



LAGUNA HONDA
HOSPITAL AND REHABILITATION CENTER
SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Disability Rights California Praises Community Integration
For Name Plaintiff in Class Action Lawsuit

San Francisco, CA, March 3, 2010 – Disability Rights California offered effusive praise this week for city efforts in the successful community placement of Mark Chambers, the name plaintiff in a 2006 federal class action lawsuit filed by the organization.

In a statement emailed to city health officials, Elissa Gershon, lead attorney in *Chambers* said,

I had the pleasure of taking Mark out for lunch last week and was incredibly impressed by his apartment, the location, Mark's ability to get around his new neighborhood, and his obvious happiness with his new life. We went to Cybelle's pizza, where they know him by name, and although we got caught in a huge downpour, it was really fun. Mark has an amazing team and, while I know he has expressed his appreciation to you all in many ways, I would like to do the same. It's one thing to create new opportunities for people, but what really makes the difference is the energy, creativity, and commitment of the people doing the day in and day out. Thanks to you all from Disability Rights California, on behalf of all the other people who will now be able to learn and benefit from Mark's leadership and your hard work!

The suit, which was settled by the city and DRC in 2008, alleged community integration efforts at Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center were out of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In conjunction with the settlement, the city established the Diversion and Community Integration Program (DCIP) to provide 500 units of accessible, subsidized housing over five years for people discharged from Laguna Honda or eligible for residence there but able to be cared for in other community settings. The program is a joint project of the Department of Public Health and the Department of Aging and Adult Services.

Laguna Honda Executive Administrator Mivic Hirose said, "Mark's success is a hallmark of the progress Laguna Honda has made to integrate seniors and adults with disabilities into the civic life of San Francisco. Our commitment is to continue to emphasize community integration and independent living in everything we do."

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