



Burien

Washington, USA

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May 27, 2010

Chestine Edgar
1811 SW 152nd St
Burien, WA 98166

Dear Ms. Edgar:

Your correspondence regarding issues related to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was referred to me for response. Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention.

I have provided your letter to the appropriate City staff and they are working on addressing your concerns. Here is what has happened to date as a result of your questions:

1. City staff is consulting with the King County Library System (KCLS) staff regarding the lower level of the garage. You are correct that there are no parking spaces on the lower level designated for "handicapped access" – since such spaces are reserved on the upper level of the parking garage, staff are looking into what to do about the lower level signage situation.
2. City staff is looking into which publications "fail to mention" the ADA/Section 504 Compliance Officer and contact information for ADA accommodations.
3. The notices are being reviewed regarding an explanation of accommodations for disabled interviewees.
4. Regarding the statement about "illegal questions" during citizen committee interviews, staff would like to request examples of such questions in order to address this concern.
5. Staff will confer about what the City should do in the event of an elevator break-down, in order for disabled persons to do business with the City. Please note, however, that during certain adverse weather situations the City Hall may be shut down.
6. City staff will discuss the possibility of providing a flat-seated, straight-backed armchair in the lobby.
7. Staff researched state law and found that a vehicle with a "disabled" parking placard or license plate may park in any legal public parking space, not just those spaces designated for "disabled" parking.

As soon as our staff can conclude their efforts related to the issues you have raised, we will send another letter to update you.

Respectfully,



Lisa Clausen

City Manager's Office

CPTR: 06/07/10

To: The Burien City Manager
To: The Burien City Council
From: Chestine Edgar
April 21, 2010

To The City of Burien;

In the last several months, I have had to use the City Hall/Library shared facility many times. I am disabled and am keenly aware of which facilities work and provide access for the disabled population. The City of Burien's facilities in the Town Square area are not ADA compliant. Additionally, the publications and processes followed by the city are not ADA compliant. I am requesting that these things be remedied. If the City of Burien does not have the staff or expertise to correct these areas, then I am suggesting that the city staff contact the Office of Civil Rights for assistance on how to make these things compliant with the ADA.

My areas of concern about non-ADA compliance are:

1. The parking garage under the City Hall Building has a door marked for handicapped access. However, there are not parking spaces marked or reserved for handicapped access in the garage next to the door. The door has to be opened manually and opens at an angle so that it swings closed on a person who does not have their arms or hands available to keep it open. The sidewalk out of the garage is up hill, around a corner and down the street from the only ramp access to City Hall from that parking garage. It would just be easier to have a handicapped parking space in front of City Hall on 152nd St. The garage needs to be marked and the door situation needs to be looked at.
2. The City of Burien publications fail to mention who is the ADA/Section 504 Compliance Officer for the city. Also, there is no contact phone number for who to contact to request ADA accommodations or how to get those accommodations taken care of.
3. Notices of interviews for positions on citizen committees do not explain how accommodations for disabled interviewees will be taken care of or that any will be provided.
4. Interviews done by the city staff and council members have illegal questions given to the interviewees relating to their disabling conditions.
5. When the elevator breaks down there is no way for the disabled to get up to City Hall (which is on the third floor) to handle the business that he or she came for. A plan for how to handle business on the days of elevator break down needs to be put in place so that the disabled can take care of business on those days-such as a phone service, intercom or a staff member who goes down stairs to assist the disabled citizen from the first floor.

CFTR: 05/07/10
CC: Human Resources
ADA Compliance 04-21-10 CE.doc
Public Worker
City Manager & City Clerk staff

6. The furniture in the upstairs City Hall is very difficult for disabled citizens to use. The angles on the seats put the spine at an angle where the hips are lower than the spine, the seats of other chairs have an unusual curve that irritates the spine and none of the chairs has arms to aid a person to push out of the seat. I am requesting that at least one flat seated, straight backed armchair be available for use by citizens in the City Hall area.

7. The parking space situation for the disabled along 152nd from 1st Ave SW to 10th Ave. SW needs to be analyzed. In that 10 block space there are only 3 disabled parking spaces along 152nd for the disabled. During festivals, celebrations, markets and heavily attended meetings, it is difficult for the disabled population to find close enough parking to take part in the events.

cc:

Office of Civil Rights