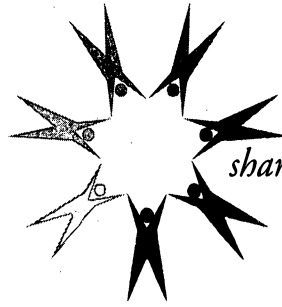


Department of Human Service Programs



sharing resources...building community

Jill Herold
Assistant City Manager

MEMORANDUM

To: Jill Herold, Assistant City Manager for Human Services

From: Michael Muehe, Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Re: Access in Pedestrian Areas: Signs, Sidewalk Furniture, etc.

Date: April 25, 1996

Childcare

Commission for
Persons with Disabilities

Community and Youth

Community
Learning Center

Coordinating Council for
Children, Youth and Families
(Kids' Council)

Council on Aging;
Elderly Services

Low Income
Fuel Assistance

Multi-Service Center;
Homeless Services

Office of Workforce
Development

Planning & Development

Recreation

In response to your inquiry, here are some guidelines on placement of sandwich boards and A-frame signs with respect to access for persons with disabilities.

Generally, free standing signs, plantings, furniture and bicycle racks all should preferably be affixed firmly to the pavement. Otherwise, these objects, when moveable, can easily become an obstacle, both for people with mobility impairments and for people with visual impairments. In any event, such objects should not be located in areas where the clear width available for pedestrian circulation would be reduced to less than 36 inches. Preferably, areas with heavy pedestrian traffic should maintain a minimum 48 inch clear path of travel throughout.

Also, such objects should not be located near building entrances where they would interfere with people entering and leaving the building. Specifically, a minimum of 18 inches (preferably 24 inches) of clear width should be provided on the latch pull side of the doorway. Also to be avoided are wall-mounted signs and other fixtures (such as pole-mounted utility boxes) within the path of pedestrian travel that would present a safety hazard to people with visual impairments. Specifically, any protruding object whose bottom edge is more than 27 inches high is a potential hazard to individuals with visual impairments.

Finally, when such objects present a barrier to access, and are part of an existing facility which is a place of public accommodation, e.g. store, restaurant, etc., such barriers to access must be removed whenever it is "readily achievable" to do so. The term readily achievable is defined as "easily accomplishable and able to be done without much difficulty or expense."



Citations

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations, U.S. Department of Justice, 28 CFR Part 36, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability by Public Accommodations and in Commercial Facilities:

28 CFR §36.304 Removal of barriers.

28 CFR §36.401 New construction.

28 CFR §36.403 Alterations: Path of travel.

Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG)

§4.3 Accessible Route

§4.4 Protruding Objects

§4.14 Entrances

Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB) regulations:

521 CMR §21. Sidewalks

521 CMR §22. Walks and walkways

521 CMR §24. Exterior signage

521 CMR §27. Doors and doorways



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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

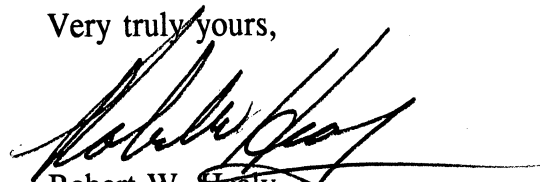
RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

July 29, 1996

To The Honorable, The City Council:

With reference to Awaiting Report Item No. 6, regarding a report and recommendations from the Commission for Persons with Disabilities concerning "A" framed signs on sidewalks, please find attached a response received from Assistant City Manager for Human Services Jill Herold.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
attachment

Relative to Awaiting Report Item Number Six, regarding a report and recommendations from the Commission for Persons with Disabilities concerning "A" framed signs on sidewalks.

In City Council July 29, 1996

Charter right was
exercised by
Councillor Toomey
9-9-96
Referred to Environment
Committee on motion of
Councillor Davis.