

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM**Sunshine Act Meeting**

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

TIME AND DATE: Approximately 10:45 a.m., Thursday, December 21, 2000, following a recess at the conclusion of the open meeting.

PLACE: Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building, 20th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20551.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Personnel actions (appointments, promotions, assignments, reassignments, and salary actions) involving individual Federal Reserve System employees.

2. Any matters carried forward from a previously announced meeting.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Lynn S. Fox, Assistant to the Board; 202-452-3204.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: You may call 202-452-3206 beginning at approximately 5 p.m. two business days before the meeting for a recorded announcement of bank and bank holding company applications scheduled for the meeting; or you may contact the Board's Web site at <http://www.federalreserve.gov> for an electronic announcement that not only lists applications, but also indicates procedural and other information about the meeting.

Dated: December 14, 2000.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 00-32369 Filed 12-15-00; 11:14 am]

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FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM**Sunshine Act Meeting**

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

FEDERAL REGISTER CITATION OF PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENT: 65 FR 77880, December 13, 2000.

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED TIME AND DATE OF THE MEETING: 12 noon, Monday, December 18, 2000.

CHANGES IN THE MEETING:

One of the items announced for inclusion at this meeting was consideration of any agenda items carried forward from a previous meeting; the following such closed item(s) was added: Future capital

framework. (This item was originally announced for a closed meeting on November 20, 2000.)

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Lynn S. Fox, Assistant to the Board; 202-452-3204.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: You may call 202-452-3206 for a recorded announcement of this meeting; or you may contact the Board's Web site at <http://www.federalreserve.gov> for an electronic announcement. (The Web site also includes procedural and other information about the open meeting.)

Dated: December 15, 2000.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 00-32431 Filed 12-15-00; 3:29 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**Office for Civil Rights; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Notice of Exercise of Authority Under 45 CFR 84.52(d)(2) Regarding Recipients With Fewer Than Fifteen Employees**

AGENCY: Office for Civil Rights, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of exercise of authority under 45 CFR 84.52(d)(2) regarding recipients with fewer than fifteen employees pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 45 CFR 84.52(d)(2), the Director of the Office for Civil Rights may require recipients with fewer than 15 employees to provide auxiliary aids where the provision of such aids would not significantly impair the ability of the recipient to provide its benefits or services. The United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is announcing that it is exercising its authority under 45 CFR 84.52(d)(2) of the regulation implementing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794(a), to require recipients with fewer than fifteen employees to provide appropriate auxiliary aids to persons with impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills, where necessary to afford such persons an equal opportunity to benefit from their services. This is not a new requirement; Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) already requires public accommodations of all sizes to provide auxiliary aids and services to persons with disabilities where necessary to ensure effective communication and Title II of the ADA extends the same requirement to state and local government entities. The vast

majority of entities that receive federal financial assistance from HHS thus are already required to provide auxiliary aids and services to persons with disabilities where necessary to ensure effective communication.

DATES: This guidance is effective immediately.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sheila Foran or Ronald Copeland at the Office for Civil Rights, Room 506F, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20201, telephone 202-619-0403; TDD 1-800-537-7697. Arrangements to receive the notice in an alternative format may be made by contacting the named individuals.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this notice is to inform recipients of federal financial assistance from HHS that the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) will require recipients with fewer than 15 employees to provide auxiliary aids where the provision of aids would not significantly impair the ability of the recipient to provide its benefits or services, and will investigate complaints against health and social services providers with fewer than 15 employees for failure to provide auxiliary aids to individuals with disabilities under Section 504. Determinations of whether the provision of an auxiliary aid or service would impose an undue burden on a small provider will be made on a case-by-case basis. The fact that the provision of any particular auxiliary aid would result in an undue burden does not relieve the provider from the duty to furnish an alternative auxiliary aid, if available, that would not result in such a burden.

OCR has concluded that, in the interest of uniformity and consistent administration of law, Section 504's auxiliary aids requirement should be applied to covered entities with fewer than 15 employees, as is the case under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Title III of the ADA specifies that no individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations of any place of public accommodation. 42 U.S.C. 12182. The term "public accommodation" includes professional offices of health care providers, hospitals, pharmacies, and other service establishments. Under Title III of the ADA, privately operated public accommodations are obligated to provide appropriate auxiliary aids and services, regardless of their size, where necessary to ensure effective communication with individuals with