



DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION

**City & County of San Francisco
1660 Mission Street, San Francisco, California 94103-2414**

APPEALS COMMISSION

DRAFT

MINUTES Regular Meeting Wednesday, April 26, 2006 Room 416, City Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Lerner called the meeting of the Access Appeals Commission to order at 1:10 P.M.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Arnie Lerner, President
Ms. Alyce G. Brown, Vice-President
Ms. Roslyn Baltimore
Ms. Enid Lim
Vacant

CITY REPRESENTATIVES: Ms. Judy Boyajian, Deputy City Attorney
Mr. Neil Friedman, Secretary
Ms. Doris M. Levine, Reporter

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

3. REVIEW OF COMMUNICATIONS ITEMS:

There were no communication items.

4. TOPICS:

Workshop for the Small Business Commission (SBC), regarding accessibility issues for small businesses and the upcoming May 1, 2006 joint meeting between SBC and Access Appeals Commission.

A question came up whether or not an attorney should be present at this special meeting.

The meeting will take place on Monday, xxxx at 5:30 at Board of Supervisors chambers Rm. 200

Commissioner Lerner e-mailed copies of a draft agenda prepared by the Small Business Commission (SBC) to all the AAC Commissioners.

The following items were discussed regarding the highlights of the SBC agenda items:

What is the goal of the joint meeting between the AAC and SBC.

Commissioner Lerner will introduce the commissioners and present a slide show.
A slide show of various non accessible features and accessible features was given by Commissioner Lerner previously.

Concerns of local small business were directed to Herb Levine, from the Center on Independent Living, regarding law suits for non accessible businesses.

Costs for access were thought to be so high that a shop would lose their business.

Commissioner Lerner suggested having an educational workshops or walkthroughs directed at solving this concern and showing business owner's alternative ways and options of making their shops accessible or equivalent.

Commissioner Brown was concerned that the AAC is putting them selves in jeopardy and some day they may be hearing cases from some of the small business owners they will be educating.

Commissioner Baltimore discussed that they shouldn't highlight slides of buildings that would be recognizable.

The workshop is more of a PR thing then educational.

Neil Friedman said typically a law suite is filed with the Department of Justice and a complaint with the Building Department is simultaneously filed.

The settlement usually costs more than the fix.

Discussed tools that are available to assist Small Businesses i.e.: SF Administrative Bulletins (AB) and filing a case with the AAC.

The discussion was to keep the information generic.

The discussion of clarification of what voluntary barrier removal is.

The discussion of the State Historical code

5. COMMISSIONERS AND STAFFS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

A discussion ensued regarding the Administrative Bulletins that relate to Disabled Access.
Neil Friedman was asked to bring in copies of the ABs that the Building Department has to the next meeting on May 10th.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 PM.

Neil Friedman

Senior Building Inspector

Department of Building Inspection

Secretary to the Access Appeals Commission