
Economy & Efficiency Commission Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 1999
ROOM 830, KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION

Editorial Note: Agenda sections may be taken out of order at the discretion of the chair. Any reordering of sections is reflected in the presentation of these minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER OF THE COMMISSION MEETING

With the presence of a quorum of commissioners Chairman Abel called the Commission meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER'S ABSENCES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

David A. Abel
Richard D. Barger
Ben Breslauer
Gunther Buerk
David W. Farrar
Jonathan Fuhrman
Michael Jimenez
Chun Lee
Carol Ojeda-Kimbrough
Roman Padilla
William J. Petak
Robert Philiposian
Marc A. Seidner
H. Randall Stoke
Julia E. Sylva

COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

Hope J. Boonsaft
John Crowley
Tony Lucente
Tony Tortorice

COMMISSIONERS NOT REQUESTING AN EXCUSE

Fred Balderrama
Chris Hammond

QUALITY AND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION LIAISON

Jaclyn Tilley Hill

It was Moved, Seconded and Adopted: The Commission members noted above be excused.

III. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Chairman Abel and Commissioner Stoke each offered a correction to their comments on page two of the April 8, 1999 minutes. After the corrections were noted, the approval was then Moved, Seconded and Adopted: **The minutes of the April 8, 1999 Commission meeting be approved.**

IV. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Staniforth introduced Ms. Jeanne Kennedy. Ms. Kennedy is the current Grand Jury Chairperson and will be replacing Vice-Chairman Breslauer in September of 1999.

V. OLD BUSINESS

7. Grand Jury Implementation

Vice Chairman Breslauer informed the Commission (EEC) of the 1995-96 Grand Jury jail staffing recommendation that 100 Deputy Sheriffs be replaced by Custody Assistants at Men's Central Jail. Men's Central represents about 25 percent of the total jail staffing. Morale issues and cost savings were among the primary considerations for that recommendation. It was anticipated that replacing 100 Deputy Sheriffs would result in a savings of \$3.7 million per year. In the 1996-97 period, there were 343 Custody Assistants. In the 1998-99 period there were 774 Custody Assistants. The bottom line is that there is an increase in the number of these Custody Assistants, as well as cost savings, but the increase is occurring slower than was recommended by the Grand Jury.

After the May 20, 1999 Grand Jury Implementation Task Force (GJITF) meeting with Commander Skaggs, the GJITF drafted a letter to the Commander requesting a clarification of the plans to increase Custody Assistants with a timetable and cost savings.

Chairman Abel asked if the Grand Jury follows up on its recommendations. *Vice-Chairman Breslauer* responded that, by law, the Grand Jury is not able to follow up on its recommendations. In this instance, the Sheriff's Department did concur with the Grand Jury's first recommendation (the increase at Men's Central Jail of 100 Custody Assistants), although it has yet to be fully implemented. He stated that the GJITF procedure has been ad hoc - Commissioner Philibosian had suggested that Commander Skaggs, who is head of the Custody Division of the Sheriff's Department, be invited to the May 20th meeting. *Commissioner Hill* explained that in preparation for the May 20th meeting, the GJITF members were sent documents with information covering the time periods of 1996-97 and 1997-98. Now that Sheriff Lee Baca is running the operation, the GJITF is, in effect, asking permission to talk to the new regime and explore the most recent developments within the department. What the GJITF would like to do is review the recently acquired Grand Jury information and objectively define what best serves the interests of the County.

Commissioner Padilla stated his opinion that the culture of the Sheriff's Department makes it difficult to be influenced by recommendations for change in terms of training periods. *Vice-Chairman Breslauer* agreed that such a culture does exist, but the feeling of the Grand Jury was that 6 years of Deputy Sheriff training within the jails is too long. *Commissioner Philibosian* added that, in his many years of experience working within the jail system that this training is not just a right of passage, but an essential and beneficial part of Deputy Sheriff training. He did feel though that 6 years is too long. *Commissioner Hill* stated that bringing in non-sworn individuals into such positions has been a major issue discussed by the Grand Jury. *Vice-Chairman Breslauer* assured Commissioner Philibosian that the topic had been discussed and factored into the overall picture of Grand Jury implementation

Commissioner Farrar added that his view of the process is that the EEC's role is to aid in implementation of recommendations. *Ms. Kennedy*, the current Grand Jury Chair visiting the Commission, explained that following up on previous Grand Jury recommendations has been difficult and that EEC assistance could be useful.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Clarification of the status of the Grand Jury Recommendation Task Force

At this point, in reference to previous reference of the current Task Force as a Committee, *Mr. Staniforth* explained the difference between a "task force" and a "committee," -- a committee has a continuing responsibility, whereas a task force is "ad hoc" and operates as determined necessary by the Commission. Additionally, a "task force" cannot take any action, it can only bring a report to the Commission, which is responsible for any action. Since the function of the group to investigate the implementation of the Grand Jury recommendations is more appropriately aligned with that of a task force it should not be officially referred to as a committee.

Commissioner Farrar moved the following:

That the EEC body responsible for Grand Jury Implementation shall be referred to as a "task force" and not a "committee."

The motion was seconded and adopted unanimously

VI. PRESENTATION (a)

[Supervisor Don Knabe, Chair, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.](#)

[Topic: A Vision for the County](#)

Supervisor Knabe made comments to the Commission concerning the scope and direction of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors they pertain to the needs and direction of Los Angeles County government.

PRESENTATION (b)

[Dr. Donald W. Ingwerson, Superintendent, Los Angeles County Office of Education](#)

[Topic: Status of County Schools](#)

Dr. Ingwerson made comments to the Commission concerning the scope and direction of the California Contract Cities Association as it pertains to the needs and direction of Los Angeles County government.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion from the floor, *Chairman Abel* adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted.



Bruce J. Staniforth
Executive Director

[Go to June, 1999 Agenda](#)

[Return to July, 1999 Agenda](#)



Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 163, 500 West Temple St.,
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone (213) 974-1491 FAX (213) 620-1437 [EMail eecomm@co.la.ca.us](mailto:EMail_eecomm@co.la.ca.us)
WEB eec.co.la.ca.us