

City of Birmingham

THE MAYOR'S OFFICE ON AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

Special Events -50 Years Forward

Sept. 11-15, 2013

Empowerment Week

Sept. 11—Day of Service

Donnie McClurkin & CeCe Winans

Sept. 12— Reflection

U.S. Conference of Mayors

Sept. 13— Restoration

Congressional & International Leaders' Symposium

Sept. 14— Reconciliation

International Diversity

Sept. 15— Commemoration

16th St Worship, American idols Salute to Movement

For information: 254-2823

1963 Celebrating 50 Years Forward 2013



Fifty years ago the events that took place in Birmingham Alabama changed the world and the attitude of man's inhumanity towards their fellow man. The Civil Rights

Movement of the 1960's also gave rise to another civil rights movement. While the rights of minorities and women were protected under legislation in the 1960's, people with disabilities were still being discriminated against because this the new law did not protect them. *ADA grew out of the Civil Rights Movement*; it began with the passage of Section

504 Rehabilitation Act in 1973 which made it unlawful to discriminate on the basis of religion, race and national origin. However, it would take almost two decades later before the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which is considered the foundation that insures equal access for person with disabilities.

Inside stories

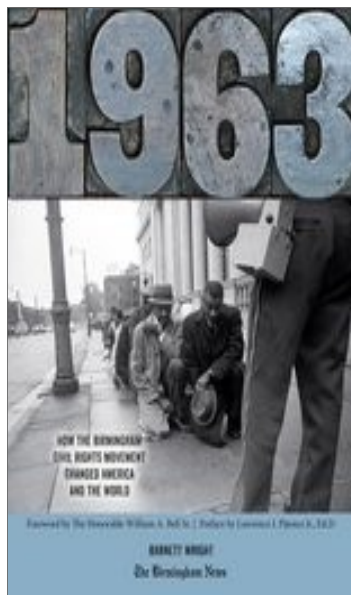
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Birmingham Poll Inspector and Clerks voting workshop



Insuring Accessibility at Polling Sites

As the City of Birmingham and its citizens prepared for one of the biggest elections in the city's history, the election of mayor, council and school board members, Birmingham's City Clerks Office were preplanning ,checking polling

locations, and insuring that materials for inspectors and clerks were in order. In addition the Clerks Office offered workshops over a two week period for over 600 inspectors and polling staff. Facilitators included Jefferson

County's Probate Election Division, Jefferson County DA's Office, and the City's Office on ADA Compliance which covered ADA accommodations and insuring access at all polling sites from entering poll site thru the voting process.



City's Parks Has Programs For Everyone

The Office on Americans with Disabilities and Birmingham's Parks & Recreation, partnered with the Alabama Industries for the Deaf and Blind (AIDB) to host the agency's annual summer camp for 2013. Hawkins Recreation Center and Roebuck Golf Course was the site for the camp's offsite camp activities. At Hawkins Recreation children who are blind and deaf enjoyed learning to play indoor golf and table tennis, proving that almost any sport can be played indoors. Each year AIDB holds a summer camps and in order to expose children who are blind and deaf to a variety of recreational experiences, the City's Parks Department partners with agencies serving children with disabilities to assist in hosting summer camps in an environment that is accessible for participants. The Office on Mayor's Office on ADA Compliance has found that the more the city networks with other agencies and groups who serve disabled population, the more we are able to expand on accessible recreational and educational opportunities for children of all abilities. Special thanks to the staff and volunteers who spent time with these youth and sharing their skills. Also, the City of Birmingham expresses thanks to the staff at AIDB and Mr. Larscene Turk, Director, AIDB Birmingham Regional Office for his leadership .



Got Racket– Tennis Anyone?

The City of Birmingham sponsored its annual ‘Adaptive Tennis Camp June 15, through July 13, 2013 at the James Lewis Tennis Center. Tennis is a completely inclusive sport and nearly everyone can participate, regular or adaptive. The camp was adapted to players ability and designed to give children with disabilities the opportunity to get active and enjoy the game. Participates who had low to minimum vision, used the larger tennis balls and some only played half court. Our goal is to instill characteristics of self-confidence, better communication skills, cooperation, trust and leadership in all participants. Ultimately, we the goal is to increase tennis venues, making them fully accessible so that everyone can enjoy playing the game.



Planning Accessible Events



If your department or agency is planning an event that is open to the public, please do a little pre-planning to insure that the venue and amenities are accessible for everyone. Why, because it’s the law. The City of Birmingham’s public meeting laws seek to insure and protect the rights of people with disabilities to participate in public events. The City’s Office on ADA Compliance has developed a booklet to assist you in planning events that are accessible for everyone. For information call the Mayor’s Office on ADA Compliance at 205-254-2079.

Access Checklist—Early Planning is the Key

Is there level access/no steps or other barriers from arrival point to the main entrance?

Are doors wide enough for a wheelchair user and easy to open?

Is there at least one accessible unisex toilet in the same location on as other

toilets or close by?

Is there clear signage to direct people?

Is there provisions for the hearing and visually impaired or systems to assist people? Is it possible to ‘spotlight’ speakers and sign language interpreters if they are to be used?

Is there designated accessible parking? Is there a curb ramp at the drop off point and accessible route to get to the entrance?

Do venue operators understand their responsibility to allow service animals (dogs) into the venue? Birmingham’s ADA Office can assist.



Accessibility not just about disabled

How to contact us

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ADA Advisory meets, second Friday
10:00 AM 2nd Floor, City Hall



Working to Open Doors to Accessible City Services

East Pinson Valley Recreation Offers Health, Wellness and Fitness

Since opening this year the East Pinson Valley Regional Recreational Complex has drawn participants from the greater Birmingham area and offers a balanced schedule for all ages and abilities. Pinson Valley is one of the City's largest indoor recreational facilities with an accessible indoor pool and patrons are able to enjoy this sport year round. Offering adaptive water and educational fitness programs, Pinson Valley

has become a destination site for numerous community events. It has a competition sized gym, weight area, and spacious meeting rooms. On August 21, Parks and Recreation partnered with **Rite Aid Pharmacy and OSCS** to host **Rite Aids Wellness65+ Program** for senior citizens; offering free health screenings, prescription counseling and free pneumonia and flue shots to seniors with Medicaid Part D.



Left to right: Eloise Staples, and Derry R. Johnson Ex. Dir, OSCS, (Office of Senior Citizens Services), and Senator Linda Coleman, ADA Compliance Administrator, City of Birmingham.

ADA Advisory Committee

Chair - Tina Kay Hughes, Sickle Cell Spokesperson

Vice Chair - John Duplessis, Jr., SSTE Employment Program

Secretary- Lisa George, The Plant Program

Xaveria Anderson - Ms. Wheelchair Alabama 2007

Trisston Burrows - Ms. Wheelchair America/Alabama 2005

Wendy Hicks - Alabama Head Injury Foundation

Lorine Kelley – MAX, VIP Transportation

Dan Kessler, Director- Disability Rights and Resources

Keith Strothers- Jefferson County WIA

Graham Sisson– Governor's Office on Disabilities (GOOD)

Yolanda Spencer- Alabama Department of Rehab Services

Myra Shamburger- Alabama Department of Rehab Services

Keith Strothers (Jefferson County Workforce Dev WIA)

Maria Lyas-Young - Birmingham City Schools (Special Needs)

*Larscene Turk– Director, Alabama Industries for the Deaf & Blind ***

*Peggy Turner – The Lakeshore Foundation ***

*** Resource Agency*