TO: City Council

FROM: Mayor Ann Johnston

SUBJECT: MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution extending the Mayor's Task Force on Persons with Disabilities for the term of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 and recommending the following task force members to serve during that term:

Heather Agdeppa
Don Aguillard
Rita Carter-Overstreet
Ardria Climos
Marilyn Flalkow Chadnick
Jean Folella
Art Gomez
Leslie Heier
George Lewis
Mary Nicholson
Jose Nuno
Danny Nuss
Elvira Ramirez
Judy Robertson
Roger Slingerman
Theresa Velquez

SUMMARY

The City Council passed a resolution on June 27, 2006 (Resolution #06-0349) to create the Mayor's Task Force on Persons with Disabilities. The action requested is to extend this task force for another term.

DISCUSSION

The task force was designed to enrich the lives of disabled persons within the community through education, action and outreach and also to advise the Mayor and City Council on matters affecting the disabled community. The task force acts as the City's official advisory body for assistance in implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This includes review and comment on city policies, programs and actions that affect persons with disabilities, including the city's Americans with

AGENDA ITEM 8.01
MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Disabilities Act Transition Plan. The task force renders assistance to other city boards and commissions, to city staff and to private agencies on matters relating to persons with disabilities. It also supports local, state and national levels in the advancement of disability rights. Art Gomez has been selected to serve as Chair and Roger Slingerman has been selected to serve as Vice-Chair.

The four sub-committees of the task force are:

1. Education, Employment, and Outreach
2. Housing
3. Transportation and Mobility
4. Youth and Community Development

Each sub-committee consists of a Chair and Vice-Chair from the task force as well as advisory members who do not sit on the task force. The task force Chair may recommend to the Mayor the creation of additional sub-committees pending the need for said sub-committees.

These four sub-committees provide reports and recommendations that are discussed by the entire task force. The task force presents periodic recommendations and reports to the full City Council.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

There is no financial impact to the City for this action.

Ann Johnston

ANN JOHNSTON
MAYOR

AJ:jml
June 24, 2009

Mayor Ann Johnston
425 N. El Dorado
Stockton, CA 95202

SUBJECT: MAYOR’S TASK FORCE ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

This letter is sent to express my interest in remaining on the Mayor's Task Force on Persons with Disabilities. Having a passion for working with people with disabilities and the community I feel my continued service to this committee is essential. I would be honored to be able to remain on the Task Force.

Heather Agdeppa

Director of Vocational Services/
Recreational Center
ARC San-Joaquin
215 E. Flora St
Stockton Ca 95202
Phone 209.337.1067
Cell 209.607.1973
Fax 209.955.1627
June 22, 2009

Mayor Ann Johnston
425 N. El Dorado
Stockton, CA 95202

SUBJECT: MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

My name is Don M. Aguillard, and I am writing to confirm my interest in
continuing as a member of the Mayor's Task Force on Persons with Disabilities.
I currently serve as the chairperson of the Mayor's Task Force on Persons with
Disabilities.

I have served on the Task Force since its inception. The Task Force over the
past years has proven to have brought a greater awareness of the needs and
issues that address persons with disabilities in our community today. I am
committed to working towards this continued growth throughout our beloved
community.

I have worked with people and their families in the disabled community for over
30 years. I have worked for the State Council on Developmental Disabilities/Area
Board 6 in Stockton as an LQA project (Life Quality Assessment). I have
performed case management and consultant on and for persons with disabilities
throughout the Central Valley and Bay Area.

I appreciate your consideration of my request to remain a Task Force member.

Sincerely,

Don M. Aguillard
June 29, 2009

Mayor Ann Johnston  
425 N. El Dorado  
Stockton, CA  95202  

SUBJECT:  MAYOR’S TASK FORCE ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  

My name is Rita Overstreet, and I am writing to confirm my interest in continuing as a member of the Mayor’s Task Force on Persons with Disabilities. I have served on the Mayor’s Task Force on Persons with Disabilities for the past 3 years and have served on the Youth and Community Outreach and Disability Awareness Fair Committee’s.

The Task Force over the past years continues to bring a greater awareness of the needs and issues that address persons with disabilities in our community today. I am committed to working towards this continued growth throughout our beloved community.

I am visually challenged and have worked with people and their families in the disabled community for over 30 years. I attend Delta College and I volunteer at the Stockton Center for the Blind.

I appreciate your consideration of my request to remain a Task Force member.

Sincerely,

Rita Overstreet
Mayor's Task Force on Persons with Disabilities
425 N. El Dorado
Stockton, CA. 95202

Dear Mayor's Task Force,

I am writing to you in regards to my interest in remaining a member of the Mayor's Taskforce for People with Disabilities. I currently hold the position as Rehabilitation Supervisor for the Stockton Branch Office of the Department of Rehabilitation.

This particular committee could only be an asset to our organization. Our mission is to work in partnership with consumers and other stakeholders to provide services and advocacy resulting in employment, independent living and equality for individuals with disabilities. With that being said, a professional partnership would benefit all involved.

I have sixteen years of experience with the State of California, which included employment with the Employment Development Department for seven years. I have a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling. The Department of Rehabilitation is always seeking out positive partnerships to benefit the disabled community at large.

In closing, I would appreciate the opportunity to continue the professional relationship as a member of the Mayor's Taskforce for People with Disabilities. This past year has been beneficial and productive for the Department of Rehabilitation.

Sincerely,

Ardria Climons, M.S.
Rehabilitation Supervisor
June 25, 2009

Mayor Ann Johnston
425 N. El Dorado
Stockton, CA 95202

SUBJECT: MAYOR’S TASK FORCE ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

I am certainly interested in the task force. I have been committed to it for the last few years as a disabled person and a founder of a nonprofit, Dream Ahead the Empowerment Initiative to advocate and consult for people of all disabilities. I am co-chair of the employment and education division and am usually a part of the RTD section as well. I also help Mary Nicholson when she needs me as I am also a brain stroke survivor. I could write a book about my advocacy in Stockton and interest in the task force, including making a speech to advocate for it in city hall. I am also a social work consultant with 30 years experience.

Marilyn Fialkow Chadnick, MSW, Health and Mental Health Founder, Dream Ahead, the Empowerment Initiative
July 2, 2009

Mayor Ann Johnston  
City of Stockton  
425 N. El Dorado Street  
Stockton, CA 95202  

Subject: Mayor's Task Force on Persons with Disabilities  

I am submitting my letter of interest to remain on the Mayor's Task Force on Persons with Disabilities. In my position as Mobility Manager with the San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD) I feel that I can be a valuable member of the committee.

Without accessible transportation, many in our community would not be able to participate in activities or take advantage of programs and services offered by other members of the task force. The information shared in the meetings is helpful in my role with RTD and is beneficial to task force members.

Sincerely,

Jean Foletta  
Mobility Manager
June 25, 2009

Mayor Ann Johnston
425 N. El Dorado
Stockton, CA  95202

SUBJECT: LETTER OF INTENT FOR THE MAYOR’S TASK FORCE ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

I am submitting this letter of interest to remain a member of the Mayor’s Task Force on Persons With Disabilities. I am interested to be elected as Chairman by nomination from Don Aguillard in this Task Force because of my interest to help my community meet its needs as an advocate for people with disabilities.

I feel that the value I can bring to this Task Force include over 7 years of direct experience working with people with disabilities. I have networked with many non-profit organizations that support with people with disabilities and have participated in workshop/other task force to solve problems with current unmet needs. I participated with the organization and development of the Disability Awareness Fair. I am also currently the Co-chair for the San Jcaquin County Mayors Committee for Employment on Person with Disabilities, Vice President of U.S.A. Dance, Chapter 4044 of Stockton, and a Board Member of Recreational Sports Club.

I appreciate your consideration of my request to remain a Task Force member.

Sincerely,

Art Gomez
Co-chair (Mayor’s Task Force on Persons With Disabilities)
June 29, 2009

Mayor Ann Johnson
City of Stockton
425 N. El Dorado
Stockton, CA 95202

Re: Letter of Interest – Mayor’s Task Force

Dear Mayor Johnson,

On behalf of United Cerebral Palsy Association, Inc., I am submitting this Letter of Interest, once again in hopes to continue as a member of the Mayor’s Task Force on Persons with Disabilities.

For more than two decades, UCP continues to have a strong presence and impact in the community for providing services to individuals with cerebral palsy and other disabilities. Such services include Adult Day Programs (located in Stockton and Manteca), Supported Employment, Supported Living and Respite Care Services, Program Without Walls (a community integration services), and early intervention services that offers in-home support services for our youngest in need. UCP also operates a Sensory Integration Clinic for children and assistive technology services for both children and adults. Mobility and tutorial trainings are offered through our Supported Living program.

Through our critical services over 1,700 infants, children, adolescents, adults and their families benefit from our services each year nearly 253,000 direct services were provide last fiscal year.

UCP continues to be the leading resources for this growing population of courageous individuals and innovative in maintaining and enhancing programs so these individuals will have every opportunity to be part of their own community, have a voice and “live life without limits”.

We strive to further our mission and depend on our community partnerships such as the Mayor’s Task Force to help us continue what we do best! I deeply appreciate your acceptance of this Letter of Interest and look forward to our continued partnership as we strive together to enhance the quality of life for individuals with disabilities. Do not hesitate to contact me should you have need anything further at 751-3037.

Sincerely,

Leslie Heier
Interim Executive Director/Associate Director
June 24, 2009

Mayor Ann Johnston
425 N. El Dorado
Stockton, CA 95202

SUBJECT: MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Dear Honorable Mayor Johnston,

My name is George Lewis and I have been participating in the Mayor's Task Force on Persons with Disabilities since its inception in 2004. I believe that the Mayor's Task Force has done a great work for Stockton and our citizen's with disabilities. We have made great strides in creating an accessible city for all, no matter what level of ability.

The Mayor's Task Force commitment to enriching the lives of our community is a passion for me and one that I hope to continue to be involved in. I am encouraged by your presence at our monthly meetings and the changes that will be taking place with our Chairperson positions. I am looking forward to serving Stockton on the Mayor's Task Force for many more years to come. If there is anything more that I can do for the Mayor's Task Force, your office and Stockton as a whole please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Thank you for this opportunity,

George Lewis
June 18, 2009

Mayor Ann Johnston
425 N. El Dorado
Stockton, CA 95202

SUBJECT: MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

I am submitting this letter of interest to remain a member of the Mayor’s Task Force on Persons with Disabilities. I am interested in this Task Force because it addresses issues pertaining to people with special needs.

I feel that the value I can bring to this Task Force include a passion for serving people with special needs.

I appreciate your consideration of my request to remain a Task Force member.

Sincerely,

Mary A. Nicholson

Mary A. Nicholson
July 03, 2009

Mayor Ann Johnston
425 N. El Dorado
Stockton, CA 95202

SUBJECT: MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Honorable Mayor Johnston,

I am submitting this letter of interest to become a member of the Mayor's Task Force on Persons with Disabilities. I am interested in this Task Force because it addresses issues pertaining to people with special needs and is something that I am interested in.

I feel that my Development in Affordable Housing experience will bring value to this Task Force.

I appreciate your consideration of my request to become a Task Force member.

Should you have any questions or require additional information please contact me at (209) 466-6811.

Thank You,

Jose A. Nuño
Director of Development
Visionary Home Builders of California, Inc.
July 6, 2009

To: Mayor Ann Johnston

From: Daniel Nuss, Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities
       University of the Pacific

SUBJECT: MAYOR’S TASK FORCE ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

I am submitting this letter of interest to remain a member of the Mayor’s Task Force on Persons with Disabilities. I am very much interested in this Task Force because it addresses issues pertaining to people with special needs and I would like to continue supporting our community. Currently, I serve as the Coordinator of Disability Services at University of the Pacific.

I appreciate your consideration of my request to remain a member of this task force and I encourage you to contact me directly if you have any questions or if you would like to discuss this in more detail.

Sincerely,

Daniel Nuss
(209) 946-2879
June 29, 2009

City of Stockton
Attn: Julie LaLonde
Mayor's Task Force
425 N. El Dorado Street
Stockton, CA 95202

Dear Ms. LaLonde,

My name is Elvira Ramirez, I am the new Executive Director of Catholic Charities and I am writing to express my interest in joining the Mayor's Task Force on Person's Disabilities. Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Stockton is an agency which is frequently involved with vulnerable seniors and others with disabilities. It would be an honor to assist the Mayor in any way we can to better serve these populations in Stockton.

Sincerely,

Elvira Ramirez
Eramirez@ccstockton.org
Direct Line: 209-444-5938
June 24, 2009

Mayor Ann Johnston
425 N. El Dorado
Stockton, CA 95202

SUBJECT: MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Dear Mayor Johnston,

I am still interested in serving on the Mayors Task Force. Currently I am the Chair Person for the Education and Employment Committee I'm looking forward to implementing and completing our employment outreach project. The Task force is a wonderful asset to the community.

Thank you

Judy Robertson
June 25, 2009

To: Mayor Johnston,

I would like to declare my intent to serve on the City of Stockton’s Mayors Task Force for Persons with Disabilities. We have accomplished many things over the past few years, but still have many tasks to complete and look forward to the many challenges. Thank you for this opportunity and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Roger Slingerman

Roger Slingerman
June 26, 2009

Julie LaLonde
425 North El Dorado
Stockton, California 95202
Dear Julie,

During the San Joaquin Film Festival in June 2008, I met Art Gomez, Co-Chairman of City of Stockton’s, Major’s Task Force on Persons with Disabilities. Art explained that he was with the task force for people with disabilities. I mentioned to Art that I was writing a dissertation on *Health Issues and the Benefits of DanceSport*. Wheelchair dancesport is worldwide in more than 19 countries both socially and competitively, and still growing. Art was interested in knowing more about wheelchair dancing, and invited me to the task force meeting held on June 17, 2008. While at the meeting I learned about the parties held at the Oak Park Senior Center for wheelchair users, and that I could possibly help organize upcoming parties for the disabled wheelchair users. We could include a ballroom dance class before the parties in the near future. Wheelchair ballroom dances include Cha Cha, Foxtrot, Rumba, Eastern Swing, Hustle, Tango, Waltz, and many more. Wheelchair students learn a variety of dances and patterns to learn how to dance with others at any party.

I want to share with you that as a young girl visiting family in Puerto Rico I met with former Mayor Felix Luis Hernandez of Villalba, Puerto Rico, and his wife Mrs. America Hernandez (my relative) for the very first time. While staying with my mom’s aunt, America Hernandez, and her family during the summer of 2004, I met with the present Mayor of Villalba, Puerto Rico and his wife, Waldemar Rivera Torres during the Fiestas Patronales. America’s
grandson is an attorney, and very active in politics. I believe he is next in line to be Mayor. He and his family is very active in politics, the community, and loved by many.

I would like to be a member of the Mayor’s Task Force on Persons with Disabilities, and I am sending this Letter of Interest to be approved by the Mayor. As a professional ballroom dancesport instructor at the Arnold Rue Community Center in Stockton, California, I feel I could be an asset to the Mayor’s Task Force with my 25 years of experience and knowledge in the dance industry. My credits include performing in showcase exhibitions, appearing in magazines and newspaper articles, awarded many first places at the National Dance Council of America (NDCA) recognized championship competitions in amateur/professional and professional categories, singing on television and choir concerts, film, television, produced dance shows, stage performances, modeling, winner of essays for my platform on peace while in pageants, and winner of international beauty and talent pageants. I hold a Master’s in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Phoenix, and writing a dissertation on Health Issues and the Benefits of DanceSport for a doctorates in management (DM); graduation projected in 2010. I have 25 years in the dance industry, love teaching, and have taught thousands of students around the United States.

Enjoy being involved with community work, not for profit organizations, and fundraising for charities with my dancesport teams. My dancesport team has helped at events, and raise money for the many charities of the Daughter’s of Isabella Queen of Peace Tea Dance, Annual National Arts and Culture Openhouse (with Lodi’s Mayor as speaker), American Library Association Teen Read week, The Central Valley Youth Symphony (Senator Machado was a special guest in 2006 and an alumni), community centers practice parties, Animal Friends
Connection Humane Societies Annual Wine n' Dine FURR BALL, Annual City of Lodi Nutcracker Production, Manteca's Boys and Girls televised telethon, St. Christopher's Parish Festival, and others. DanceSport team members have represented their city in the Annual Autumn Dance Classic for 2006 and 2007, International Grand Ball in 2008, and have won many 1st places.

In my 25 years of teaching ballroom dances, students have participated in showcases, passed many medal (dance levels) exams, and won first places at the National Dance Council of America (NDCA) Championships, such as, International Grand Ball, San Francisco Open, Autumn Classic, Holiday Ball, City Lights, and others. Students learn a variety of dances and patterns to make them well-rounded dancers. Ballroom dances taught are the Merengue, Salsa, Cha Cha, Foxtrot, Mambo, Waltz, Paso Doble, Tango, Samba, Eastern Swing, Hustle, West Coast Swing, Viennese Waltz, Rumba, Nightclub Two-Step, Country Two-Step, and others. Students may start a new hobby, do shows, compete, and/or become better social dancers. To progress and pass the dance levels students take medal exams given by Terpsichore examiners in the bronze, silver, and/or gold for beginners, intermediate, advance, and full bronze levels at Celebrity Ballroom Dance Instruction is held at the Stockton (Arnold Rue Center), Lodi Center, Manteca Senior Center, and City of Lathrop Senior Center where I am licensed, and manage my independent dance classes. Exams are scheduled in advance (Visit www.usterpsichore.org/examinations).

For my dissertation and upcoming book my topic of choice is on Health Issues and Benefits of Dancesport for a doctorates in management (DM) with the University of Phoenix. My mentor and committee members will be helping me with my research. Health issues include
diabetes, osteoporosis, Alzheimer’s, cancer, obesity, arthritis, heart problems, depression, Parkinson’s, and many more. Benefits include increasing self-confidence, increasing grace and poise, less risk of injuries, good for self-esteem, attending more parties, and being able to make new friends. Wheelchair users are able to benefit from the exercise they get from wheelchair ballroom dancing, be more sociable, make friends, and much more. I will be conducting research on health and ballroom dancing, and the research method will be a quantitative method to include surveys.

I would like to help disabled wheelchair users by making them aware that they could learn to dance socially, perform exhibitions, and participate at the wheelchair dancesport competitions with the International Paralympic Olympics. You could find information on rules and regulations for wheelchair dancesport by visiting www.paralympic.org, and check www.wheelchairdancesportusa.org. Disabled wheelchair users are welcomed at my ballroom dance classes.

The American DanceWheels Foundation has participating studios like Crystal DanceSport Center, located at 79 Christiana Road, New Castle, Delaware 19720, telephone number (302) 221-0308. For donations visit their website at: www.americandancewheels.com. Pete Taylor, owner of the Crystal Dancesport Center, was very helpful when I spoke to him by phone to ask him about courses for instructors in 2008. Wheelchair ballroom dancing instruction is offered to teachers at the Crystal DanceSport Center, and I plan to attend upcoming classes in the near future. Classes cost about $500 to attend for three days. I was told the Crystal DanceSport center is working on selling instructional DVDs that I could purchase. Pete Taylor
has trained many professional ballroom world champion dancers, and enjoys helping the
disabled wheelchair users as well.

In 2008, I spoke to Ray Leight and his dance partner, Melinda Kremer who are
wheelchair dance champions. Ray Leight had an accident, and now uses a wheelchair to get
around. Ray Leight was very helpful answering some of my questions. I learned more about his
background, and that he has a formation team that performs around the United States. Ray said
that he would be willing to perform at the Disability Awareness Fair on September 19, 2008.
Costs would include hotel, meals, and transportation for Ray and Melinda. We would need to get
Ray and Melinda to Stockton before the Fair starts. Ray said to keep him posted on plans for the
Disability Awareness Fair, and that we could call him at the Crystal DanceSport Center if we
ever wanted to hire them. If we cannot hire them, I will happy to provide the entertainment
myself. I would enjoy working with the Mayor's Task Force for People with Disabilities.

Respectfully,

Theresa Velazquez,

Professional Ballroom Instructor

cc: Mayor Ann Johnston
RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES FROM JULY 1, 2009, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2010, AND APPOINTING MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO SERVE ON THE COMMITTEE

On June 27, 2006, by Resolution No. 06-0349, the City Council created the Mayor's Task Force on Persons With Disabilities to advise the Mayor and Council on matters affecting the disabled community and act as the City's official advisory body for assistance in implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), including reviewing and commenting on City policies, programs, and actions that affect persons with disabilities, including the City's ADA Transition Plan; and

The term of this Task Force was for one year unless re-established or extended by the Council; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STOCKTON, AS FOLLOWS:


2. The membership of the Task Force shall be as follows:

   Heather Agdeppa          George Lewis
   Don Aguillard            Mary Nicholson
   Rita Carter-Overstreet   Jose Nuno
   Arndia Climens           Danny Nuss
   Marilyn Flalkow Chadnick Elvira Ramirez
   Jean Foletta             Judy Robertson
   Art Gomez                Roger Slingerman
   Leslie Heier             Theresa Velquez

3. The Task Force includes a Chair and Vice-Chair. For FY 2009/2010, the Chair will be Art Gomez and the Vice-Chair will be Roger Slingerman.

4. The Task Force Chair may recommend to the Mayor the creation of additional sub-committees pending the need for said sub-committees. The current sub-committees are:
   i. Education, Employment and Outreach
   ii. Housing
   iii. Transportation and Mobility
   iv. Youth and Community Development
5. Each sub-committee consists of a Chair and a Vice-Chair from the Task Force as well as advisory members who do not sit on the Task Force.

6. The four sub-committees shall provide reports and recommendations that are discussed by the entire Task Force. The Task Force presents periodic recommendations and reports to the full City Council.

7. The term of the Task Force shall not exceed one year unless reestablished or extended by resolution of the Council in accordance with the Brown Act.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED

ANN JOHNSTON
Mayor of the City of Stockton

ATTEST:

KATHERINE GONG MEISSNER
City Clerk of the City of Stockton