## Memorandum

To: Mayor and Members of Council, Mike Matthes, Tony St. Romaine, John Glascock, and Dale Lynn

From: Columbia Disabilities Commission

Subject: Transit Services for Official City Meetings

Date: January 24, 2013

On Wednesday, January 9, 2013 the Community Development Commission held a public hearing to gather input from citizens concerning its allocation of Community Development Block Grant and HOME funds for the upcoming funding cycle. Since some of these funds often assist persons with disabilities, members of the disabilities community wished to attend. This created a transportation problem. Our transit system, and thus our paratransit services, does not operate on Wednesday evenings. Gratefully, an exception was made and transportation was provided to at least one person who required accessible transportation. The Disabilities Commission appreciates the effort on the part of City staff to address this situation, but the larger problem still remains.

Many persons with disabilities wish to participate in the business of the City. However, often this business occurs on evenings, when there is no available accessible transportation. While we realize that the City has regulatory and financial constraints that limit its ability to deliver paratransit services, when it is not operating the fixed route service, we request that the City explore possible approaches to providing accessible transportation services to those wishing to participate in official City activities. Without such a policy Columbia citizens wishing to engage in the activities of the City are unable to attend the meetings of the City's boards and commissions. This situation runs against our City's commitment to be a fully accessible, inclusive community.