

Digitized

MEMORANDUM TO SENATOR DOLE

Da: February 24, 1995
Fr: Alec Vachon *AV*
RE: GOOD NEWS ON ADA--KC-AREA COMMUNITIES MAKING GOOD PROGRESS

- * Attached is a KC Star article (1/25/95), pulled off NEXIS, on how well KC-area communities are doing in meeting ADA requirements--Overland Park, Prairie Village, Fairway, Westwood, Roeland Park, Mission Hills, and Mission. As you know, January 26th was a big milestone--state and local governments were supposed to have completed all architectural and structural changes to make their programs accessible.
- * Some highlights:
 - All communities believe they are generally in compliance.
 - To help meet requirements of the law, Prairie Village formed an "ADA Advisory Committee"--composed of department managers, the city attorney, the city administrator, and residents who are disabled or have disabled children. This is the smartest way to proceed--puts decisionmakers with disabled persons--sharply reducing the likelihood of complaints and promoting constructive action.
 - In Fairway, the City Council meeting room (located in the basement of City Hall) is not accessible. Instead of moving the meeting place or installing an elevator, the City opted to install a video system in the Council Chamber--disabled persons can watch (and participate) from an accessible room on the first floor of City Hall.
 - Roeland Park has been installing ramps in all new curbs over the past 10 years--at this point only about 20-25 blocks lack ramps. The new City Hall was built to be fully accessible. The Community Center is also accessible--but the City plans to add 2 more accessible entrances if the City's CDBG application is approved.
 - Mission Hills had little to do because the city has been working on accessibility for years.
 - Mission expects finish all curb ramps this year.