



**THE MAYOR'S OFFICE ON AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES**

**ADDRESSING CITIZENS' CONCERNS**

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 3 SEPTEMBER 2010

**ADA 20th Anniversary Awards Celebration**

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**FALL IS IN THE AIR**

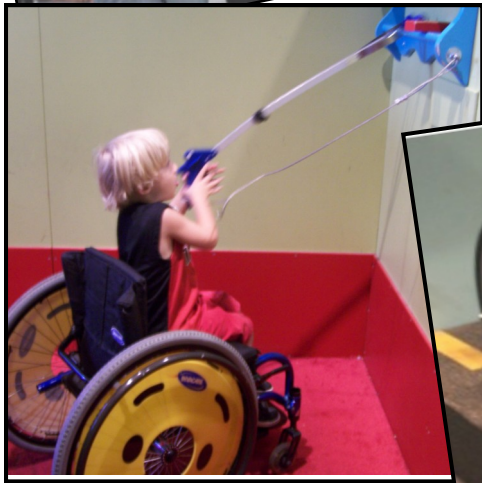


**Councilor Miriam Witherspoon**  
Mayor William A. Bell, Sr., and mother of Councilor Miriam Witherspoon, present "Volunteer Disability Service Award" to Judy Roy.

The month of July was full of ADA events in the City of Birmingham but the highlight event was held on July 27, when Mayor William Bell presented the **"Miriam Witherspoon Disability Service Award"** to Judy Roy, of the Independent Living Resources of greater Birmingham during council meeting. Mrs. Roy was honored for her extraordinary efforts on the behalf of all persons with disabilities in the areas of accessibility, transportation, and independent living. Known as a dedicated advocate for persons with disabilities, Judy has served as Chairperson for the Transit VIP Advisory and organized a disability march in 1991 for par transit funding. In 2006 she lobbied the Alabama legislature to support the 'Money Follows the Person' Bill that would have allowed people with disabilities to remain in their homes or community and receive benefits and care with payments following the person. Mrs. Roy spent several months as an advocate for this bill while caring for her husband who was disabled at the time. The award honors the memory of former Councilor Miriam Witherspoon, who was an attorney and disabled. Councilor Witherspoon served as an example for others and showed what people with disabilities can achieve in spite of their disability. With Mayor Bell is the mother Councilor Witherspoon, Claraetha Finley who presented the award.

# Addressing Citizens' Concerns

## ADA 20th Anniversary Highlights



### Access-Ability

The year 2010 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The City of Birmingham marked the importance of this landmark piece of legislation that helped to insure the rights of individuals with disabilities by hosting events that showed just how far Birmingham has come to provide accommodations for this segment of the city's population. Starting in June, the Mayor's Office on Americans with Disabilities held a re-training refresher course for all city departments and its agencies.

The City of Birmingham kicked off the official celebration with it's first Access-Ability Festival in partnership with the McWane Science Center and The Lakeshore Foundation which featured a wide array of activities that focused on accessibility. Most noticeable was the Access-Ability Exhibit that gave attendees a unique perspective on what people with disabilities must deal with on a daily basis in order to live and function.

Participants were able to interact with technological accommodations and various adaptive accommodations to see how they are used to make life easier for the disabled.

In addition to the Access-Ability Exhibit, there were information booths and vendor displays that included the latest wheelchair models, an accessible motorcycle, and other social services agencies that provide assistance to the disabled population and their families.

## ADA 20th Anniversary



## ADA Awards Ceremony



The ADA Awards Ceremony was held during the city council meeting; in addition to the “Miriam Witherspoon Award,” Mayor Bell presented two “Above and Beyond Business Accessibility Awards” to The Salvation Army, and Etheridge Brothers Barber and Style, for going beyond the requirements in making their place of business more accommodating and accessible for persons with disabilities. The City also recognized the Birmingham Public Library for accessible accommodation efforts for persons with various disabilities.

**We are on the web!**

**Office On American with  
Disabilities**

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**The ADA Committee meets every  
Second Friday, 10:00 AM 2nd  
Floor City Hall Rm. 215**



## **ADA Advisory Committee**

Chair – John Duplessis—Easter Seals, Navigator Program

Vice Chair - Lorne Kelly—MAX Transit (VIP Para transit)

### **Committee Members**

Xaveria Anderson—Ms. Wheelchair Alabama 2007

Trisston Burrows—Ms. Wheelchair America/Alabama 2005

Twanna Carter—VA Medical Center

Walter Daniels—Retired Educator

LaWanda East – Pastor, King of Faith Outreach Ministry

Shirley Hollis—Manager, Birmingham Parks & Recreation Centers

Dan Kessler—Director, Independent Living Resources, Birmingham

Mike Norris—Independent Living Resources/Greater Birmingham

Charles Priest—Director, Alabama Head Injury Foundation

Graham Sisson—ADA State Coordinator, Alabama Rehabilitation

Ron Talley—ASSISTECH Group

## **Department of Justice News**

### **Justice Department Files Lawsuit Against Louisville, Kentucky, Apartment Complex**

WASHINGTON—The Justice Department today filed a lawsuit against the owners, developers, architects and civil engineers of Park Place Apartments, a 276-unit complex in Louisville, Ky., for failing to provide accessible features required by the Fair Housing Act. The lawsuit, alleges that Kevin D. Cogan, Edwynn Burckle, George E. Clark, Doris Cogan, Bayus-Evola Architects, James A. Hall, Hall Construction Company, Mindel Scott & Associates Inc. and Willett Engineering Company discriminated against persons with disabilities when they designed and constructed Park Place with, among other things, interior doors that are too narrow; kitchens and bathrooms that limit who use wheelchairs; thermostat controls mounted above the maximum reach height; and routes from the public access parking areas to apartment units and to site amenities that are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs. "Since 1991, federal law has required that new multi-family housing complexes with four or more units be built with certain accessible features. Thomas E. Perez, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division states, "There is no excuse for developers and design professionals to fail to comply. Inaccessible multi-family housing developments deny persons with disabilities their legal right to equal housing opportunities."

