



**Mayor's Advisory Committee for the Disabled**



January 10, 2017

Mayor and City Council Members  
419 Fulton St, Room 401  
Peoria, Illinois 61602

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Preparations are underway to have the city administration bring forward to you a request to change the name of the Mayor's Advisory Committee for the Disabled (MACD) to the Mayor's Advisory Committee for Citizens with Disabilities (MACCD).

This is to apprise you of the reasons that were shared with Mayor Ardis, who supports this action.

The members are unanimous in proposing this because as advocates for the rights of people with disabilities it is important the committee stay in step with the current thinking on how to communicate with and about people with disabilities. That thinking emphasizes respecting the individual by putting the person first not the disability. Using people first language describes what a person has not who a person is. For example, you would say person with a disability not a disabled person.

The current name perpetuates old thinking and stereotypes because it focuses on the disability. While the proposed name embraces using people first language to emphasize the focus of the committee is about respecting and serving people.

The respectful treatment of individuals with a disability is something the City of Peoria has supported for a long time. Making this change reminds our community that commitment is firm.

If any of you have questions, I welcome the opportunity to talk with you. You can contact me by email at [jewel1229@yahoo.com](mailto:jewel1229@yahoo.com) or 309/693-0700.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie Atkinson".

Laurie Atkinson  
Chair

Cc: Patrick Urich, City Manager

City Hall  
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Peoria, IL 61602