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Economy & Efficiency Commission Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

THURSDAY, May 2, 2002
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
Joanne Baltierrez
Isaac Diaz Barcelona
Hope J. Boonshaft
Annie E. Cho
John Crowley
Jonathan Fuhrman
Jaclyn Tilley Hill
Chun Lee
Tony Lucente
Royal F. Oakes
Roman Padilla
William J. Petak
Robert H. Philibosian
Clinton Simmons
Tony Tortorice

COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

Fred Balderrama
David W. Farrar

Julia Sylva
G. Thomas Thompson

COMMISSIONERS NOT REQUESTING AN EXCUSE

None

It was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: The Commission members requesting an excuse, be excused with Commissioner Crowley voting against the motion. Commissioner Crowley stated that he felt there needed to be clarity in regards to acceptable reasons for excused absences. Chairman Philibosian asked staff to add this item to the agenda for the next meeting of the Commission.

III. APPROVAL OF APRIL 4, 2002 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 April 4, 2002 Commission meeting be approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF APRIL 4, 2002 PRESENTATION

Chairman Philibosian asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the presentation. Hearing none the following motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: The presentation of the April 4, 2002 Commission meeting be approved.

V. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Philibosian noted there were no introductions or announcements.

VI. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Philibosian commented that he had nothing to report at this time.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Staniforth again informed the Commission that the Commissioner ID Cards were considered to be badges of the County and therefore a controlled item. As a controlled item, when a commissioner leaves the Commission he/she would need to turn in his/her ID Card. If the card is lost a report will be filed with county security.

He continued by directing the commissioners to Tab 4 in their agendas for today's meeting, referencing the Emancipation Quarterly Report. He further stated that with one exception all of the Commission's publications were now on the web site. He stated that after all the reports and items were completed, work would begin on redesigning the web site. Chairman Philibosian thanked Mr. Staniforth for his efforts and that of staff. He then inquired if staff would like advice from the commissioners about the web site redesign. Mr. Staniforth stated that advice and/or assistance is certainly appreciated. Chairman Philibosian thanked Vice Chair Lucente when he volunteered to assist with the web site redesign.

Mr. Staniforth further commented that he had distributed copies of the County Charter to all of the commissioners for reference purposes since it had been some time since the Commissioners had received an updated copy.

VIII. LIAISON REPORTS

Local Government Services Commission

Chairman Philibosian stated that this Commission did not have a liaison from the Local Government Service Commission at this time and asked Mr. Staniforth about getting a new liaison to this Commission. Mr. Staniforth stated that he would be attending the next meeting of the Local Government Services Commission and would request at that time that they appoint a new liaison to this Commission.

Commissioner Crowley noted that he was assigned as liaison from the Economy & Efficiency Commission to that Commission.

Quality and Productivity Commission

Commissioner Waddell stated that at their last meeting they had selected a committee to review establishing another reward for departments based on a department's quality and productivity measurement system. He continued stated that the Quality & Productivity Commission had received approximately 28 applications for the special grant and that

it had begun the selection process to determine the recipients of the grant.

IX. OLD BUSINESS - TASK FORCE REPORTS

Emancipation Services Task Force

The task force chair was not present and thus, no report was made.

Grand Jury

Commissioner Hill noted a meeting of this task force would be held in the next couple of weeks. She then showed the Commission a jury summons she received from the Superior Court in Compton, more than 30 minutes from her home. She commented on the challenges facing jurors when called to serve in a court in an unfamiliar area or at a considerable distance from his/her home. She felt that with the number of people still not appearing for service, that every attempt should be made to allow people to serve close to their home. Additionally, the jury summons itself was difficult to read and hard to understand.

Commissioner Simmons commented that he had known many people who had been called to serve at much greater distances and did not think that this distance was unusual. Chairman Philibosian noted that with the number of jurors needed, it would be very difficult to have jurors serve within a certain radius of their home and still get the distribution needed for the courts. He did feel however that this Commission could review the current jury summons notice and perhaps make some recommendations on how it could be redesigned.

Commissioner Hill noted that there continued to be a great deal of activity throughout the country by Grand Juries. She felt this activity stemmed from the high level of awareness and education of the Grand Jury during the 1993 Grand Jury in Los Angeles County.

In addition, Commissioner Hill commented that she was not sure about the need for a liaison from this Commission to the Quality and Productivity Commission. Chairman Philibosian noted that as long as Quality and Productivity was not concerned by not having a liaison, then he did not think this Commission would need a liaison considering the number of Commissioners who were members of both Commissions. Hearing no objections from the Commission, it was agreed that this Commission would not have a liaison to the Quality and Productivity Commission at this time.

Organization & Accountability Task Force

Commissioner Oakes stated that the task force was continuing to review the workers compensation issue. Commissioner Fuhrman and himself had reviewed information provided by staff pertaining to the efforts in the last 18 months to implement recommendations presented to the CAO by the consultant hired to review this problem. In general, the task force was going to look at two areas of review. The first was the review of implementation efforts by the CAO of the recommendations given on this subject. Secondly, a review of fraud issues and how they were handled, especially considering expert opinion that 15-20% of all workers compensation cases are fraudulent. In spite of this, no cases of fraud have been pursued in the last 10 years by the county. Commissioner Fuhrman commented that in addition to what Commissioner Oakes stated, this Commission could also consider the increased costs and numbers of claims filed, especially when reviewing patterns in claims that would warrant investigation. Chairman Philibosian noted that this Commission should not actually do investigation into claims, but rather review if investigations have been made and if not whether they should be made.

Vice Chair Lucente asked if it was possible at this point to measure the results of the implementations. Commissioner Fuhrman replied that it would be premature at this point. The report included specific recommendations, including a structure for the organization. He was not sure where the departments were in reassigning responsibilities.

Commissioner Hill commented that another element of this review might include the permanent disability cases, since employees of the county on permanent disability may be retrained to work in another position within the county. She felt that this would relate to a dollar savings in claims payments and toward discouraging some claims that might not otherwise have been filed.

Commissioner Padilla noted that there should be a way this Commission could establish a baseline so that claims in a department could be reviewed against the claims for similar classes of employees statewide or some other measure. Commissioner Fuhrman replied that the County's consultants had recommended a proactive approach to loss control. This includes preventive measures to avoid situations that could generate claims and the review of incoming claims to address trends utilizing baselines to help identify where problems are occurring.

X. PRESENTATION (a)

Dr. Sharon Watson, Consultant

[Topic: Emancipation Report Impacts](#)

Dr. Watson discussed the Emancipation Report and its impact in addressing the problems facing emancipated youth in Los Angeles County. She also reviewed the activities of the Interim Team that was established by the CAO to address and provide solutions to the problems facing these youth.

IX. OLD BUSINESS - TASK FORCE REPORTS (Continued)

Economic Development

The task force chair was not present and thus, no report was made.

Report Review

Commissioner Barcelona stated that a methodology was being developed for consideration by the task force. Mr. Staniforth noted that the task force would need to decide what time frame to be used in reviewing recommendations. If recommendations were reviewed too soon then the departments would have insufficient time to implement the changes. Conversely, if too much time elapses between the recommendation and review then the recommendation may no longer be appropriate for the situation.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was put forward to the Commission.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public attending the meeting.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted.



Bruce J. Staniforth
Executive Director

[Go to May 2, 2002 Agenda](#)

[Return to June 6, 2002](#)



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:EEComm@co.la.ca.us)
WEB eec.co.la.ca.us