



AGENDA
ADA Advisory Committee
Thursday, February 27, 2025
3:00 PM

Evanston Public Library: 1703 Orrington Ave.
First Floor Community Room / Zoom

(I) CALL TO ORDER/ROLE CALL

Welcome Guest Speaker:

From the City of Evanston: Kim Kull, Division Chief, Emergency Management/Logistics/PIO, Fire Department

(II) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(III) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Guest speaker

- Emergency Preparedness for Evanston's disability community
- Discussion and questions

Review of new inquiries/grievances:

- Independence Park entrance
- Accessible buttons broken in Sherman parking garage
- Sidewalk removed on Davis
- 2nd floor restrooms locked early at Robert Crown
- Resident curb cut inquiry
- Un-shoveled business sidewalk at 607 Davis
- Inaccessible City communication re: boil order

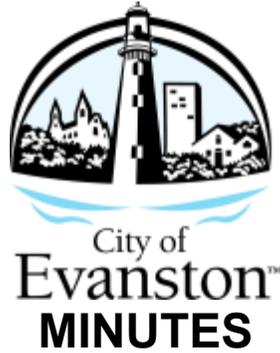
Other items:

- ADA Advisory Committee 2025/26 Work Plan
- New membership applications/reminders
- Next meeting: March 27, 2025

(IV) PUBLIC COMMENTS

(V) COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

(VI) ADJOURNMENT



ADA Advisory Committee
Thursday, January 23, 2025 @ 3:00 PM
Evanston Public Library/Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLE CALL

Members present: Mark Karlin, Adrienne Allen, Julia Pantoga, Murphy Monroe

Guests: Fred Wittenberg, Ronnie McCarron, Patrick Hughes

Staff present: Yazari Gutierrez (Senior Services Coordinator), Lauren Ruiz (Inclusion & Accessibility Division Manager), Amy Kellogg (Senior Services Division Manager), Kim Kull (Division Chief, Fire Department), Scott Sophier (Commander, Police Department)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The December 19 minutes were approved by Mark Karlin and Fred Wittenberg.

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Guest speaker

- Safety tips for Evanston's disability community: see attached presentation from Commander Sophier
- Questions: Based on questions asked Commander Sophier discussed recent changes in state law requiring Police Dept. new training in crisis intervention and supporting individuals with disabilities, the Department's goal of connecting with all communities through meetings, "Coffee with a Cop," CARE team

Review of new inquiries/grievances:

- Snow event/street cleaning policies: options for individuals with disabilities: possible accommodation of overnight parking in an accessible space at community center, communicating snow and parking alerts via phone or prepared schedule if applicable
- Evanston's emergency preparedness planning for the disability community: Fire Dept. representative to join us in Feb.

Other items:

- Envision Evanston 2045 feedback shared, next steps: thank you for all of your feedback! New draft plan to be provided at end of Feb. for review
- 2024 ADA Transition Plan Annual Update

- New seasonal position: Accessibility Advisor: interviews to be held at the end of Feb.
- ADA Advisory Committee 2025/26 Work Plan: suggestions from Members and visitors provided including providing more details about sidewalk work, increasing Committee engagement/presence at City Council, establishing a schedule for Committee attendees to City Council meetings, creating a "top 10" priority list from the ADA Transition Plan for the City
- Next meeting: February 27, 2025

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A visitor asked for confirmation about the stairs being removed at the Northwest corner of Central and Greenbay, Manager Ruiz to confirm
- A visitor discussed the necessity of an elevator at the Davis Street Metra station

5. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

- A Committee member requested a staff from the City's Parking Admin team to join an upcoming meeting to discuss W permits, more specific data around the cost of accessible parking to the City
- A member requested for more budget-related details to be included in the ADA Annual Report in the future
- A request was made to send a copy of the ADA Annual Report to members of City Council

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 PM.

Safety Preparedness

Evanston's Disability Community



Commander Scott Sophier
Community Relations Unit

January 23, 2025

EPD is a partner and advocate

- The Evanston Police Department partners with City staff and outside stakeholders to provide inclusive and compassionate service.
- Evanston Police officers receive training at the police academy and in-service sessions throughout their careers to understand both the laws as well as the impacts by those affected.
- Our guiding principle for **all** who live and work in Evanston, as well as those who visit the City, is to provide a safe space that is free of victimization, intimidation, and harassment.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



What Does A Disability Look Like?



PG&E

Adult Protective Services of Illinois

Responds to alleged abuse of older adults and persons with disabilities in the community



Preparation

Ready for the unfamiliar

- People
- Places
- Situations
- Think about these possibilities in advance. What/who will help?

Hey Google, Help Me Find....



Google Maps

Being Taken Advantage Of



target

Preying on The Most Vulnerable

Unfortunately, we know this does occur

- Asking for personal information without cause
- Scams can be in-person, on phone, and online
- Asking for money or ‘donations’
- Invading your personal space
- Accompanying a stranger to unfamiliar place
- If something seems too good to be true....



Confident and Assertive



Stick To The Basics

Don't overthink anything

- Keep your head up / scan surroundings
- Be loud / Say NO!
- Be assertive and repetitive
- Call out for help / call 9-1-1, if able

Do Not Risk Your Safety

Evaluate each situation on it's own merits

- If something doesn't feel right, go with your gut
- Try to leave the area, if possible
- Compliance if threatened with a weapon
- Do not want to inadvertently escalate a situation
- Ask a passerby / witness for help

I.C.E. (In Case of Emergency)



WHO YA GONNA CALL?



What Are Your Immediate Needs?

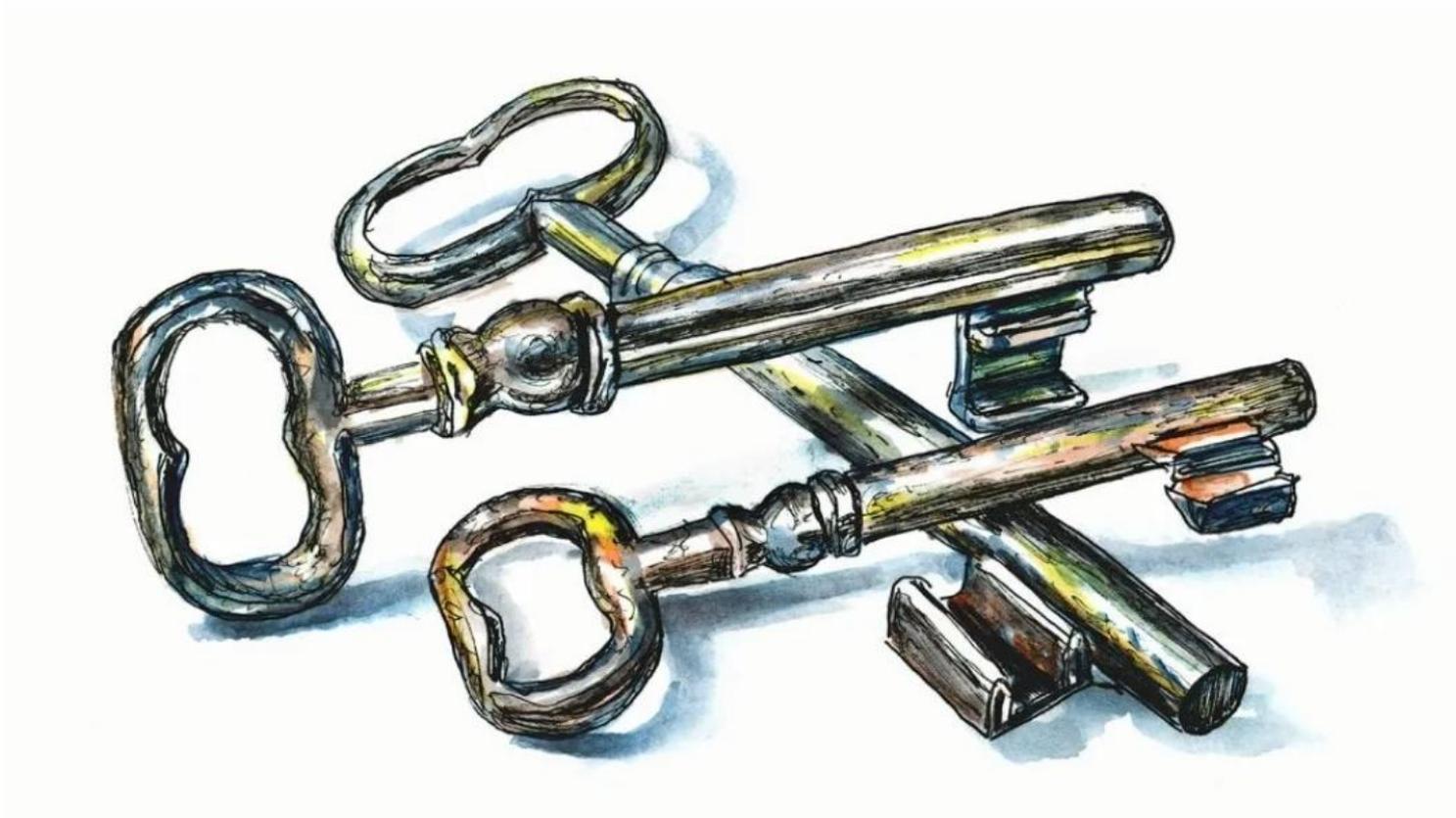
Carry this everywhere you go

- I.C.E. in your cellphone
- Carry written instructions next to your ID
- List of medications on person and on bracelet
- Any additional exigent needs?

Basic First Aid



Key Benefits



Be Intentional About Your Safety

The benefits include:

- Enhanced independence
- Greater Confidence
- Better preparedness in case of an emergency
- Increased quality of life

Feeling safe is one of the most important aspects of a person's life. It gives people a chance to enjoy their lives without the fear that they could be harmed physically, psychologically, or financially. Being safe at home or in public takes some preventative measures, precautionary planning and building confidence.

Safety measures help people feel less vulnerable

What situations are considered unsafe?

It's possible that a person may be unsafe in a variety of situations. In most cases, a person may be unsafe if he or she is in public, or otherwise outside of his or her home. Unfortunately, it is a fact that some people with disabilities are unsafe, however, in their own home.

Situations that are unsafe include those where there is a compromised quality of life. If a person lives in a place where they are physically or emotionally harmed by someone else, be it a private home or a group situation, the safety implications are obvious.

Places where a person could meet with harm, or become a victim of crime, include:

- **Home**
- **Work**
- **School**
- **Public places**
- **Outdoor spaces**
- **Shelters**
- **Group homes or institutions**
- **Medical settings**

The types of harm that could compromise a person's safety in any of these settings include:

- **Physical harm, assault**
- **Domestic assault at the hands of a caregiver**
- **Robbery or theft of personal property**
- **Sexual abuse**
- **Financial abuse, fraud**

People that might create situations that are unsafe and unhealthy include:

- **Family members**
- **Spouses, partners**
- **Children**

- Caregivers and PCAs
- Medical professionals
- Friends and associates
- Teachers or educators
- Criminals
- Anyone who has contact with a person that has special needs

What measures can a person take to secure their own safety?

When a person is forced to defend their safety, it's likely to turn confrontational. Sometimes, it's a matter of telling a person to their face that they're acting badly or illegally, or reporting them to a supervisor if a person's safety is being compromised in a professional or personal setting.

If a person finds themselves in a situation where they are being abused or attacked by someone they do not know, or in a public place, it's also confrontational, but a different set of skills will be needed to bring an end to the situation.

No matter how a safety issues begins, and how it plays out, there are always strategies people can use to protect themselves. However, not all of these methods are effective in every situation.

Some of the non-verbal ways people can maximize their own safety include:

- **Always be aware of immediate surroundings – if something seems suspicious, it likely is**
- **Make sure to know the area where you live**
- **Keep all emergency numbers, as well as family contacts, encoded in a cell phone. Always carry it**
- **Make sure that information regarding a person's physical condition and medications is on their person**
- **Designate a trusted individual to make decisions if a person becomes incapacitated**
- **Walk with, and interact with others, with confidence – it will make a person less likely to be a victim. Always make eye contact**
- **Do not share too much information about oneself online – it's not known what the goals of the other person are**
- **Do not disclose financial information to people that are not friends or family**
- **Conduct background checks on all PCAs and aides; ask for references and check government sites for information on residential and medical facilities**
- **Have a home or apartment assessed for vulnerabilities, such as faulty locks. This service is often provided free of charge by area police departments and law enforcement agencies**
- **Understand the strengths, and limits of a disability, and how they affect a person's ability to mount a defense against a perpetrator**
- **Reach out to a disabilities advocacy center that can provide information, tools and support**

- **Be assertive – never concede power in relationships. Be sure to set boundaries**

Sometimes, a situation presents an imminent danger to a person. These circumstances are most likely to bring physical harm to someone. In some cases, a person may know the individual that is causing problems (relatives, home care workers, professionals). In others, a person may be a victim of random crime.

Although all of the aforementioned strategies are important when the dangerous situations occur, it's doubly important to use physical and defensive strategies as well. These include:

- **Make a tape recorded message that can be played to ask for assistance in an event a person cannot speak**
- **Use whatever physical ability a person has to defend themselves, even if it's just wheeling to a place where other people are. This increases the likelihood that a person will be noticed**
- **Don't be afraid to yell, or make noise, to attract attention**

In cases of an emergency, it's important to have a plan. This of course can be difficult to do if a person is in unfamiliar surroundings. To the best extent possible, a person should make a mental note of exits and entrances to all facilities.

Being safe is most often about being able to skills to thwart a situation. When those skills cannot be developed, it's imperative to find viable compensatory measures.

It goes without saying that a person who is being robbed should just give up his or her wallet or possessions. Nothing is worth losing a life. And remember that no emergency situation is over until a person has received assistance.

How can others help a person maintain a high level of safety?

The best way that other people can help a loved one with disabilities during a crisis is to let them know that they'll provide support should such a situation come to pass. People with disabilities often feel vulnerable – even guilty – if they are a victim of an unscrupulous person. As a trusted friend or family member, an individual can assure a person that they can be depended on to help a person if a negative situation takes place. Specifically, a person that is part of a plan would be willing to secure supplies, provide transportation, be on a call list, or provide emotional support.

What can a person do if they have been harmed as a result of an unsafe situation?

The most obvious way to obtain help in a dangerous situation is to call 911. First responders are a first-line of defense in such a situation; they also take reports and follow up on the case, which may

result in the return of property, or an arrest.

But there are other agencies and non-profits that can provide valuable tips on how to remain safe, and how to cope with the aftermath of a dangerous situation. These agencies specifically offer assistance within the disabilities community.

The US Department of Justice offers assistance to people with disabilities; they investigate crimes against the disabled and attempt to resolve disputes regarding people with disabilities and other individual or agencies when an infraction has occurred.

Additionally, the DOJ's Office of Civil Rights investigates where it is believed that a person's civil rights have been violated. In those cases, it's possible that a person responsible for crimes against the elderly can be prosecuted in federal court. In cases of child abuse, state or federal human services agencies will investigate, and turn information over to the proper state or federal authorities if it is determined that a violation took place.

Are there any special provisions in the law to individuals with special needs that have been victimized?

Some state legislatures have passed what are known as vulnerable adult laws. These provisions allow for mandatory sentencing enhancements for those convicted of a crime against a person that is deemed to be vulnerable – the disabled, elderly, or children.

These laws aim to deter crimes against people who have few resources to fight back; they are an attempt by law enforcers to protect people from being victims of crime.

2025-26 ADA Advisory Committee Work Plan

Goal 1: Support the City's Disability Services

Goal 1 Overall Objectives	Activities	Resources	Strategy & Actions	Timeframe
1.1) To conduct 22 ADA Advisory Committee meetings in a physically and virtually accessible space in the community between January 2025 and December 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a format to include review and discussion of Disability Services • Broaden perspective of Department-specific services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA Coordinator to share developments related to procedures • City Liaisons/staff to attend meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend adjustments to policies and procedures related to Disability Services for the City • Collaborate to create topics of educational interest and guest speaker requests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 guest speakers to attend yearly • 22 ADA Advisory Committee meetings held in the community by December 2026
1.2) To keep informed on accommodation requests, inquiries, and grievances from the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly reviews of communication from the community related to accommodations, inquiries, and grievances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA Coordinator to share communication received 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New communication as well as progress related to previous communication will be shared at monthly meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing

Goal 2: Promote the Execution of the City's ADA Transition Plan

Goal 2 Overall Objectives	Activities	Resources	Strategy & Actions	Timeframe
2.1) To increase knowledge of the City's ADA Transition Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a review of specified Plan sections at Committee meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADA Coordinator to provide specified sections for review prior to the applicable meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss Plan sections to ensure understanding and identify Plan guidelines for the City 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion to take place quarterly
2.2) To obtain recommendations related to prioritization of ADA Transition Plan projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare completed/current projects related to accessibility with accommodation requests, inquiries, and grievances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADA Liaisons to report completed/current projects quarterly ADA Coordinator to organize this data for review ADA Coordinator to share communication received 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify areas of the Plan that have not received attention/had progress made Create a general priority list based on communication received from community, collaboration from Committee Priority list to be presented to Department Liaisons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General priority list to be completed by May 2025 Action steps to be organized by Liaisons by October 2025
2.3) To increase engagement related to accessibility in upcoming City projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with the Commission to endorse accessibility-related actions Communicate with City leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioners Committee members and attendees ADA Coordinator to link Committee with staff overseeing accessibility-related projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate Committee feedback to Chair/Coordinator of Commission Presentation/action involved City Council meeting date details to be provided by ADA Coordinator Provide Public Comments during City Council meetings on dates of proposed presentations/actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing

Goal 3: Resource and Referral				
Goal 3 Overall Objectives	Activities	Resources	Strategy & Actions	Timeframe
3.1) To increase knowledge of disability-related topics, trends, and concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share personal experiences, ideas, stories at meetings • Bring applicable news stories, articles, resources for discussion to Committee meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee members • Community members • News sources • Books, articles, social media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge facts and topics at hand which relate to improvement of the City's Disability Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing
3.2) To act as a referral source for community members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee members to have easy access to contact information for ADA Coordinator, Disability Services information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA Coordinator • City's ADA/ Disability Services webpage • Flyers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide paper flyers to be posted at community centers • Update applicable City websites and social media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing

Goal 4: Training and Education				
Goal 4 Overall Objectives	Activities	Resources	Strategy & Actions	Timeframe
4.1) To offer ADA training opportunities for the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize free events promoting advocacy, acceptance, and awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA Coordinator • Committee members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with community/local organizations to collaborate for activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 training opportunities to take place each year
4.2) To increase community awareness of the Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend City events that will provide opportunity to educate the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee members • Community members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserve tables at resource fairs • Attend Ward meetings • Public Comments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing

2025/26 ADA Advisory Committee Work Plan

Goal 1: Support the City's Disability Services

Objective 1.1) To conduct 22 ADA Advisory Committee meetings in a physically and virtually accessible space in the community between Jan. 2025 and Dec. 2026

Activities: Maintain a format to include review and discussion of Disability Services, Broaden perspective of Department-specific services

Resources: ADA Coordinator to share developments related to procedures, City Liaisons/staff to attend meetings

Strategy & Actions: Recommend adjustments to policies and procedures related to Disability Services for the City, Collaborate to create topics of educational interest and guest speaker requests

Timeframe: 6 guest speakers to attend yearly, 22 ADA Advisory Committee meetings held in the community by Dec. 2026

Objective 1.2) To keep informed on accommodation requests, inquiries, and grievances from the community

Activities: Monthly reviews of communication from the community related to accommodations, inquiries and grievances

Resources: ADA Coordinator to share communication received

Strategy & Actions: New communication as well as previous communication will be shared at monthly meetings

Timeframe: Ongoing

Goal 2: Promote the Execution of the City's ADA Transition Plan

Objective 2.1) to increase knowledge of the City's ADA Transition Plan

Activities: Complete a review of specified Plan sections at Committee meetings

Resources: ADA Coordinator to provide specified sections for review prior to the applicable meeting

Strategy & Actions: Discuss Plan sections to ensure understanding and identify Plan guidelines for the City

Timeframe: Discussion to take place quarterly

Objective 2.2) To obtain recommendations related to prioritization of ADA Transition Plan projects

Activities: Compare completed/current projects related to accessibility with accommodation requests, inquiries, grievances

Resources: ADA Liaisons to report completed/current projects quarterly, ADA Coordinator to organize this data for review, ADA Coordinator to share communication received

Strategy & Actions: Identify areas of the Plan that have not received attention/had progress made, create a general priority list based on communication received from community, collaboration from Committee, priority list to be presented to Department Liaisons

Timeframe: general priority list to be completed by May 2025, action steps to be organized by Liaisons by October 2025

Objective 2.3) To increase engagement related to accessibility in upcoming City projects

Activities: Collaborate with the Commission to endorse accessibility-related actions, communicate with City leaders

Resources: Commissioners, Committee members and attendees, ADA Coordinator to link Committee with staff overseeing accessibility-related projects

Strategy & Actions: communicate Committee feedback to Chair/Coordinator of Commission, Presentation/action involved City Council meeting date details to be provided by ADA Coordinator, Provide Public Comments during City Council meetings on dates of proposed presentations/actions

Timeframe: ongoing

Goal 3: Resource and Referral

Objective 3.1) To increase knowledge of disability-related topics, trends, and concerns

Activities: share personal experiences, ideas, stories at meetings, bring applicable news stories, articles, resources for discussion to Committee meetings

Resources: Committee members, Community members, news sources, books, articles, social media

Strategy & Actions: acknowledge facts and topics at hand which related to improvement of the City's Disability Services

Timeframe: ongoing

Objective 3.2) To act as a referral sources for community members

Activities: committee members to have easy access to contact info for ADA Coordinator, disability services info

Resources: ADA Coordinator, City's ADA/Disability Services webpage, flyers

Strategy & Actions: provide paper flyers to be posted at community centers, update applicable City websites and social media

Timeframe: ongoing

Goal 4: Training and Education

Objective 4.1) To offer ADA training opportunities for the community

Activities: organize free events promoting advocacy, acceptance, and awareness

Resources: ADA Coordinator, Committee members

Strategy & Actions: work with community/local organizations to collaborate for activities

Timeframe: 3 training opportunities to take place each year

Objective 4.2) To increase community awareness of the Committee

Activities: attend City events that will provide opportunity to educate the community

Resources: ADA Coordinator, Committee members

Strategy & Actions: Reserve tables at resource fairs, attend Ward meetings, public comments

Timeframe: ongoing