

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

1244 SPEER BLVD, SUITE 310 DENVER, CO 80204-3582 REGION VIII ARIZONA COLORADO NEW MEXICO UTAH WYOMING

March 13, 2018

Dr. Morgan Phillips, President Pima Community College – West Campus 2202 W. Anklam Rd. Tucson, Arizona 85709

By email only to College Counsel: acallison@dmyl.com

Re: <u>Pima Community College</u> Case Number: 08-18-2045

Dear President Phillips:

This letter advises you of the resolution of the above referenced complaint filed with our office alleging that the Pima Community College (College) discriminates on the basis of disability. Specifically, the complaint alleged the College, at its West campus, discriminates because the College does not provide a sufficient number of accessible spaces campus-wide, and that the accessible spaces that do exist are not properly dispersed and are not located on accessible routes to entrances at buildings B, L, K, CFA, and FSS.

We began investigating the complaint pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 104, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in programs and activities that receive Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and its implementing regulation at 28 C.F.R. Part 35, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities. As a recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Department and a public entity, the College is subject to these laws and regulations.

On January 10, 2018, prior to submitting a comprehensive data response and an OCR site visit, the College contacted OCR and indicated that it had already begun evaluating the accessibility of parking and routes subsequent to being notified of the complaint. The College indicated its desire to voluntarily enter into an agreement to resolve the allegations pursuant to Section 302 of the *Case Processing Manual*. We reviewed this request and determined that it justified entering into an agreement without completing a full investigation of the complaint.

On March 8, 2018, we received the signed Resolution Agreement, which is enclosed. When the Agreement is fully implemented, the allegations will be resolved consistent with the requirements of Section 504, Title II, and their implementing regulations. OCR will monitor implementation of the Agreement through periodic reports demonstrating the terms of the Agreement have been fulfilled. We will provide written notice of any deficiencies regarding the implementation of the terms of the Agreement and will promptly require actions to address such deficiencies. If the College fails to implement the Agreement, we will take appropriate action, as described in the Agreement.

We thank the College for voluntarily entering into an Agreement to resolve the accessibility concerns. OCR is closing the investigative phase of this case effective the date of this letter. The case is now in the Page 2 of 2

monitoring phase. The monitoring phase of this case will be completed when OCR determines that the College has fulfilled all of the terms of the Agreement. When the monitoring phase of this case is complete, OCR will close Case Number 08-18-2065 and will send a letter to the College stating that this case is closed.

This letter sets forth OCR's determination in an individual OCR cases. This letter is not a formal statement of OCR policy and should not be relied upon, cited, or construed as such. OCR's formal policy statements are approved by a duly authorized OCR official and made available to the public.

OCR routinely advises recipients of Federal funds that Federal regulations prohibit intimidation, harassment, or retaliation against those filing complaints with OCR and those participating in a complaint investigation. Complainants and participants who feel that such actions have occurred may file a separate complaint with OCR.

Please also note that complainants may have the right to file a private suit in Federal court whether or not OCR finds a violation.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release this document and related correspondence and records upon request. In the event that OCR receives such a request, we will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personally identifiable information, which, if released, could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mr. XXXX, Equal Opportunity Specialist and primary contact for this case, at XXXX or by email at XXXX@ed.gov, or me at XXXX.

Sincerely,

/**S**/

Thomas M. Rock Supervising General Attorney

Enclosure – Resolution Agreement