 1983 Founding member, SF Housing and Tenants Council.
- Since 1981 Founding member, Council of Community Housing Organizations.
- 1979-1980 San Francisco Citizens Housing Task Force. Appointed by mayor Dianne Feinstein.
- 1978-1979 Member, San Franciscans for Affordable Housing.
- 1976-1977 Member, San Francisco Criminal Grand Jury.
- 1975-1976 President, Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association.

Non-profit corporation boards:

- 1993-present Disability Rights Advocates, Inc. of Oakland, CA
- 1984 Board of Directors, SF Gray Panthers
- Since 1983 Board of Directors, CP Limited Equity Housing Coop, president 1987-88
- 1982-1988 Board of Directors, North of Market Development Corporation
- 1977-1989 Board of Directors, Castro Street Fair Corporation

Awards:

National *Human Environment Award* of the American Society of Interior Designers. This is the highest national award given by the ASID to a non-member. Presented in Toronto for contributions in the field of accessibility. July, 1987.

College Teaching:

Undergraduate course, "*Design for Special Populations*," with Tony Torrice, ASID, SF Academy of Art College, Interior Design Department. 1988.

Training and seminar presentations, sample list:

1995

FHIP. Fair Housing Initiatives Program. HUD-funded Fair Housing training. Wrote 100+ page training manual, produced 120-slide presentation for series of fourteen half-day training sessions along the West Coast from Seattle to Tucson, including San Francisco, Honolulu, and L.A. Attendance over 650.

"Building Non-Handicapping Environments" Conference, Budapest, Hungary (August, 1991).

"Staying Out of Trouble," Non-profit Housing Association of Northern California (November, 1991).

Sixteen Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) seminars in eight southwestern cities, under contract to HUD. 1990-1991.

Disability Rights Clinical Legal Education Program at Boalt Hall. Training program. 1989, 1990.

"Senior Housing Issues," The Gerontological Institute of New Jersey. June, 1988.

"Re-Thinking Housing" seminar, University of Houston. 1988.

Publications:

Fair Housing Amendments Act Training Book, Independent Housing Services for HUD, 1995, 1991.

Editor, "*The CHIPS Book*," *Centralized Housing Information and Placement Services Manual*, Independent Housing Services, January 1995.

Article: "*Building Non-Handicapping Environments*" Conference Proceedings, Budapest, Hungary (August, 1991).

Design of the Times: The Homeless -- Living on Hope, A Guide for Local Chapters, American Society of Interior Designers, October, 1988.

California Building Officials Seminar on Handicapped Accessibility and Adaptability Standards: *Training Book*, CalBO, Spring, 1985.

Access to Housing: Strategies and Case Studies, Independent Housing Services, January, 1985.

From Projects to a Pattern: Accessible / Adaptable Housing in San Francisco, Independent Housing Services, January, 1982.

Editor, with Susan Bain, *Proposition 13: Impact on Minorities*, Proceedings of a Workshop, Institute of Governmental Affairs, U.C. Davis, March, 1979.

Gentrification in the Duboce Triangle, Graduate M.P.A. study, 1978.

Education:

Princeton University 1968 A.B.

San Francisco State University M.P.A. candidate