

-----Original Message-----
From: Sutton, Kate (DPS)
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 8:52 AM
To: Carley, Stephen (DPS)
Cc: Hosler, Deirdre Ann (DPS); Hopkins, Thomas (DPS)
Subject: FW: AAB Hearing regulations

521 CMR comments.

Kate Sutton
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Architectural Access Board
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-----Original Message-----
From: Zemel, Felix (DPS)
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2015 3:21 PM
To: Sheila Hegarty
Cc: Hopkins, Thomas (DPS); Anderson, Robert (DPS); Sutton, Kate (DPS); Zemel, Felix (DPS)
Subject: RE: AAB Hearing regulations

Dear Ms. Hegarty:

I am forwarding this email to Thomas Hopkins, Executive Director of the AAB, as he is better able to answer your questions / concerns.

Thank you.

Felix

Felix I. Zemel, MCP, MPH, CBO, REHS/RS, DAAS Department of Public Safety Technical Director One Ashburton Place --
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-----Original Message-----

From: Sheila Hegarty
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2015 3:13 PM
To: Zemel, Felix (DPS)
Subject: AAB Hearing regulations

Good afternoon Felix,

I'm writing in to speak toward how changes to the code of AAB would affect persons with disabilities. As a person with a physical disability myself accessibility is a very important thing in my life. It is my understanding that the current ABA standards and ADA standards are very similar. I believe it is critical for the ABA to take on standards that are the most stringent around accessibility and equal access. That may mean changing code to standards of the ADA or staying with current code as some of our codes to my understanding are more stringent than the ADA. One example of ABA being more stringent is in regards to requiring full access to work areas I believe that code needs to stay in place as it provides more access to people with disabilities.

I believe that is critical to keep in mind persons with disabilities when updating these codes. As they will then create access or barriers for persons with disabilities in regards to school, healthcare access, employment, etc. Persons with disabilities are the largest growing minority in the United States today and it is essential that our laws and codes protect and serve them.

Thank you

Sheila (Radziewicz) Hegarty, Education & Advocacy Coordinator Northeast Independent Living Program, Inc.