



ADA TODAY



Newsletter

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DC Department of Transportation has implemented its Red Top Meters: Parking for Persons with Disabilities



Reserved parking spaces for persons with disabilities have a red top meter

All “red top” meters are ADA accessible. Persons with disabilities will be assured exclusive use of reserved “red top” metered parking spaces during regular hours of meter operation.

Red top meters are reserved spaces for persons with disabilities to park with a valid placard. During the hours of meter operations (from 7 am to 10 pm depending on zone) all vehicles that have not paid to park and do not have a valid disability placard will be ticketed and towed from these parking spaces.

Starting March 1, 2012, all parking patrons must display a valid disabled placard or license plate and pay the established meter rates throughout the District of Columbia.

All metered spaces are available to persons with disabilities, however only red top spaces are reserved for their use during the meters hours of operation. Persons with disabilities are allowed to park for ‘twice the time’ allotted at a red top meter with a valid disability placard. For example, if the meter rate on a block face is \$2.00 per hour with a two hour time limit, persons with disabilities will be able to legally park at a red top meter for four hours upon paying the \$8.00 fee. It is illegal to park for more than ‘twice the time’ on any meter in the District, therefore holders of physical disability placards cannot park all day at a meter anywhere in the District of Columbia.

There are two parking rates in the District of Columbia. The Premium Demand Zone rate is \$2.00 per hour and these meters are generally found in the central business district (CBD) as well as segments of commercial corridors such as Connecticut Avenue, NW and Wisconsin Avenue, NW. There are also Normal Demand Zones with a rate of \$.75 per hour and these meters are generally found in mixed as well as some commercial corridors such as Georgia Avenue, NW and H Street, NE.

For further information visit: www.ddot.dc.gov

ODR Welcomes New Special Project Coordinator, Jessica Hunt



Jessica Hunt joined ODR in September 2011 as the Agency's Special Project Coordinator. An attorney specializing in Disability Rights and Employment Discrimination, Jessica has spent the majority of her career in the federal sector, with experience in Equal Employment Opportunity and Civil Rights issues at the Department of Defense, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Office of Disability Employment Policy. Prior to her federal experience, Jessica clerked at a mid-sized law firm in the private sector, specializing in Employment Discrimination and Special Education Law issues.

As ODR's Special Projects Coordinator, Jessica is responsible for creating and coordinating all training given by the Agency, investigating complaints of discrimination from District residents and employees, and serving as the Agency EEO and Ethics Officer. In addition, Jessica serves on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Bus and Rail Accessibility Subcommittee.

Mayor Gray Announces Settlement in Longstanding Dixon Lawsuit

February 16, 2012 (WASHINGTON, D.C.) – Mayor Vincent C. Gray today announced a settlement in the 37-year-old Dixon class-action lawsuit and the end of court oversight of the District's public mental health system. U.S. District Court Judge Thomas F. Hogan approved the settlement between the District and Dixon plaintiffs' counsel in a hearing today and dismissed the lawsuit.

"This is an historic day in the District of Columbia, and this settlement affirms the significant progress we have made in building a high-quality, community-based mental health system," said Mayor Gray. "It also is a great victory for District residents, as we have regained control over critical mental-health services and can hold the District government accountable for effective service delivery."

Under the terms of the settlement, the District commits to adding 300 affordable housing units, expanding job-readiness services for adults with mental illness to help them get and keep a job, and increasing treatment services with proven records of good outcomes at home and in the community instead of out-of-home placements for children.

"We are confident that we can meet the obligations of the settlement agreement and make our mental-health system even stronger," said Stephen T. Baron, Director of the Department of Mental Health (DMH).

The Dixon lawsuit was filed in 1974 by patients at Saint Elizabeths Hospital because mental-health treatment in the community was not available to people who did not require institutionalization. At that time, more than 3,600 patients were at Saint Elizabeths. Today, more than 20,000 District residents get mental-health treatment and support from a network of 37 community providers. Less than 300 require residential treatment at Saint Elizabeths.

Wheelchair-Accessible Taxicab Pilot Project in D.C. Gets Good Reviews After First Two Years

TPB Weekly Report (February 14, 2012) Since it began two years ago, the Transportation Planning Board's wheelchair-accessible taxicab pilot program--"rollDC"--has seen an eight-fold increase in the number of trips provided to users of mobility devices living in or visiting the District of Columbia. In a 2011 customer satisfaction survey, 81% of respondents rated their most recent "rollDC" trip either "very good" or "excellent," and nine in ten first-time users said they planned to use the service again in the future. For full article go to: www.mwcog.org/transportation/weeklyreport

Upcoming Events

"How To Find A Ride" Meeting

Please join us on Thursday, March 15 from 10:00am – 12:00pm for a discussion and resources on how to find a ride for people with disabilities and older adults living in the Washington DC area.

Meeting Title: How to Find a Ride ~ Date: Thursday, March 15 ~ Time: 10:00am-12:00pm ~ Location: Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, MLK Room A-5 ~ Presented By: The Washington DC Area Travel Trainer Forum

This will be the second meeting of the Washington Area Travel Trainer Forum. No RSVP is required. However, please let us know if you require accommodations to participate in the meeting by contacting us at bernardy@mtm-inc.net. And please come prepared to share your ideas, resources, and strategies too!

Questions can be sent to Robyn at rbernardy@mtm-inc.net

CAREER EXPO for People with disABILITIES and Veterans in Washington, DC

Career Expo for people with disabilities takes place at 10AM to 3PM, Friday, March 16th at the Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20004.

It is very important to pre-register online and attach your resume at <http://www.eop.com/expo>.

Here are a few of the many companies and government agencies who have already signed up and are wanting to recruit your talent: BAE Systems, Bender Consulting Services, Federal Housing Finance Agency, Hess Corporation, Lockheed Martin, MIT Lincoln Lab, National Credit Union Administration, National Science Foundation, National Security Agency, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

PRE-REGISTER TODAY AND DON'T FORGET TO ATTACH YOUR RESUME BECAUSE IT WILL BE INCLUDED IN A CD DISK GIVEN TO ALL RECRUITERS.

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Please join us Wednesday, March 21, from 4:00-6:00pm, to celebrate the District of Columbia Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month at the National Youth Transition Center located at 2013 H Street, NW. Our keynote speakers will include Mayor Vincent Gray, Sue Swenson, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of the Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) and others. The event partners include The Arc of the District of Columbia; DC Department on Disability Services; DC Developmental Disabilities Council; Georgetown University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities; Project ACTION!; Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities; and the University Legal Services. For more information or to RSVP call Phyllis Holton at 202-448-1458 or email her at pholton@dcqualitytrust.org.

Campaign for Disability Employment PSA Participation

The partners of the Campaign for Disability Employment (CDE), in collaboration with Concepts Inc., are creating a new public service announcement (PSA) focusing on the contributions by youths with disabilities. In 2009, CDE launched the award winning "I Can" PSA (<http://www.whatcanyoudocampaign.org/blog/index.php/video/>) highlighting the skills and abilities of employees with disabilities. CDE and Concept Inc. are currently seeking youth participants with disabilities to be featured. Young adults and youths with disabilities interested in participating in this opportunity should have their parents or guardians (when applicable) contact Concepts Inc Representative Rebecca Skipper at rskipper@conceptspr.com or 202-316-8290 for additional information as soon as possible.

Federal News

Tyson Foods Settles EEOC Disability Discrimination Lawsuit

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has charged Tyson Foods, Inc. with violating the Americans with Disabilities Act when it refused to hire a former employee because he has epilepsy. Tyson will pay \$35,000 to the former employee.

New Fact Sheet on Affordable Care Act and People with Disabilities Available in English and Spanish

The HHS Office on Disability is pleased to announce an exciting new informational resource. Our partners at HealthCare.Gov have released two versions of a new one-page fact sheet entitled, "People with Disabilities & Serious Health Conditions: The Top 5 Things You Need to Know About the Affordable Care Act" – one in [English](#) and another version in [Spanish](#). This resource highlights key aspects of the ACA which meet the needs of consumers with disabilities. These fact sheets are also linked to the Office on Disability page at <http://www.hhs.gov/od/community/public/index.html>.

For Information about ODR's Newsletter call 202-724-5055 or visit the web at odr.dc.gov.



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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the District Office of Disability Rights (ODR) is to ensure that the programs, services, benefits, activities and facilities operated or funded by the District of Columbia are fully accessible to, and useable by people with disabilities. ODR is committed to inclusion, community-based services, and self-determination for people with disabilities. ODR is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the City's obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as well as other disability rights laws.

