



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Salt Lake City Mayor Becker Recognizes Americans with Disabilities Act Anniversary**  
Advisory Council Works to Ensure Access

SALT LAKE CITY – In celebration of today’s anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Mayor Ralph Becker recognized the importance of the passage of the Act 20 years ago and noted Salt Lake City’s ongoing efforts to address mobility and accessibility needs in the capital city. The ADA provides comprehensive rights and protections to individuals with disabilities in the areas of employment, public accommodations, state and local government services, and telecommunications.

“Salt Lake City upholds the principles of the ADA, and is committed to create, promote, and maintain an accessible community,” said Mayor Becker. “Visitors, workers and residents in Salt Lake City should feel welcome in every way, which includes full and equal enjoyment of any place of public accommodation.”

The City’s Accessibility Services Advisory Council (ASAC), an advisory body under the direction of the Mayor, works to ensure people with disabilities have access to City programs, services, activities and facilities. As part of ASAC’s projects related to enforcing accessibility during construction, advising on accessible events, and eliminating sidewalk obstructions, Salt Lake City has installed approximately 12,000 ADA accessibility ramps, representing approximately 80 percent of the total citywide ramp construction need. The City’s concrete sidewalk horizontal saw cutting program mitigates approximately 10,000 tripping hazards each year by correcting sidewalk displacements that are less than one and one-half inches. Salt Lake City placed “Minimum Fine \$150” under on-street designated accessible parking signs. Extra signs were made available for purchase by private entities such as grocery stores to add to their accessible parking signs. In addition, ASAC works to provide free parking at city meters for those with a windshield placard or disability license plate.

ASAC’s current projects include an ordinance change regarding the City’s overall policy on taxi cabs, which could also increase the availability of accessible cabs in taxi fleets. The City is in the process of conducting a new overall ADA self-evaluation to identify opportunities for improvement in the accessibility of City facilities, services, programs, policies, and practices. In addition, ASAC is identifying ways to promote accessibility in new residential development that goes beyond the minimal requirements in the building code, such as encouraging people to include no-step entries, adequate

width doorways, and accessible bathrooms. These features will make single-family residential homes more “visitable” by family and friends who may have mobility disabilities.

### **About the Mayor’s Accessibility Services Advisory Council**

The Mayor’s Accessibility Services Advisory Council (ASAC) is an advisory body under the direction of the Mayor that provides Salt Lake City residents with an opportunity to participate in the formulation of significant decisions pertaining to accessibility services and issues affecting people with disabilities in various aspects of government and city life. ASAC meets monthly to evaluate Salt Lake City government, business/employment, housing/developments, transportation, and emergency preparedness. The public is encouraged to attend. For more information about the Accessibility Services Advisory Council, visit <http://www.slcgov.com/ADA/>, or contact Salt Lake City’s ADA Coordinator Michael Stott at [michael.stott@slcgov.com](mailto:michael.stott@slcgov.com) or 801-535-7976.