

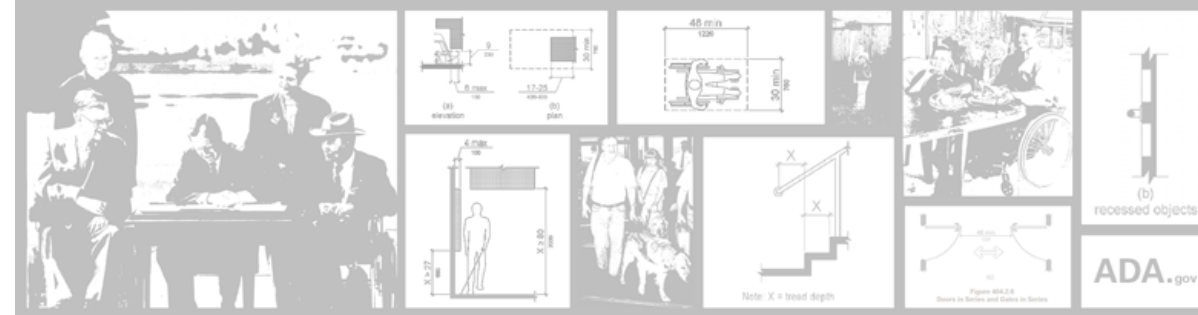


# The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in Framingham

*February 23, 2021*

*Mayor Yvonne M. Spicer*

# The ADA and Civil Rights



- Modeled after the **Civil Rights Act of 1964**
  - 1988: Fair Housing Act amended, giving people with disabilities housing discrimination protection and this expanded the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- **The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504):** “the first federal civil rights protection for people with disabilities that they can not be excluded from the participation, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance”
- **ADA** signed into law on July 26, 1990
  - ADA is civil rights legislation: Outlaws discrimination “on the basis of disability in employment, state and local government, public accommodations, commercial facilities, transportation, and telecommunications”

**Joyce Ardell Jackson**

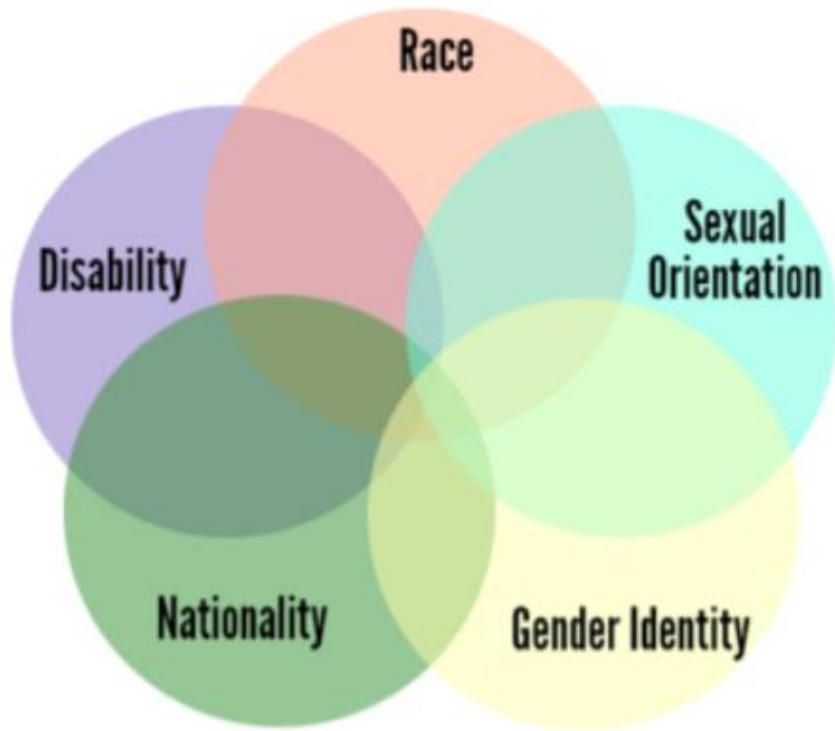
Jackson was a Disability Rights activist who played a key role in the 504 sit-in and advocated for the passage of the ADA in D.C.

Jackson served on the national board of the ACCD for multiple terms and did extensive work as a disability consultant.



#BLACKHISTORYMONTH @\_SHETHEPEOPLE

# Intersectionality



=“the complex, cumulative way in which the effects of multiple forms of discrimination (such as racism, sexism, and classism) combine, overlap, or intersect especially in the experiences of marginalized individuals or groups”

# Facilities ADA Projects



- Around 2010, the Town conducted a self assessment of facility compliance issues to be addressed. They pulled out all of the safety related items to focus on making improvements
- The Town borrowed \$228,000 to address ADA compliance. Most of the challenges were in the schools and so the vast majority of the borrowing was used to address the school challenges.
- Town safety-related ADA issues were relatively minor so the Town used maintenance funds to replace handles, bathroom fixtures, doors, etc.
- Other significant ADA improvement projects include:
  - Loring Arena renovation
  - Bowditch Field renovation
  - Village Hall



# Public Works ADA Projects

- In 2016, Town Sidewalk Accessibility Study was performed showing what appears to be a significant number of ramps (curb cuts) in need of improvement.
- The report categorized all ramps that were in "poor condition", and "non-compliant" no matter their condition.
- In 2016, there were 952 ramps that fell into the rating of poor or non-compliant. Since that time, through our capital projects, we have installed 490 ADA compliant ramps and over 35 miles of compliant sidewalks.

**Public Works ADA Improvements 2019-2020**

| <u>Street Name</u>    | <u>Limits</u>  | <u>Description</u>   | <u>Notes</u> |
|-----------------------|--|--|--------------|
| Evergreen Street      | Lincoln Street to Learned Street                                 | This whole area included 1,840 LF Sidewalks, 5 crosswalks, 11 curb cuts including ADA Compliance | 2 New RRFBs  |
| Learned Street        | Evergreen to Thurber Street                                      |  |              |
| Myrtle Street         | Lincoln Street to Learned Street                                 |  |              |
| Thurber Street        | Union Ave to Learned   |  |              |
| Grove Street          | Vernon Street to rear of Danforth Building including Parking Lot | 560 LF Sidewalks including ADA Compliance  |              |
| Essex Street          | at Elder Street  | New crosswalk* with ADA Curb Cut   |              |
| State Street          | at McCarthy Center   | New Crosswalk Table and Sidewalk   |              |
| Concord Street        | Cherry Street to School Street                                   | 2,791 LF Sidewalks including ADA Compliance  | 1 New RRFB   |
| Union Ave             |  | 232 LF Sidewalks including ADA Compliance  |              |
| Marble Street         | Waverly Street to Blandin Ave                                    | 1,006 LF Sidewalks including ADA Compliance  |              |
| Salem End Road Bridge |  | 184 LF Sidewalks including ADA Compliance  |              |
| Beacon Street         | Intersection with Summer Street                                  | 3 New crosswalks with ADA Curb Cuts  | 2 New RRFBs  |
| Essex Street          |  | 50 LF Sidewalks including ADA Compliance   |              |
| Bethany Road          | Intersection with Winthrop Street                                | New Crosswalk with ADA Curb Cut  |              |
| Winthrop Street       | Intersection with Bethany Road                                   | New Crosswalk with ADA Curb Cut  |              |
| Elm Street            | Vicinity of Cameron School                                       | New ADA Curb Cuts on Existing Crosswalk  |              |
| Grant Street          | Howard Street to Arthur Street                                   | 4,500 LF Sidewalks including 23 ADA Compliant Crosswalks   |              |
| Waverly Street        | Between Bridges Street and Bethany Road                          | 50 LF Sidewalks and 1 New Crosswalk with ADA Curb Cuts   |              |

*Projects over the past 2 years, including what was completed in this last construction season*

# ADA Compliance & Capital Improvements

- Two facets of ADA compliance: Facilities and infrastructure
- We need more investment in capital improvements
- The lack of funds allocated by City Council for capital improvements, with a few exceptions; however ongoing ADA progress is impeded
- ADA compliance for City Hall would have been achievable with purchase of the Perini building, which with minor improvements would have been compliant

# ADA Complaints

- Main categories:
  - City
  - Schools
  - Businesses
- Using BlueDAG cloud-based software application to manage ADA compliance issues and complaints, enables ADA Inspectional Officer to log information on these issues
  - As data is populated into the database, it builds the City's ADA transition plan and associated work orders