

Daniel A. Micari, Commissioner, Chairperson
Barbara Bajurny, Commissioner
Tracy Beland, Commissioner
Gloria Ewings, Commissioner
Ruth Ann Graime, Commissioner, Secretary
Greg Klimek, Commissioner
Joseph Krolikowski, Commissioner
Jacqueline Olsen, City Council Liaison



**Commission for Persons with Disabilities
Bristol, CT 06010**

**Special Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2023**

7:00 PM–Bristol Public Library, Community Room

Our Mission

To promote inclusion and improve the quality of life for people in Bristol with a disability, by providing a network of partnerships with local resources that foster self-sufficiency, dignity, and respect

Reasonable Accommodation Statement

The Bristol Commission for Persons with Disabilities is committed to equal access to, and participation in, all meetings and Commission-sponsored programs and events. Individuals who require an accommodation in order to fully participate, including physical access, communication assistance, or other special need, should contact Daniel A. Micari at damicari@yahoo.com, at least seven business days prior to the scheduled meeting, program, or event.

Present: Micari, Bajurny, Beland, Ewings, Graime, Klimek, Krolikowski,
Olsen

Absent: None

Call to order: 7:00 PM

**Topic: Emergency and First Responders: Policies and Procedures
Involving Individuals with Disabilities**

Each speaker responded to pre-submitted questions, followed by additional discussion based on audience interest.

According to **Christine Laprise, VP for EMS Operations**, the EMS shares dispatch with the Bristol Hospital ER. One family member is permitted in the ambulance with the patient. While no ASL Interpreter is present in the ambulance, the hospital provides this service. EMS staff does consult the File of Life information.

The roles of **EMD Harley Graime** include educating city groups and schools in emergency preparedness and safety measures, along with supporting first responders in emergency situations. He also administers the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The City shelters, when in use, do not have ASL Interpreters at this time.

Police Chief Brian Gould explained Community Policing as a philosophy to engage the public in building trust, and as a practice in partnering with residents to achieve quality of life in their neighborhoods. Officers are trained to understand fear and aggressive responses and avoid using force. An ASL Interpreter will be provided when needed.

Officer Alysha Pirog designed the Special Needs Registry, which relies on voluntary family input. Due to minimal community response, Commissioner Beland suggested reconnecting with the Board of Education to encourage parental support. Officer Pirog mentioned the Green (for deaf individuals) and Blue (for persons with autism) Envelopes to be handed to officers during a home emergency or in driver situations. She also introduced Frankie, her canine assistant.

Fire Chief Richard Hart informed that as an All-Hazard Agency, the Department responds to every call. School visits to discuss fire prevention is a major initiative. Community Connect, a voluntary registry (independent of the police registry) alerts the Department to the needs of residents. Firefighters receive training in disengaging wheelchairs.

Commissioner Beland reminded everyone to keep attuned to the Commission webpage for updated communications.

Meeting adjourned: 9:10 PM

Next meeting: May 10, 2023

Presentation: Margaret Banker, Director, ADA Paratransit Services
Greater Hartford Transit District

Submitted by,
Ruth Ann Graime, Secretary