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THIELEN & THIELEN  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
2715 KAY STREET, SUITE 2  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95816  
TELEPHONE 444-5640  
AREA CODE 916

RAYMOND J. THIELEN

RAYMOND J. THIELEN, II

December 19, 1979

**FILED**

By the City Council  
Office of the City Clerk

*Referred to  
City Manager*

JAN 2 1980

Councilperson Lynn Robie  
Sacramento City Council  
1399 San Clemente Way  
Sacramento, CA 95831

Dear Lynn:

In January 1969, Betty Graham, a young lady who is sightless, appeared before the Fort Sutter Lions Club. She was asked by one of the members of our club if she was aware of any particular difficulty being experienced by the blind in our community. Her response was that the design of some of the crosswalks were such that a blind person walking with the aid of a cane could not determine that the sidewalk had ended and the intersection crosswalk had begun.

She went on to explain that at many intersections, the curbing had been removed or covered over so as to remove this architectural barrier to the handicapped in wheelchairs. In so doing however, the engineers also removed an obstacle which had served the sightless as a warning of a street crosswalk. At times, this has caused the unwary blind to enter into a crosswalk into the path of crossing vehicular traffic.

Kay K. Fukushima, at that time District Governor of District 4C5, Lions International was present at the meeting. In an informal discussion with him, I expressed the opinion to him that there must be some simple solution to this problem. The District Governor advised me that he would look into the matter on a district level.

Kay Fukushima then contacted the City of Sacramento Street Maintenance and Cleaning Divisions, apparently with a view to having some sort of warning materials installed by members of various Lions clubs. He received the enclosed letter (Exhibit I) in response to his telephonic inquiries, and appointed me a

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Councilperson Lynn Robie  
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committee of one to pursue the project and arrive at a solution. It was suggested to me that the Lions Past District Governor of the San Diego District may be of help since the City of San Diego had solved the problem.

After many telephone calls, I managed to establish personal contact with a traffic engineer of the Engineering and Development Department, City of San Diego. He took me on a tour of the city and pointed out several test intersections which were tested by blind persons, and then showed me warning strip patterns which were ultimately approved and installed throughout the city where needed. The strip pattern is for installation at sites where the blended curb already exists. I was furnished a copy of plans for that type installation. (Exhibit II)

I was also furnished plans for wheelchair ramps making use of "ripple" pattern as a warning to the visually handicapped. (Exhibits III & IV)

It is my firm belief that the City of Sacramento should adopt the plan for use at appropriate intersections.

I have prepared drafts of proposed amendments to California Codes concerned with physically handicapped persons. (Exhibit V)

My contact with the City of San Diego has stipulated that the furnishing of the enclosed plans is with my specific agreement that they will not be used in support of any state or federal legislation. I have agreed not to use them for such a purpose. To do so would result in a variety of codes and regulations modified by all reviewing parties so as not to be recognizable, and then made binding upon the cities and municipalities.

I would like the opportunity to appear before the Sacramento City Council with Betty Graham in order to display the need for this project, and present the project to the Council. I would appreciate it if you would get us on the agenda at the earliest possible date.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

  
RAY

RJT:kmr



# CITY OF SACRAMENTO

STREET MAINTENANCE  
AND CLEANING DIVISIONS  
5730 24TH ST. SACRAMENTO, CALIF. 95822  
BLDG. No. 9 TELEPHONE (916) 449-5234

KENT R. LINK  
STREET SUPERINTENDENT  
ROBERT G. LEIGH  
ASST. STREET SUPERINTENDENT

February 5, 1979

Kay Fukushima  
District Governor, Lions Club 435  
2025 L Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Sir:

In answer to our recent telephone conversation regarding the placing of materials at crosswalk areas to warn the visually handicapped, the following information is offered.

The City of Sacramento would have no objections to the placement of thin strips of material at pedestrian ramps to alert visually handicapped persons about to enter the street area. However, the City would reserve the right to approve the material and method proposed prior to placement. Keeping in mind that these areas are also used by persons in wheel chairs, care must be taken to keep from placing anything that might hinder these people when using ramps.

It is my understanding that the proposed project would be financed and the work done by the Lions Club. The City would only be involved in an advisory capacity.

If you have need for any additional information on this subject, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Sincerely yours,  
*Kent R. Link*  
KENT R. LINK  
Street Superintendent

KRL:lt

EXHIBIT I

- NOTES:
1. Apply epoxy adhesive approx. 1/8" thick on clean surface.
  2. Tamp gravel securely into epoxy cement.
  3. Gravel should not exceed 1/4" in size.  
Gravel should be clean and free of fines and excess rock dust.  
Gravel should have good wearing characteristics.
  4. Remove excess epoxy cement along edges. If possible, taper or feather the edges to minimize pedestrian conflicts.
  5. After gravel has bonded to the epoxy cement, sweep all excess and loose gravel off the warning strips.
  6. After sweeping, paint strips with yellow traffic paint.

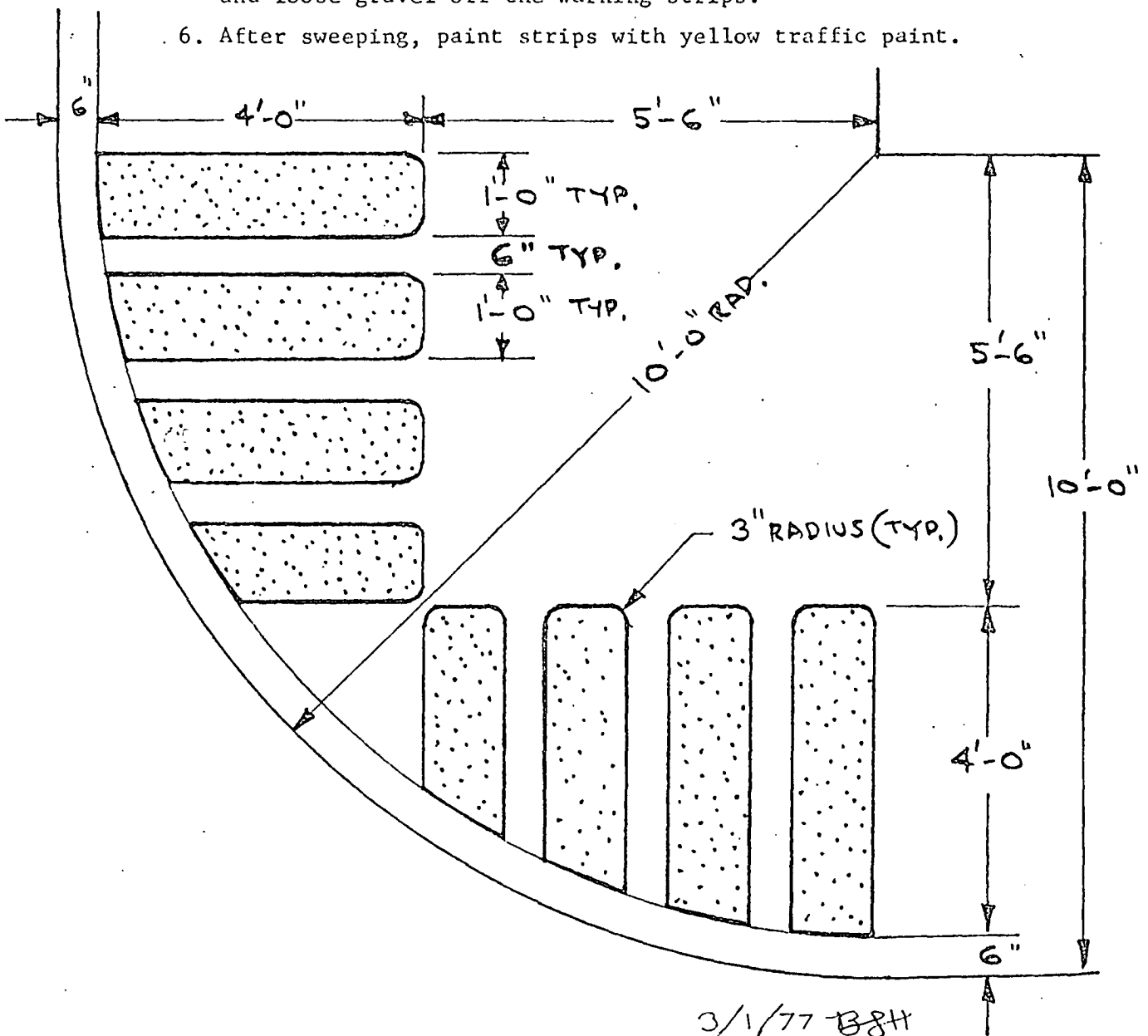


Fig. 4 - Recommended warning strip pattern for blind pedestrians at blended curb locations.

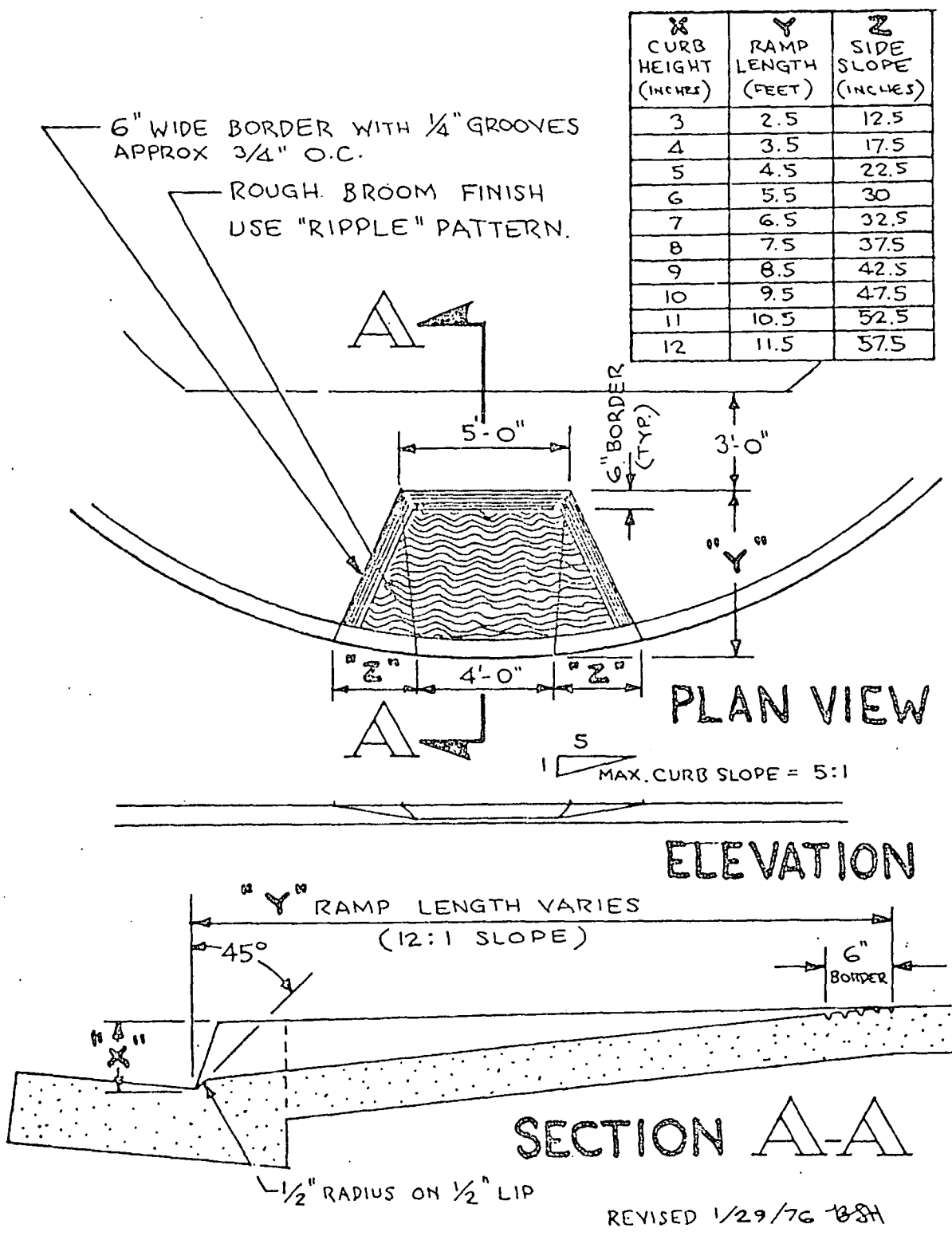
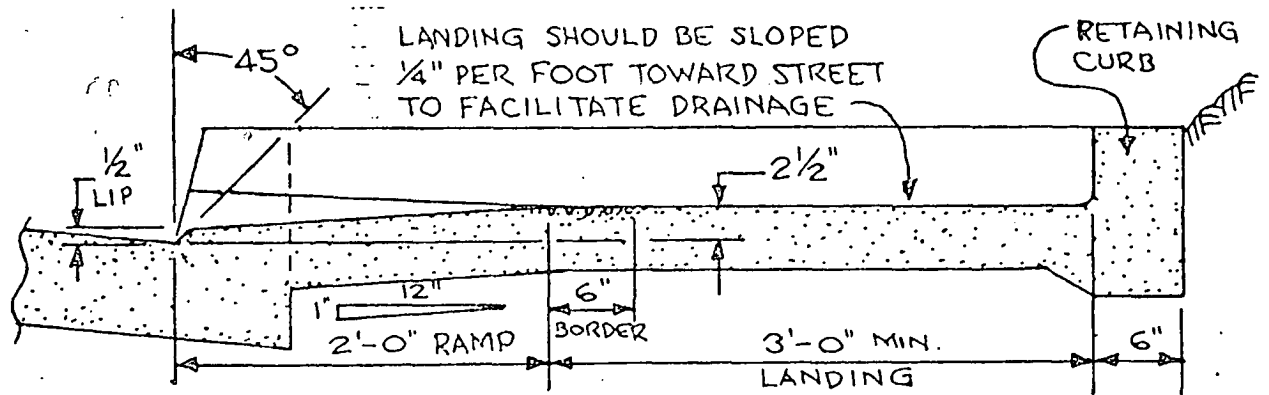
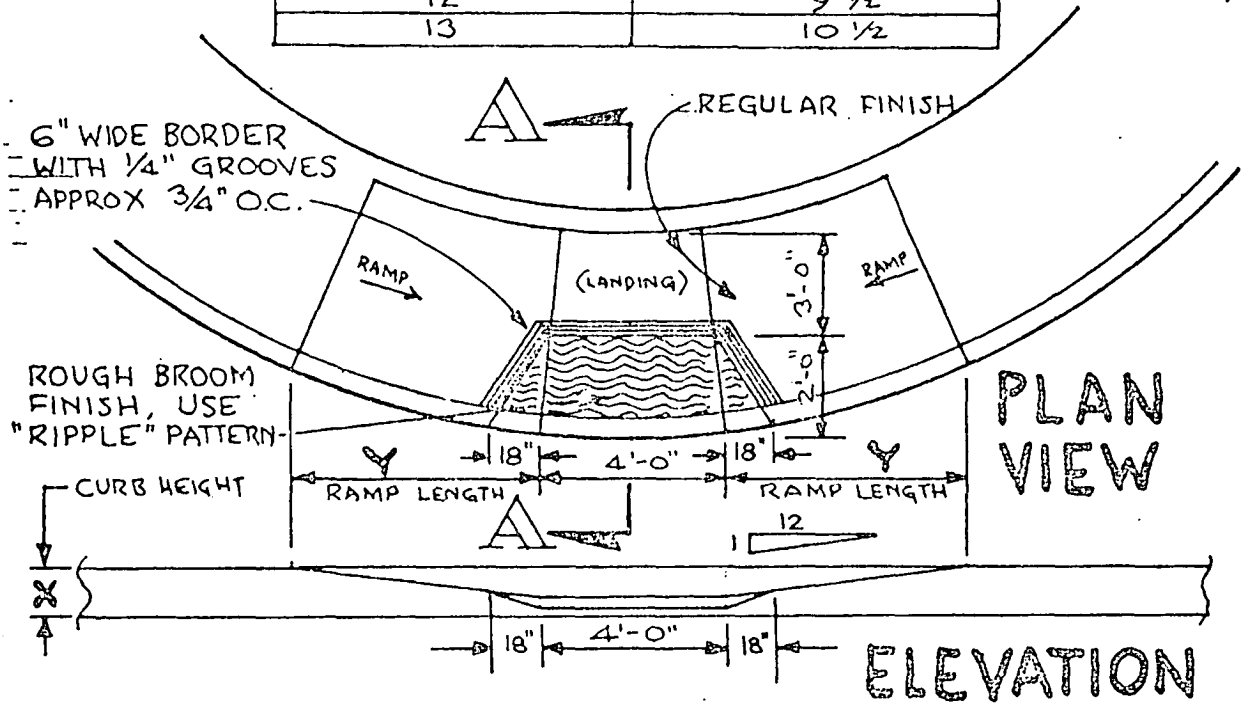


Fig. 1 - Revised "G-60-T" wheelchair ramp design.

CURB HEIGHT (INCHES)	RAMP LENGTH (FEET)
4	2
5	3
6	3 1/2
7	4 1/2
8	5 1/2
9	6 1/2
10	7 1/2
11	8 1/2
12	9 1/2
13	10 1/2



SECTION A-A 4/29/76 B8H

- NOTE: For use where there is:
1. limited right-of-way,
  2. narrow sidewalks,
  3. high curbs.

Fig. 3 - Special "G-60-T(a)" wheelchair ramp design.

PROPOSED CODE

HEALTH & SAFETY CODE

PART 5.5 ACCESS TO PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS  
BY PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS

PROPOSED: 1995. (Add)

As used in this section, "handicapped person" includes such persons whose eyesight is limited to the extent that they meet the criteria set forth in Section 19153 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

GOVERNMENT CODE

TITLE I, DIVISION 5, §4450 (Add)

As used in this section, "handicapped persons" includes such persons whose eyesight is limited to the extent that they meet the criteria set forth in Section 19153 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

§4455.6

Regulations adopted by the State Architect pursuant to §4450, buildings, structures, sidewalks, curbs and related facilities subject to the provisions of this chapter or Part 5.5 (commencing with Section 19955) of Division 13 of the Health and Safety Code shall require that any curb or sidewalk intended for public use will be constructed so as to be discernible by a person handicapped by sight limitation, so that he is made aware of impending street intersection or other hazard to which a curb or sidewalk would serve as a warning to a person of impaired sight proceeding with the aid of a cane.

§4455.7

Every city, county or city and county will take the

EXHIBIT V

steps necessary to comply with \$4455.6 as to sidewalks and curbs which have already been constructed or modified in compliance with this chapter.

## BACKGROUND

Blind persons who are required to use the traditional white cane with red tip have been experiencing increasingly frequent hazardous conditions in their travels around the communities of the state.

These hazardous conditions have been unwittingly created by state and local governmental efforts to remove physical barriers to the otherwise physically handicapped. In removing curbs at intersections, contractors or municipal employees have in many instances created an obstruction free access to an intersection crossing from a sidewalk. While this removes a serious obstacle to a handicapped person in a wheelchair, it also removes a warning of a hazardous condition to a sightless person.

Lions International is dedicated to service to the blind. Because of this, the situation complained of was brought to the attention of the District Governor, District 4-C-5 of Multiple District 4 of Lions International. His assistance was sought in correcting this situation, and he appointed a representative to seek and obtain a solution to the problem.

The proposed changes in the California Code are recommended as a solution. Representatives of District 4-C-5, along with interested sightless persons, will be available to testify in support of legislation necessary to promulgate such sections.



District 4-C-5 will furnish the State Architect reasonable and viable methods by which the requirements of the code section can be met.



**CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
INTER-OFFICE ROUTING**

To:

- Mayor / City Council Office
- City Manager
- Asst. City Manager
- Asst. City Manager,  
Community Development
- Asst. to City Manager
- Public Information
- City Clerk
- Finance Administration
- Revenues & Collections
- Purchasing
- Central Stores
- Accounting
- Utility Billing
- Data Processing
- City Treasurer
- City Attorney
- Planning Department
- Personnel Administration
- Employee Relations
- Employee Services
- Management Services
- Personnel Selections
- Training
- Police Department

To:

- Fire Department
- Fire Prevention
- Weed Abatement
- Emergency Planning
- City Engineer
- Asst. City Engr. Administration
- Animal Control
- Real Estate & Street Assessment
- Facility Maintenance
- Street Maintenance
- Traffic - Parking
- Water & Sewer
- Building Inspection
- Electrical Inspection
- Plumbing Inspection
- Community Improvement
- Waste Removal
- Equipment Maintenance

To:

- Museum & History Commission
- Recreation & Parks Administration
- Recreation
- Parks
- Golf
- Zoo
- Crocker Art Gallery
- Library Administration
- Housing and Redevelopment
- Community Center
- \_\_\_\_\_


Note:

- For Your Information
- Return with Recommendations
- Please Comment
- Prepare Draft and Return
- Prepare Letter
- Take Necessary Action
- Investigate and Report
- Per Your Request
- Reply, Send Copy To:
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

To: WALTER J. SLIPE, CITY MANAGER                      REFERRAL OF AGENDA ITEM, MEETING OF 1-2-80

Comments ITEM NO. 14: Communication, Raymond J. Thielen, I're: problems of  
visually handicapped persons.

cc: City Engineer  
Traffic Engineer

Signature  Title or Dept. CITY CLERK Date 1-3-80  
(1976)