

ITEM #58₍₃₎

(At the request of Matthew Dietz of the Disability Independence Group)

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 12, 2021

**SUBMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY
ATTORNEY**

Link to the Help Me Howard story about Georgia Rogers. https://wsvn.com/news/help-me-howard/elderly-cant-get-covid-19-vaccine/?fbclid=IwAR1bFTyGHRLPM3bTwntQPAHTFO6jSD_iCifuZP6DQQ1CQ1_bc6LHU3UWdYc

From: Matthew Dietz <mdietz@justdigit.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 10:48 AM

To: Katzman, Adam <AKatzman@broward.org>

Cc: Meyers, Andrew <AMEYERS@broward.org>; Brian Johnson <BJohnson@cilbroward.org>

Subject: RE: Reasonable Accommodation request regarding vaccination for a 95 year old Broward County resident

External Email Warning: This email originated from outside the Broward County email system. Do not reply, click links, or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's **email address** (not just the name) as legitimate and know the content is safe. Report any suspicious emails to ETSSecurity@broward.org.

Mr. Katzman.

Providing a location to serve persons with disabilities at some time in the future is plainly inadequate and violates the ADA and Section 504.

It appears that there is a motion on the agenda for the County Commission today regarding the distribution of the COVID-19 Vaccine in Broward County, along with attachments from the JIC. Throughout all of the materials, there is no mention of accommodations for persons with disabilities or any outreach or method to request accommodations. This includes:

1. In home vaccination or transportation provided to vaccination points.
2. Expedited appointments without waiting in line.
3. Ensuring auxiliary services, such as sign language interpreters, for safety information
4. Having a phone number or other method in which to request a reasonable accommodation.

The failure to even consider the needs of persons with disabilities demonstrates that there is no intention to accommodate the needs of residents with disabilities. My additional concern is that there is no plan on accommodations for the next phase of vaccinations, which includes those who are under 65 and are vulnerable to contracting COVID-19.

If there is no intention from the County Commission or the JIC to include the needs of persons with disabilities we will file suit for injunctive or declaratory relief to force Broward County to do so on Monday 1/18.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Matthew W. Dietz, Esq.

Litigation Director
Disability Independence Group, Inc.
2990 Southwest 35th Avenue
Miami, FL 33133
Tel: (305) 669-2822
Fax: (305) 442-4181
TTY: (786) 621-5647
e-mail: mdietz@justDIGit.org
web: www.justDIGit.org



Expanding Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities