

Daniel A. Micari, Commissioner, Chairperson
Barbara Bajurny, Commissioner
Gloria Ewings, Commissioner
Ruth Ann Graime, Commissioner, Secretary
Joseph Krolkowski, Commissioner
Deborah Reed, Commissioner
Diane Salmoiraghi, Commissioner
Susan Tyler, City Council Liaison



**Commission for Persons with Disabilities
Bristol, CT 06010**

**Meeting Agenda
April 8, 2026**

7:00 PM – City Hall, 3rd Floor Meeting Room 3-1 and Virtual Format

Our Mission

To promote inclusion and improve the quality of life for people in Bristol with a disability, by providing a network of partnerships with local resources that foster self-sufficiency, dignity, and respect.

Reasonable Accommodation Statement

The Bristol Commission for Persons with Disabilities is committed to equal access to, and participation in, all meetings and Commission-sponsored programs and events. Individuals who require an accommodation in order to fully participate, including physical access, communication assistance, or other special need, should contact Daniel A. Micari at damicari@yahoo.com, at least seven business days prior to the scheduled meeting, program, or event.

Present:

Absent:

Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: March 11, 2026

Presentation: Erin Spaulding, Director, Achilles International Connecticut

New/Current Business

*Commissioners Reed and Bajurny: Update on the upcoming Disability Awareness forum. Discussion on the determination to narrow the focus of the forum's agenda.

*Chairman Micari: Regarding after-hours patient transportation from Bristol Hospital.

*Announcement: Deaf Awareness Night, April 16, Yard Goats Stadium, 7:10 PM.

Old Business

*Smoke Detector installation progress report

Correspondence

***From Chairman Micari to Chad Williams:** On behalf of the Bristol Commission for Persons with Disabilities, I once again thank you for your presentation on American Sign Language in Bristol Public Schools, at our recent Commission meeting. The presentation, inclusive of your ASL Pilot Program Proposal, was educational and informative and represented both the scope and vision for ASL curricula in our local High Schools, underscored by your personal, academic and professional background, along with your strong connections with the deaf community.

The detailed outline that you presented, focusing on major proposal areas of Pilot Program Structure, Curriculum & Instruction, Benefits for Students and Long-Term Vision, provided Commissioners, guests and Mayor Zoppo-Sassu, a clear and focused rationale for instituting and adding ASL curricula in Bristol's modern world language curriculum. Finally, your stated goal, "to expand language opportunities while promoting communication, inclusion and cultural awareness," was well conveyed in the breadth and scope of your presentation, command of subject matter and your demonstrated passion for this initiative. In closing, I will continue to interact with the Mayor and appropriate Board of Education leadership and personnel, to further explore "next steps" in advancing this important curriculum conversation.

***Response from Chad Williams:** Thank you again for the opportunity to present at the Bristol Commission for Persons with Disabilities meeting yesterday. I truly appreciated the thoughtful discussion and the chance to share ideas regarding ASL education and accessibility within our community. I would also like to thank Mayor Zoppo-Sassu for taking the time to attend and participate in the discussion. It was encouraging to see such engagement around important topics affecting the disability community in Bristol. In addition to the conversation about ASL classes, I found the discussion regarding accessibility and public safety — including fire alarm accessibility and the registry for Deaf residents with police and fire departments — especially meaningful. Having lived in Bristol for the past 12 years, I was not previously aware of that registry, which highlights how valuable these conversations are for increasing awareness and improving communication with the Deaf community. I take this opportunity seriously and would be happy to continue supporting efforts that promote accessibility and awareness for Deaf and hard of hearing residents in Bristol, including providing additional information or presenting to the Board of Education or district leadership if that becomes helpful. Thank you again for your time and for the important work the commission does for our community.

***From Chairman Micari regarding smoke detector installation:** I am very pleased to report that the first Smoke/CO detector installation was accomplished this morning at Kimberly Walker's residence. Commissioner Barbara Bajurny, acting as interpreter and I, accompanied Alex North, Owner of North Electrical LLC. Mr. North assessed installation needs and requirements at Kimberly's residence, and replaced and installed four detectors in all necessary home locations. Thanks to Chief Hart, for your Grant acquisition of these life safety devices and City Councilor Sue Tyler, for identifying North Electrical as our installation vendor. Finally, I want to acknowledge and thank Alex North for his expertise and compassionate interaction with Kimberly, as he addressed and answered all of her concerns and questions. Mr. North also expressed his commitment to future detector installations in homes identified by the Commission. It is indeed gratifying to see the initiation of our Commission's longstanding life safety project.

Public Participation

Motion to adjourn:

Meeting adjourned:

Next meeting: May 13, 2025 at 7:00 PM
City Hall, 3rd Floor Meeting Room 3-1

Presentation: TBD

Submitted by
Ruth Ann Graime, Secretary

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://bristolct-gov.zoom.us/j/88512009314?pwd=cDdReHV2VWt3eVE2SnYySFhMeWtvdz09>

Passcode: 12345

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Present: Micari, Bajurny, Ewings, Graime, Krolikowski, Reed, Salmoiraghi, Tyler
Absent: None

Call to order: 7:00 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: February 11, 2025 (Krolikowski/Ewings, passed)

Presentation: Chad Williams, certified American Sign Language educator

Topic: Proposal to introduce ASL Curriculum within Bristol Public Schools

Mr. Williams noted that no formal ASL program exists in the local schools, although the demand increases in classrooms and in health settings. Adding ASL to the language options in the school curriculum is a way to connect with the Deaf community, to promote inclusion, and to lead to occupational opportunities. Mayor Zoppo-Sassu informed that the Board of Education curriculum subcommittee may be a next step. Emergency Management Director Harley Graime asked for Mr. Williams' assistance as an interpreter in City shelters. Mr. Williams expressed his interest in future involvement in the Commission.

New/Current Business

- *Chairman Micari announced that the Disability Awareness Forum will be held on Saturday October 17, 1:00-3:00 at the Bristol Public Library. Topics to be covered relate to the Deaf, Blind, and Neurodiverse populations. A discussion ensued on the narrow time frame in which to address the complex issues to be presented. Commissioners Reed and Bajurny, along with Gina Fusco, will meet for further planning, to be discussed at the April meeting.
- *Regarding Bristol's Special Needs Registries, Councilor Tyler confirmed that separate registries are maintained by both the Police and Fire Departments; the dispatchers have access to both listings. Individuals need to register separately for each, as merging of the lists is a level of technology not available at this time.

Old Business

- *Smoke Detector: The electrician is being contacted for installation arrangements.

Correspondence

None

Public Participation

Mr. Williams' presentation prompted the comment that police and fire officials should have training in American Sign Language.

Motion to adjourn: Ewings/Krolikowski, passed **Meeting adjourned:** 8:15 PM

Next meeting: April 8, 2026 at 7:00 PM

City Hall, 3rd Floor Meeting Room 3-1

Presentation: TBD

Submitted by,

Ruth Ann Graime, Secretary