

**ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REQUEST TO SPEAK FORM**

MEETING DATE: 8-26-22

GENERAL COMMENT

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: _____

OPPOSE

SUPPORT

NEUTRAL

YOUR FULL NAME: Nancy Caponi

YOUR ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Santa Barbara 93101

PHONE NUMBER: (____) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS nancyclare@earthknower.com

Organization represented (if applicable):

Written material also submitted: Yes No _____

FEEL FREE TO PROVIDE ATTACHMENTS

Please complete this form and return it to the Agenda Coordinator if you wish to speak on an item.

IN-PERSON PUBLIC COMMENT: Any person wishing to address the Access Advisory Committee should first complete and deliver a "Request to Speak" form prior to the time that public comment is taken by the Access Advisory Committee. These are provided in the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room on the day of the meeting. Each speaker will be given a total of five minutes to address the Committee. The Committee, upon majority vote, may decline to hear a speaker on the grounds that the subject matter is beyond their jurisdiction.

August 26, 2022

Dear Access Advisory Committee and City Staff,

Thank you for your continued good work on behalf of accessibility in Santa Barbara. The new blue accessible parking spots recently added to the cross streets along the State Street corridor are appreciated. We're able to participate in the First Thursday art gallery openings and other downtown events more easily, and it feels more welcoming.

Today I would like to report an accessibility problem at the historic Santa Barbara County Courthouse. I recently received a summons for Jury Service. On Monday, I reported to the first location for prospective jurors, and was able to secure a blue parking spot in front of the Jury Assembly building on Santa Barbara St. After the check-in process, I traveled in my manual wheelchair with the group's help, across Santa Barbara St, up the sidewalk to the ramp leading into the historic County Courthouse, and down the hallway to the Court room.

After an introduction to the case, the Judge instructed all of us to return at 2:00 pm. Circling the block where the Courthouse is located, I found several blue parking spaces in the mid-block of East Figueroa Street. However, to my dismay, there was no accessible entrance at all on that side of the building. The entrance nearest the blue spaces has many steps up, and is now permanently locked.

I drove around the block twice, and observed that there are no accessible parking spaces near either of the two open entrances to the building. When I called Jury Services, a staff member explained that with heightened security concerns, the County Courthouse now provides access through two main entrances only. Security screening procedures are in place.

There is ramp access to the entrance mid-block on Santa Barbara Street, and also at the entrance on Anacapa Street near the big Courthouse archway. Perhaps between the designated Library Book drop area and the 75 minute zone on Anacapa Street, some blue and/or green (15 minute) parking could be added? Blue and/or green parking is also needed on Santa Barbara Street, near the ramp leading to the Courthouse entrance.

Thank you.

Nancy Caponi
Resident, City of Santa Barbara