

CITY OF TACOMA
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

To	Erling Mork City Manager	From	Dick Sonntag Councilman
Subject	Bicentennial Pavilion Stage	Date	September 13, 1976

At a public meeting of the Tacoma City Council in answer to a Councilmember's question, the Council was told that if we spent several thousand dollars to buy a portable stage for the Bicentennial Pavilion it would be accessible to the handicapped. This subject was thoroughly discussed.

At the recent Senior Citizens Appreciation Day ceremonies at the Bicentennial Pavilion the Senior Citizens who were in wheelchairs and had to be on the stage were lifted up to the stage in a very undignified manner by presumably muscular city employees. Somehow I was under the impression that the administration's response to an elected official's question at an open-public meeting meant something other than this as a way to facilitate the needs of a large number of Tacoma's citizens.

I strongly suspect that since the building was built with federal funds that we have to make it accessible for use by all Tacoma citizens, including the handicapped, which I suspect was the reason for the City Council's inquiry into the subject. Regardless of the reason for the inquiry, however, when the Administration answers a question and we are expected to accept that as fact it probably should happen in the way the elected officials were told it would happen.

I hope we are not returning to the past history of this City were the Administration regarded the part-time City Council as a Tuesday night nuisance and figured they could tell them anything and that the elected officials would not be around to find out they were getting a bunch of baloney.

I urge you to correct this situation immediately administratively or the only possible response the elected officials can make will be to pass some kind of ordinance requiring you to make that stage accessible to the handicapped. An ordinance, however we would wind up wording it, would hopefully get the job done because an ordinance has the force of law.

I assume you did not know that one of your employees decided not to do what your staff told the City Council would be done. However, you are now aware.

CC: G. Sullivan
M. Jackson
Jim Walton
R. Hamilton