
Economy & Efficiency Commission Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2001
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 COMMISSION MEETING

With the presence of a quorum of commissioners, Chairman Philibosian called the Commission meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER'S ABSENCES

Chairman Philibosian asked for a motion to approve absences.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Clayton Anderson
Fred Balderrama
Joanne Baltierrez
John Crowley
David W. Farrar
Jonathan Fuhrman
Jaclyn Tilley Hill
Chun Lee
Tony Lucente
Royal F. Oakes
Roman Padilla
William J. Petak
Robert H. Philibosian
H. Randall Stoke
Julia Sylva
G. Thomas Thompson

COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

Hope J. Boonshaft
Annie E. Cho

Marc A. Seidner
Tony Tortorice

COMMISSIONERS NOT REQUESTING AN EXCUSE

None

It was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: **The Commission members requesting an excuse, be excused.**

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Philibosian asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the minutes. Hearing none the following motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: **The minutes of the December 7, 2001 Commission meeting be approved.**

IX. PRESENTATION (a)

[Lee Harrington, President & CEO](#)

[Greg Whitney, Vice President, Business Development Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation](#)

[Topic: Best Practices for Economic Development](#)

Chairman Philibosian introduced Mr. Lee Harrington, President and CEO, and Mr. Greg Whitney, Vice President of Business Development both of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation. Mr. Harrington and Mr. Whitney contributed to the presentation. They emphasized developing a stronger focus on businesses as the customer of Los Angeles County; and reusing industrial facilities, rather than constructing new facilities. They discussed the rising costs of permitting fees in L.A. County, as compared to other regions of the country; and they enumerated the new types of domestic facilities to be opened in L. A. County. A summary of Mr. Harrington and Mr. Whitney's presentation can be found on the Economy and Efficiency Commission's website through its presentation link at <http://eec.co.la.ca.us>

SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING

Chairman Philibosian stated that a Special Commission Meeting is being held today in conjunction with the regular commission meeting for the purpose of the election of officers. Commissioner Padilla, reporting for the Nominating Committee, stated that it is nominating Robert Philibosian for Chairman of the Economy and Efficiency Commission in the year 2001. He congratulated Chairman Philibosian for his excellent leadership over the past year and stated that the Commission looks forward to his leadership in the next year. Chairman Philibosian expressed his appreciation for the Commission's vote of confidence, however he would entertain any nominations for the office from the floor in accordance with the bylaws. Hearing no further nominations, Commissioner Crowley moved acclamation. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion. Chairman Philibosian asked if there were any objection. Hearing none, the following motion was Moved, Seconded and Adopted, unanimously: Robert Philibosian be elected chair for a term ending January 2002.

Chairman Philibosian stated his appreciation on being elected Chairman and commended the Commission for the work it has accomplished during the past year. He said the Commission has had consistently good attendance. He thanked the task force chairs for all of their work.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Philibosian stated that he had asked Vice-Chair Tony Lucente, to accept reappointment. Vice Chair Lucente accepted his reappointment for the year 2001.

Chairman Philibosian stated that Presiding Judge James Bascue, will make a presentation on the state of the Court and the Grand Jury at the February 1, 2001 Commission meeting. The Commission has asked District Attorney Stephen Cooley to make a presentation at the March 1, 2001 meeting. Chairman Philibosian mentioned that since the Criminal Justice Group, which involves the heads of all of the criminal justice agencies in the Los Angeles County, meets the first Thursday of every month, therefore the E&E Commission would hold its regular meeting prior to the presentation.

If there are any other suggestions for speakers, please discuss them with Mr. Staniforth. The speakers should be relative to the project work in progress.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Staniforth insured that all of the commissioners had a first draft copy of the ILP Project Proposal. Mr. Staniforth stated that he would discuss the proposal during the Finance Task Force Report.

VII. LIAISON REPORTS

Local Government Services Commission

Commissioner Andes, the Local Government Commission Liaison, said the Commission had not met. It will meet on January 9, 2001 and he will have a report at the next meeting.

Quality and Productivity Commission

Commissioner Rew, the Quality and Productivity Commission (Q&P) Liaison, wished all of the Economy and Efficiency Commission members a happy and prosperous New Year. He enumerated the events of the Quality and Productivity Commission for the past month, as follows: the Q&P Commission continued it's visits to the various county departments, namely the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors and the Department of Children and Family Services. The Q&P Commission visited a total of 14 county departments. A similar number of visits are planned for the year 2001.

At the Q&P Commission meeting on December 11, 2000, Commissioner Jaclyn Tilley Hill was unanimously reelected Chair of the Quality and Productivity Commission for the year 2001. At the same meeting the Chief Information Officer, John Fullinwider made a presentation.

The Q&P Commission approved six productivity investment fund projects totaling almost \$2,000,000. This is the highest number of projects approved at any one time, and is attributed to the outreach efforts on the part of the commissioners to the various county departments. Following the meeting, the Q&P Commission hosted its annual seasonal luncheon, which saluted department heads, network managers and included presentations from recipients of the Productivity Investment Fund, namely the Sheriff's Department, Health Services, and the Arts Commission. Commissioner Sylva represented the E&E Commission at the luncheon. Commissioner Rew circulated the winter edition (2000-2001) of the Q&P Commission Newsletter, and the County Review. In preparation for the year 2001, the Q&P Commission is structuring a work plan based on the goals and objectives of the Commission's Strategic Plan.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Finance

Commissioner Thompson stated that his comments have been incorporated in the Joint Task Force Draft Report on the Independent Living Program Study. The commissioners decided at the December meeting to review the project proposal draft that deals with the Independent Living Program (ILP), a sub unit of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). The ILP Proposal addresses issues raised by previous reviews, and will develop an action plan to handle the previously reviewed problems. Mr. Staniforth stated that since the proposal was extensive, he wanted to provide an expanded background to ensure that the commissioners knew what the problem was, what had been done and how the project was designed. The project draft shows an estimation of resources required to accomplish the task, which is about 3,280 hours using an average cost of \$60 per hour it brings the total to \$196,800 for the study. It is estimated that six months time will be required to accomplish the study.

Commissioner Fuhrman asked how that cost compared to the costs the Commission has encountered on some of our other projects, e.g., the public debt collection and the unincorporated area. Mr. Staniforth responded that the debt collection report was close to half a million dollars. The others have been in the \$50,000 - \$100,000 range. Commissioner Fuhrman remarked that for a relatively well defined, small program, the hours and the dollars seemed excessive. Mr. Staniforth said that there are a number of areas that require a considerable amount of effort particularly data systems design. The data processing, financial, organizational, operational and policy elements are all very complicated issues dealing with interaction between federal state, and local government. There are a number of internal and human resource problems. Data processing elements involve developing systems that will be able to connect with the state data management systems. There are 2,000 - 5,000 people between the ages of 18 and 22 in the program. At the moment there is no methodology to track these people to determine whether they succeed or fail, or what amount of money is being spent on them. Without this information a program cannot be developed that will address program objectives.

Commissioner Padilla commented that as we go forward to get the money, we need to stress in the title that the proposal will have a broader based impact on society, as well as on the Independent Living Program. Commissioner Thompson felt that it did not need to go beyond Independent Living. Whenever we deal with these young people they

return to use public services, the criminal justice system, the health and medical care system and the housing system. These young people are not getting school or housing assistance monies. One needs to understand the cost/benefit of keeping them out of the criminal justice system, out of the mental health system and placing these young people into schools to make them productive citizens. Commissioner Padilla agreed that as long as what had been discussed was understood.

Chairman Philibosian estimated the costs of an average criminal in terms of impact to victims of crime, policing, court system, and incarceration to be between \$200,000 and \$400,000 per year. Incarceration costs would be between \$25,000 - \$ 35,000 per year. Court costs are about \$6,000 a day. A five-day trial, which is generally considered to be the minimum, would be \$30,000.

Commissioner Fuhrman stated that these arguments go to the validity of the program but not to the validity of how much needs to be spent on a relatively small program. If you are only spending \$10,000,000 - \$15,000,000 a year, it seems hard to justify spending a \$196,800 to analyze the program. Commissioner Baltierrez remarked that it does speak to the amount of money it will take to conduct a study. We are paying for the services, and, we are paying to incarcerate the people, put them into mental institutions, or on welfare. Commissioner Fuhrman reiterated that if you have a small program it should not take so much effort to get the budget under control. Vice Chair Lucente stated that having worked with Commissioner Farrar and Commissioner Hill on the Real Estate Asset Management Task Force, where they conducted similar studies, areas were encountered that had swift and rapid implementation of those recommendations developed by the study, and this would justify the proposed expenditure amount.

Vice Chair Lucente asked for amplification as to what degree the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) has been involved in this process and whether they generally are supportive of this analysis or study? Mr. Staniforth stated that DCFS has reviewed the proposal and has agreed. Every comment they made has been incorporated into this document. Also the Commission on Children and Families has review it and concurred. The Probation Department currently has the document and has indicated that they will probably have no problems with the proposal. Vice Chair Lucente asked if this were coming from Director Bock, or other staff? Mr. Staniforth stated that he sent the proposal to the Department Chief of Staff, who distributed it to the staff.

Mr. Staniforth addressed the work estimate of the proposal. He said that he had broken down the components of the program. He then divided them into a task and assigned them to a analyst level along with estimating the amount of hours required. As soon as the proposal is approved it will be submitted to the Productivity Investment Fund to request a grant for the estimated amount. Commissioner Thompson mentioned that the Commission does not have to spend all of the money. Chairman Philibosian stated that this is a budgeted amount, the PIF funds could be returned to the Quality and Productivity Commission if it comes in under budget. Commissioner Petak asked if the Chair was seeking a motion of approval. Chairman Philibosian would like to get a consensus of the Commission to authorize the Executive Committee composed of the Chair, Vice Chair, and the Task Force Chairs to meet. The meeting will be publicly noticed, and the Commission will be notified of the action taken to request the PIF funds. Chairman Philibosian entertained a motion for a Special Commission Meeting. The motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: The motion to hold a Special Commission Meeting be approved.

Chairman Philibosian asked the Executive Committee to remain after the close of the meeting to choose a date.

Grand Jury

Commissioner Hill reported that they would be meeting in the Economy and Efficiency Commission Conference Room immediately after this meeting.

Organization and Accountability

Commissioner Oakes stated that there was not much to add to what has been said, the proposal has been a great start. The Organization and Accountability Task Force will work with Judge Thompson's Finance Task Force.

The unincorporated area issue has been discussed. The December 12, 2000 memo from the CAO, David Janssen with the report of the follow-up on the study on unincorporated areas, indicates that there is a potential to do further work in that area. Chairman Philibosian asked Commissioner Padilla to comment. Commissioner Padilla noted that each recommendation of the study had been read and discussed. Commissioner Hill noted that the commission's original report was well received and David Janssen took the report seriously by establishing an unincorporated area office. Commissioner Hill stated that she spent two full days of strategic planning with every department of the county represented. The quality of life of the individuals living in the unincorporated areas has been impacted. There is now a "hotline" to respond to their questions. Commissioner Padilla commented that there is a lack of identity for the unincorporated area population. Quite often they pick an adjacent city as there identifying location.

Policy

Commissioner Sylva stated that there was no Task Force Report for the January 2001 commission meeting, but there will be a report for next month.

X. NEW BUSINESS

None

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion from the floor, Chairman Philibosian adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.



Bruce J. Staniforth
Executive Director

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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