

MAYOR'S ROUNDTABLE ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2015

Present: Mas Sala, Michael Adamus, Passle Helminski, Jessica Molczan, Michael Fiorelli, Kim Brown, Jennifer Sheldon, Braden Mitchell, Chris Cowan, Robert Lee Hall, Heidi Meyer, Dan Roessner

1). Welcome

Meeting was opened by Mas Sala welcoming everyone in attendance. The sign-in sheet was circulated for signature by those present.

2). Guest Speaker - LeAnn Parmenter, P.E. (City of Erie Traffic Engineer)

LeAnn Parmenter (City of Erie Traffic Engineer) discussed the City of Erie's Disabled Parking Space Policy that is followed when a request for a Handicap Parking sign installed in front of requestor's home/apartment/etc., is made.

I have included the Disabled Parking Space Policy at the end of these minutes. Ms. Parmenter's contact information is also available on the policy document, should you have any further questions.

3). Subcommittee Reports

Emergency Services Subcommittee
(Michael Adamus)

Michael Adamus (Chairman) reports that he has completed CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training for Emergency Preparedness. Jennifer Sheldon (HANDS) reports that HANDS also has twelve (12) CERT trained members. Mr. Adamus continues to work closely with the County Emergency Services Committee, however, remains available to resume the City's Emergency Services Subcommittee should the need arise.

Education/Diversity Training/Employment
(Chairperson needed!)

The Education/Employment sub-committee remains temporarily suspended at this time and in search of a new Chairperson. If you have interest in leading this particular sub-committee, please let me know (Mas Sala at msala@erie.pa.us).

Accessibility/Mobility/Transportation
(Passle Helminski)

Passle Helminski (Chairwoman) offered comments as they related to ongoing service animal issues in the Erie area. Passle provided an article relating to the driving service UBER who is in the process of launching several programs to make rides more accessible to more people.

(Article is included at the end of these minutes).

Housing/Homelessness
(Mas Sala)

Mas Sala (Chairman) reported that the subcommittee continues to encourage and promote development of Fair Housing activities. The CDBG funds remaining balance for Fair Housing activities are approximately \$7,600. If the production of a Fair Housing video comes to fruition, the available CDBG balance remaining would be approximately \$3,500.

For further details regarding submitting an application/proposal as well as CDBG fund balance - you may contact **Debra Smith, Grant Administrator** (Erie Department of Economic and Community Development) for further details. Debra can be reached at (814) 870-1274 or dsmith@erie.pa.us

4). Open Comments

- Update on VMCE (Veteran's Miracle Center -Erie)

VMCE reports the following:

They have served more than 150 Veterans and their immediate families.

Now fully opened since September 2015 - VMCE is expected to serve from 800 to 1,000 at-risk Veterans annually.

VMCE is 53% over their fundraising goal to date.

- **Michael Adamus** provided some upcoming event dates:

December 5, 2015: Victorious Missionaries at St. Mark's

December 6, 2016: Advent Event

2016 marks the 30th Anniversary of the Disability and Deaf Ministry

For more information on any of the events identified above - please contact Michael Adamus at madamus@eriercd.org

- **H.A.N.D.S**

Jennifer Sheldon (HANDS) reports that the Goodrich House on Peach and Goodrich Street, Erie, PA will be open by the end of November. Three (3) of the six (6) available apartments will already be occupied, however, three (3) are still available.

For more information on the Goodrich House and Freedom Square apartments - please contact Jennifer Sheldon via email at: jsheldon@hands-erie.org , or by phone: (814) 453-3333.

5). **Meeting Schedule for 2016**

- February 11, 2016
- May 12, 2016
- August 18, 2016
- November 10, 2016

All meetings begin at 2:00 pm and are held in the Conference Room (2nd Floor) at the Intermodal.

DISABLED PARKING SPACE POLICY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a consistent method of granting residential parking to disabled residents (requestors) within the City of Erie.

2. Authority and Criteria

The City has the authority to regulate on-street parking pursuant to Part Five (Traffic Code) in the Codified Ordinances of the City of Erie. Which refer to PA Vehicle Code 75 Pa CSA1338 and 3354D.

A disabled resident of the City of Erie may request that a disabled parking space be designated in front of that person's residence. To qualify for this parking space, a person must meet ALL of the following criteria:

- Must be a resident of the address where the on-street parking space is requested or their assisting driver resides at the residence with them.
- Must acquire disability-parking placard from the State of Pennsylvania or have a disability license plate on a vehicle.
- Must reside on a street maintained by the City of Erie or PennDot, not in a commercial lot or on a private street.
- The requestor must provide the City of Erie Traffic Engineering Division with all pertinent information by filling out the Disabled Parking Request Form. Available in Traffic Engineering Office, 626 State Street – Room 507.
- If the requestor is a renter, the Landlord must approve the placement of the sign in front of the property. Landlord name and phone number must be supplied to the Traffic Engineering Office.
- If it is necessary to place the sign in front of someone else's home, the Traffic Engineering Office will contact the property owners to obtain agreement for placement.
- The requestor's residence does not have a driveway or other off-street parking.

3. Requirements and Conditions

If the requestor meets the above criteria, the following requirements must be met and conditions agreed to before implementation.

- The Applicant must **observe and obey all parking regulations and signage**. Odd/Even restrictions, etc. must still be followed where applicable.
- **A disabled parking space shall not be misused**. Any misuse shall result in the removal of the space. Misuse shall be determined at the discretion of the City Traffic Engineer.
- The disabled parking space is **not for exclusive use by the applicant and must be shared** with other vehicles authorized to park in disabled parking spaces on a first come first serve basis.
- **The space shall not be used for long-term storage of vehicles**. The vehicle must be kept in good repair, operational, and legally registered.

PROCESS

1.) **Submit Application:**

A disabled resident may request an on-street parking space in front of their home by submitting a Disabled Parking Sign Request Form to the City of Erie Traffic Engineering Division. The applicant may pick up the form or have it mailed to their residence.

2.) **Staff Review:**

The Traffic Engineering Division reviews the application to determine if an on-street disabled parking space is justified based on the aforementioned criteria. A site inspection is made by the Traffic Engineering Division and confirms the need for the parking space.

3.) **Approval:**

The Traffic Engineering staff approves or denies the request. A letter of acceptance or denial will be sent to the applicant explaining the Traffic Engineering Division's decision.

4.) **Appeal:**

If the request is denied, the resident is notified of the decision. The resident has 30 days to appeal the decision to the City Traffic Engineer.

5.) **Installation:**

If the request is approved, the Traffic Engineering Division submits a work order to the Paint and Sign Division of the Streets Department for installation of the sign. Any sign requiring a new post being set requires a PA One Call to determine that there are no utilities interfering with the chosen location. A preliminary stake is placed prior to final installation.

6.) **Follow-up:**

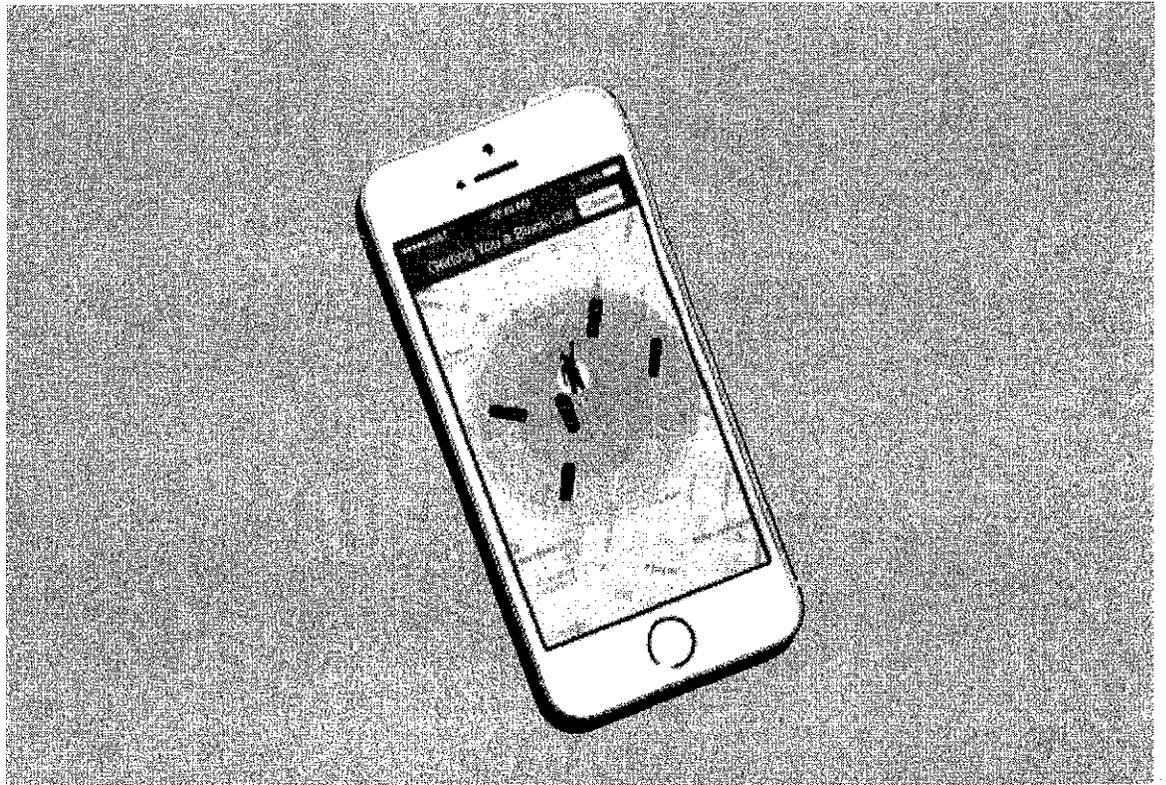
The resident will be contacted upon expiration of their disability-parking placard and will be asked to provide their updated placard information or notify us if the sign is no longer needed. The Traffic Engineering Division keeps a database of the signs and if the information is not updated the sign will be removed.

LeAnn Parmenter, P.E.
Traffic Engineer • City of Erie
626 State Street • Room 508
Phone: (814) 870-1379
Email: lparmenter@erie.pa.us



DAVEY ALBA BUSINESS 07.15.15 7:00 AM

IF UBER DOESN'T WANT TO ACCOMMODATE BLIND RIDERS, GETT WILL



GETT/WIRED

BLIND PASSENGERS ARE just one of the many groups with whom Uber has

tangled recently. And one rival of the ride-hailing giant is positioning itself to take advantage of that tension.

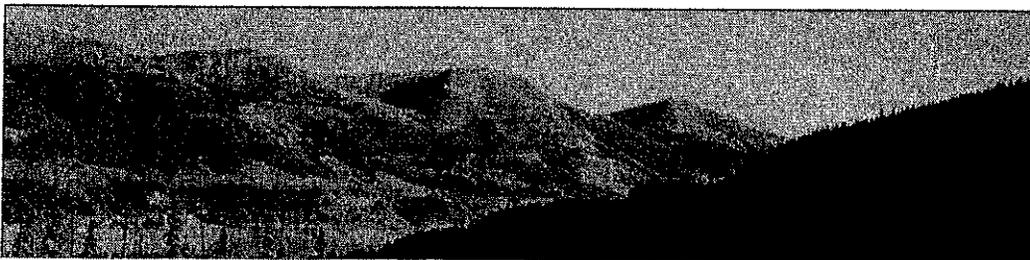
Gett, which bills itself as “NYC’s Black Car App,” has updated its app to make hailing one of its cars much easier for blind and visually impaired passengers. The update, available on iOS and Android, lets visually impaired passengers use the baked-in voice guided features on smartphone operating systems to access its functions for hailing a ride. Users can also schedule a ride in advance.

Gett also says its drivers know to allow guide dogs in their cars. The company collaborated with 17-year-old Adi Kushner—a developer who’s also helped companies such as Apple and Google integrate accessibility features into their products—as well as the Center for the Blind in Israel to come up with the new features for the app.

“When we talk about tech, we usually talk about why it’s so great and brings efficiency—how it saves time and money,” Gett CEO Shahar Waiser tells WIRED. “But there are people who actually depend on tech to get help, and these new features are really built for them.”

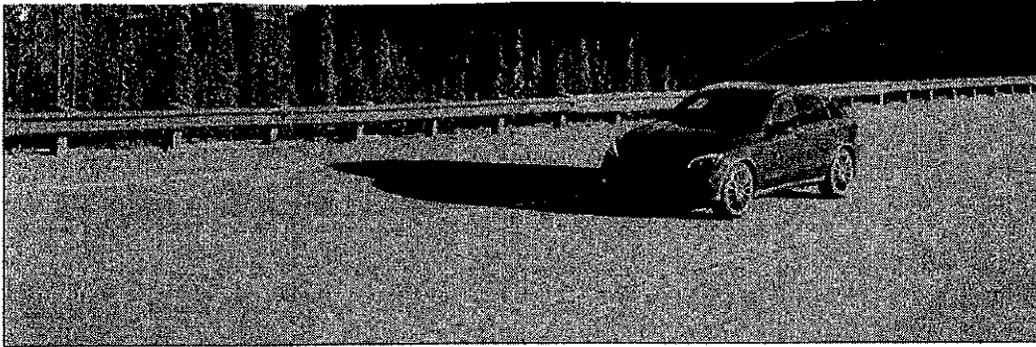
But the features also seem designed, intentionally or not, to take a jab at Uber. In September, the National Federation of the Blind of California filed a suit against Uber, complaining that blind riders with service animals were denied service on the platform. Both parties are currently trying to sort out the matter in private mediation, but in the meantime a judge said the suit could go forward.

Uber has seemingly sought to rehabilitate its reputation by launching several programs and features of its own to make rides more accessible to more people. Yesterday, it announced it was launching a new program for senior citizens and disabled riders in Los Angeles called UberAssist that offers specially trained drivers and vehicles that can accommodate wheelchairs, walkers, and scooters. And in May, the company unveiled app updates to help its deaf drivers.



48 Hours With GLC

This fall, WIRED Insider teamed up with Mercedes-Benz and Sphero co-founder and CTO Ian Bernstein to take the all-new Mercedes-Benz GLC



on a technology test drive. We spent two days in and around Sphero's Boulder headquarters—visiting everywhere from Aspen to Denver—testing out the SUV's automated and electronic systems.

1 2 3 4 5 →



If Uber Doesn't Want to Accommodate Blind Riders, Gett Will

SUBSCRIBE

BUSINESS

DESIGN

ENTERTAINMENT

GEAR

SCIENCE

SECURITY

SHARE

SHARE 207

TWEET 304

PIN 7

COMMENT 14

EMAIL

“Uber has a non-discrimination policy applicable to riders and drivers and seeks to make transportation options available to all individuals,” an Uber spokeswoman told WIRED in an email. Drivers are expected to comply with local, state, and federal laws, she said, adding that Uber tells drivers they must comply with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements and provides them with information on best practices for accommodating people with disabilities.

Whatever Uber’s current conflicts, any effort by ride-hailing companies to improve services and accessibility for riders and drivers is a good thing. Lyft is already known for its active community of deaf drivers. While Gett lacks the scale of either of these companies, its announcement still ups the pressure on bigger companies to act on accessibility issues.

Kushner tells WIRED that ultimately his goal isn’t just to build out whole new standalone apps for the disabled community. Rather he wants to code and develop for platforms overall with features are easily transferable from app to app. “Improving accessibility not only helps the blind, it helps everyone,” he says.

UPDATE (July 15, 2015, 3:14 PM ET): In a statement to WIRED, Uber said that its work with the visually impaired includes partnerships with organizations such as the National Federation of the Blind and LightHouse for the Blind in San Francisco. The company said it has also released a podcast for riders on how to use the Uber App’s VoiceOver iOS feature.

#ACCESSIBILITY #GETT #LYFT #ON-DEMAND ECONOMY #UBER