

**City of Melrose
Commission on Disability
Budget Memo FY 24**



Prepared by David Hoff, Commission Chair

Over the past year, a primary focus of the Melrose Commission on Disability, has been guiding the process for the development of an updated Americans with Disabilities Act Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, which is now finalized, and will be presented to the city council in the near future. This plan provides a blueprint for the next several years for ensuring that the city buildings and services will be fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Additional highlights of the commission's work include the following:

- The commission serves as an ongoing resource to the city and Melrose residents who have questions or concerns regarding disability access issues, and we have responded to numerous requests in this regard.
- One of the commission's roles is to provide input on variance requests regarding accessibility for any building in Melrose, and we are currently working with the Metro North Y regarding renovations of their building on Main Street.
- The commission has partnered with various organizations on a series of initiatives, including an ongoing partnership with the Special Education Parents Advisory Council to ensure our schools are responsive to the needs of students with disabilities, presenting at the Human Right's Commission MLK Day of Service, working with the City's Health and Human Services Department on its Community Health Inclusion Index mini-grant, and with Follow Your Art on a storytelling event to be held on June 10th.

For the coming year, we have 3 primary budget needs:

- Support for participation in community outreach events, such as the Victorian Fair and similar events.
- Costs for printing and distribution of a guide for community organizations on including people with disabilities, which we are in the process of developing.
- Conducting a review of the city's website regarding accessibility.