Dear Chair Desmond and Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

As you know, your Disability Advisory Commission (DAC) is charged with advising and making recommendations regarding disability access in Sacramento County, and County-wide compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other Federal and State civil rights laws and regulations. We are writing with great concern about an apparent barrier in communication and transparency resulting from some internal protocols.

In April of 2022, the DAC attempted to schedule a timed item on the Board of Supervisors Agenda. The purpose of the Agenda item was to submit and discuss a comprehensive report and recommendations regarding some outstanding disability access concerns in several County program areas. (Attachment A)

Per our founding resolution (Attachment B) we worked through the Disability Compliance Office (DCO), a division of the Department of Personnel Services. The DAC followed staff guidance and submitted the Report and Board Letter for signature of the Director of Personnel Services, Dr. Sylvester Fadal. Dr. Fadal was brand new to Sacramento County at the time and was just becoming familiar with the issues contained in the DAC report. He determined it was inappropriate for the Agenda item go forward under his signature and instead referred the report to David Villanueva in the County Executive Office.

Since that time, great progress has been made on many of the concerns contained in the report. The DAC would like thank Dr. Fadal and Mr. Villanueva for their continued support on those issues. We also appreciate the ongoing efforts of numerous County staff to implement the proposed changes.

Nevertheless, the DAC remains concerned about not having a direct path to the Board of Supervisors. Over the course of subsequent meetings with the Chiefs of Staff, the DAC continued to raise the question, how does the DAC place items on the Board Agenda without a departmental sponsor? The Chiefs did not immediately have an answer, but eventually stated at the most recent meeting of (date) that the flow of information from the DAC to the Board is through the Chiefs of Staff.

The DAC is concerned with this response because it effectively makes the Chiefs of Staff the gatekeepers of our input. While we are very appreciative of the guidance and support we receive from the Chiefs, we have submitted a number of concerns and recommendations over the years that have not received any official response or acknowledgement. It’s unclear to us whether the members of the Board are receiving any of our submissions. Additionally, the status quo deprives the public of the opportunity to have information about and participate in discussions on our many collaborative efforts to improve disability access in Sacramento County.

Therefore, we respectfully request your assistance in resolving the question: **How can the DAC schedule an Agenda item, such as an Annual Report regarding matters of disability access in County services and facilities, on the Board of Supervisors’ Agenda as a timed item for public discussion, without the requirement of a Department Director’s signature?**

We look forward to your response and appreciate your guidance on this matter. Please advise through the DCO (916) 874-7642 (TTY 711) or email dco@saccounty.gov if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Randy Hicks, Chair Gene Lozano, Vice Chair