Outdated Signs to Be Replaced

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Logan City is replacing outdated ‘handicapped’ parking signs with a more current version to indicated accessible parking, thanks to the efforts of Eduardo Ortiz, a senior researcher at the CPD’s Early Intervention Research Institute. Ortiz is also a member of the Logan Parks & Recreation board, and first noticed the signs at City Hall.

“I’ve been working here (at the CPD) for a long time,” Ortiz said. “We become aware of important topics in the field of disability, so when you see City Hall using words that are outdated, you pay some attention.

“I thought, ‘here would be a great opportunity to make some meaningful change, to share with the community at large that the word handicapped is outdated,’” he said.

But it goes beyond the physical change, Ortiz said. It is also an opportunity to expand and update the conversation about disability and accessibility.

“The language we use is critical,” he said. “It’s important. It impacts our identities.”

In public places like City Hall, it also impacts the community, from young children to senior citizens.

“This is an evolving process,” he said. “Efforts get multiplied and create positive impacts in our society.”

Ortiz said after he saw the sign at City Hall, he started paying more attention to details. He encouraged others to pay attention as well, and to speak up.

“It’s an opportunity to expand our eyes and senses and interactions and share what’s happening in our field,” he said.