

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES 2019

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First District Appointees

PAUL J. PHILIPS, Chairperson

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Second District Appointees

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Third District Appointees

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VACANT

Fourth District Appointees

BARRY WAITE

VACANT

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Mayor, City of Los Angeles Appointees

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CA Contract Cities Association Appointee

JORGE MORALES

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JULES S. BAGNERIS, III, PH.D.,

MISSION STATEMENT

To identify and recommend cost-effective and efficient alternatives for the delivery of multi-jurisdictional services within the County of Los Angeles.

VISION

A value driven culture, characterized by extraordinary employee commitment to enrich lives through effective and caring service, and empower people through knowledge and information.

VALUES

- Integrity: We do the right thing: being honest, transparent, and accountable.
- Inclusivity: We embrace the need for multiple perspectives where individual and community differences are seen as strengths.
- Compassion: We treat those we serve, and each other, the way we want to be treated.
- Customer Orientation: We place our highest priority on meeting the needs of our customers.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Commission on Local Governmental Services (Commission) seeks to find means to improve services, eliminate redundancies among public service providers, and identify areas where economies of scale can be achieved while providing better responsiveness to citizen needs. The Commission advises government leaders in the County of Los Angeles on ways to provide better, more responsible and cost-effective delivery of services. In addition, the Commission reports and monitors on the implementation of its recommendations.

Historical Background

The Board of Supervisors formed the Commission in 1977 to identify and recommend cost-effective and efficient ideas for the delivery of multi-jurisdictional services within the County. On the first Tuesday of each month the Commission holds its meeting at 9:30 a.m. in Room 374-A, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration for presentations and discussions of various issues that may affect the County.

FOCUS

Autonomous Vehicles & Micro-Mobility

Marcel Porras, Chief Sustainability Officer, Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) reported to the Commission that LADOT continues to evaluate and implement policies for various transportation technologies, including autonomous vehicles (AV) and micro-mobility (dock less bikes and scooters). These efforts are in coordination with State of California representatives, California Department of Motor Vehicles and the California Public Utilities Commission. Mr. Porras added that the City of Los Angeles and LADOT are taking steps in preparation for the emergence of the advancements in AV technology and that Los Angeles has applied for a federal grant to test AV technology on bus systems within Los Angeles. The Commission discussed the impact that legislative roles of City, State and Federal guidelines will continue to have on Autonomous Vehicles. LADOT agreed to provide the Commission with ongoing updates and lessons learned regarding regulations, guidelines and education as related to the ongoing development of Autonomous Vehicles.

LADOT also presented an overview of the Mobility Data Specification (MDS) which LADOT has established as part of the permitting process for micro-mobility operators in the city. MDS provides a common data standard for cities and providers to know where dock less equipment operates, whether dock less equipment is left in the appropriate places in the public-right-of-way, and other related aspects to their operations. MDS is currently in use by dozens of cities across the U.S. In response to questions regarding the ability of other cities within the County to learn and adapt LADOT's efforts, LADOT offered to consult with other cities within Los Angeles County on how MDS is implemented and other required policy considerations for regulating micro-mobility providers.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION / LONG-TERM GOAL: Cities and unincorporated Los Angeles County is encouraged to consult with LADOT on their regulatory approaches for transportation technologies, including for planning for autonomous vehicles, permitting requirements for micro-mobility operators, and use of data-enabled regulatory mechanisms such as the Mobility Data Specification.

The Commission will review at LADOT data to understand the best fit for applying best practices into individual cities or areas.

Initiatives for Non-Profit Organizations

On February 5, 2019, Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA) provided an overview the obstacles non-profit organizations encounter through the course of providing services to the constituents within the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. HOLA is a large non-profit organization and employer located within close walking distance of the Westlake / MacArthur Park Metro rail station.

HOLA expressed concern that as a non-profit employer, it does not have the same effective buying power as for-profit employers which can receive a tax deduction for purchasing transit passes for employees. The bulk transit pass program does not provide consideration to non-profit organizations at a lower rate or separate tier from for-profit organizations. HOLA wants to expand its purchasing power to provide more/expanded transit benefits to employees to provide them alternatives to driving and leverage its proximity to a major Metro rail station.

In order to address this concern, the Commission invited Devon Deming, LA METRO Director, METRO Commute Services Communications who provided a presentation on discount opportunities through LA Metro.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION / LONG-TERM GOAL: It is recommended that LA METRO evaluate and implement modifications to the bulk transit pass purchasing program for employers to ensure that non-profit organizations have the same effective buying power as for-profit organizations.

The initial discussion with LA Metro sparked the need for further research of service delivery for non-profits.

Homeless Initiative

Since 2018, the Commission worked diligently to address homelessness. During the Board of Supervisors meeting on September 4, 2018, Chairperson Paul Philips and Commissioner Darrell George addressed the Board in support of Measure “H” and the implementation of the local cities’ proposed plans to address homelessness in Los Angeles County.

Phil Ansell, CEO Homeless Initiative Director spoke before the Commission on funding allocation from Measure “H” and spoke on what new projects under Measure “H” can be available in addition to what is already being implemented to fight homelessness.

The Commission sought additional input from United Way on November 12, 2019 regarding supportive housing, services and collaborations to address homelessness within Los Angeles County and discussed how the Commission and agencies such as United Way can work together to implement Homeless Initiative programs using Measure “H” funds.

Some of the ideas presented pilot programs meant to unlock public resources by using more flexible private funds. United Way showed the Commission that by utilizing a coordinated entry system, a homeless individual can connect with needed resources more directly, now organized through the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LASHA). As a result, there has been a significant rise in the permanent placement of housing; bringing together the City and County’s resources for homelessness.

In studying this topic, the Commission noted that cities within Los Angeles County, which are also working to accommodate the impacts from the homeless crisis, are receiving a relatively small portion of the available funding through Measure H. While the funding program does have a grant program available to cities, some cities have noted that the administrative burdens have created substantial delays in being able to apply for and accept this funding to be put to work as soon as possible.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION / LONG-TERM GOAL: The County of Los Angeles and its partner agencies in administering supportive services for the homeless population are encouraged to involve cities more proactively, increase access and utilization and reduce administrative burdens of local grant programs available to cities, and identify existing city programs that can receive funding to scale more quickly than creating new programs from scratch.

Even with multiple solutions that the Commission found to work and are effective, the problem has been compounded by various factors which will require a nationwide effort in addition to local efforts.

Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department – Project Lifesaver

On May 7, 2017, Captains Scott Gage, Training Bureau and Paula Tokar, Population Management Bureau of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (LASD), provided a presentation to the Commission on Senate Bill 11 and the Sheriff’s training curriculum. Per the mandate for advanced officer training on Senate Bill 11, Recruits receive 17 hours of mental health training, Custody Operations Personnel receive 32 hours de-escalation and verbal resolution training and Field Operations Personnel receive 32 hours of Crisis Intervention Training (CIT).

The expansion on this effort for additional mental health training in 2018, is part of an ongoing partnership effort between the Commission and the Sheriff Department to implement objectives of the Bring Our Loved Ones Home Task Force (Task Force) which are intended to help Sheriff deputies de-escalate situations with mentally impaired individuals.

In February 2018, Lieutenant Gannon, Sheriff, reported that the Bring Our Loved Ones Home Task Force (Task Force) had conducted an in-depth study on developing a program that would track adults and children who wander away so caregivers could find them. Project Lifesaver addresses the special needs community and uses a tracking method which involves the locator, ground support and air support when needed. Project Lifesaver is managed by the Los Angeles County Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS).

In 2018, the Commission sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors in support of the Sheriff's recommendation for a mobile Multiple Interactive Learning Objectives (MILO) system. The MILO system is a training simulator that provides practical and hands on scenarios focusing on de-escalating incidents and a two-hour interactive session with families with autistic family members. Upon approval of the Board, training courses for officers utilizing MILO began in the Spring of 2019.

Lieutenant Gannon reported from 2018 to 2019, that the Mental Evaluation Team (MET) was recognized for its' comprehensive approach and chosen to provide the Crisis Intervention training mandated for all Sheriff Department personnel. The result of this training has contributed to 672 less cases of "use of force instances", 12 less then lethal uses of force and 9 suicide by cop instances that were successfully de-escalated during the 2018-2019 fiscal year due to programs implemented by MET. Additionally, the MET responded to 158 Court lock up jail calls and were able to de-escalate 154 of those instances within the last year.

Presently, LASD has 24 MET teams with plans to add 10 more and the eventual the goal is to have 45 teams, the minimum for the size of Los Angeles County. Along with the 24 MET teams, a phone triage is in place 24 hours/7 days a week to talk deputies/officers through the de-escalation process. To date, the tracking system used has had over 300 recorded searches with a 100% success rate.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION / LONG-TERM GOAL: This training continues to show promise in the ability of the Sheriff's Department officers to de-escalate previously volatile scenarios. The Commission will continue to monitor and make recommendations that contribute to the expansion and continued success of Project Lifesaver and its affiliate programs for first responders throughout California.

Tree Removal

The Commission noted further study and research is needed in order to coordinate the partnership of public and private sectors regarding tree removal on streets that are not level.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION / FUTURE GOAL:

This ongoing project is in the beginning stages and will require further research by the Commission to co-inside and meet its mission, vision, values, roles and responsibilities.

Conclusion

The Commission looks forward to working on current projects and will continue to identify and recommend cost-effective and efficient alternatives for the delivery of multi-jurisdictional services within the County of Los Angeles.

We would be remiss if we did not thank the Commissions Services staff for their excellent work over the years. We appreciate their dedication and professionalism.

Sincerely,



Paul J. Philips, Chairperson
Los Angeles County Commission on
Local Governmental Services

c: Board of Supervisors
Mayor, City of Los Angeles
President, Los Angeles City Council
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities