



Massachusetts Office on Disability

One Ashburton Place, Room 1305 Boston, MA 02108

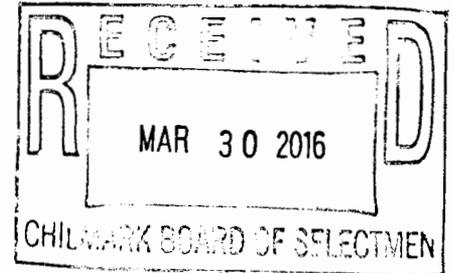
Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lt. Governor
David D'Arcangelo, Director

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March 25, 2016

Timothy R. Carroll
Executive Secretary
P.O. Box 119
401 Middle Road, Beetbung Corners
Chilmark, MA 02535

RE: Local Adoption of M.G.L Ch. 40 Sec. 8J & M.G.L Ch. 40 Sec. 22G
Establishing a Commission on Disability for Chilmark



Dear Executive Secretary Carroll:

Thank you for your service to Chilmark and for the constituents that you represent who are Persons with Disabilities. Our records indicate that Chilmark does not have a duly established Commission on Disability, COD, and we are contacting you with hopes of forming one.

As you may know, the Massachusetts Office on Disability, MOD, serves as the Coordinator for COD's. Municipal CODs are established by vote of the Legislative Body of each City or Town. The mission of a COD is to promote the inclusion and integration of persons with disabilities in the activities, services and employment opportunities or the community. CODs can also:

- o Advise and assist municipal officials in ensuring compliance with federal and state disability laws;
- o Attain the ability to allocate funds from Handicapped Parking fines for the benefit of persons with disabilities;
- o Provide research, information, advocacy and technical assistance to individuals, businesses and organizations in disability related matters; and
- o Coordinate the activities of other local groups organized to meet the needs of persons with disabilities.

COD's consist of no less than five and no more than nine members. The majority of the appointed members must be persons with disabilities and one may be a member of the immediate family of a person with a disability. Also, at least one member must be an elected or appointed municipal official.

Obviously, our office works with CODs from all around the state and we witness the great value that a well formed COD can bring to a community. Indeed, establishing a COD in your community can benefit all of our constituents and make Chilmark a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Please review the enclosed materials, which should help answer many common questions about forming your COD. MOD looks forward to working with you on local adoption and establishment of your COD. We stand ready and able to be a resource to you and your constituents.

Of course, if you have any questions or comments about this or any other issues please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 617 979-7317 or david.darcangelo@state.ma.us

Sincerely,

David D'Arcangelo, Director