



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde, Deputy City Manager *NRV*

DATE: November 17, 2020

SUBJECT: **Final Update on Ordinance 20190910-001 – Improving Access for People with Disabilities**

The purpose of this memo is to provide a final response to [City Council Ordinance 20191010-001](#) directing the City Manager to provide regular training and guidance for City Hall facilities staff to provide consistent and prompt assistance for people with disabilities seeking access to public areas of City Hall; explore the feasibility of installing automatic door buttons to the interior and exterior of the Boards and Commission room and other public work rooms to ensure equitable access for all; and include plans to locate, design, and fund this accessible bathroom for teens and adults with disabilities in the ongoing Zilker Metro Park Vision Plan.

Coordination between the Building Services Department (BSD), the Human Resources Department (HRD), and the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) has resulted in the following actions in response to the directive:

City Hall

The Building Services Department partnered with HRD, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Office, to ensure that any new and current City Hall facility staff would receive orientation training in the prompt and proper assistance for people with disabilities seeking access to the public areas of City Hall. As of August 2020, this new training element has consisted of an online course provided by the City's ADA Office and will be included annually as a refresher for staff.

Additionally, BSD has established an estimated cost of automatic door opener equipment purchase and installation of \$5,000 to \$7,000 per door opening mechanism. BSD estimates a total need for ten automatic door openers on the first floor of City Hall, which includes the Boards & Commissions Room, Council Chambers, the public restroom facilities, and the entry way to the meeting room corridor. BSD is in the process of seeking funding for the project through the department's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) planning process for FY22.

Zilker Park

On March 2, 2020, PARC issued a Request for Qualifications to solicit a planning and design firm to lead the Zilker Metropolitan Park planning effort, scheduled to begin by late November. The Zilker Metro

Park Vision Plan will provide a framework to guide the restoration and future development of the Park's facilities and will incorporate universal design principles to create a park that is accessible to all people.

On August 27, 2020, City Council authorized staff to proceed with the negotiations and execution of a contract with Design Workshop, Inc., for the Zilker Metro Park Vision Plan. The planning process is expected to begin this month and the scope of work will include recommendations for making Zilker Park facilities accessible to all visitors. In collaboration with the selected firm, PARD will evaluate potential locations, design features, and health requirements for a restroom facility with an adult-sized changing table to accommodate adults with disabilities who require assistance from a caretaker. As per standard process, the Zilker Metro Park Vision Plan is expected to return to City Council in the summer of 2022 with funding and implementation recommendations for consideration.

Cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
 Christopher Shorter, Assistant City Manager
 Darrell Alexander, Officer, Building Services Officer
 Joya Hayes, Director, Human Resources Department
 Kimberly McNeeley, Director, Parks and Recreation Department