

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES 2021

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APPOINTED MEMBERS

First District Appointees

VACANT
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Second District Appointees

MARK BURMAN
RUBEN GONZALEZ

Third District Appointees

JON DEARING 2ND Vice Chairperson
JOHN BWARIE

Fourth District Appointees

BARRY WAITE
JENNIFER FU

Fifth District Appointees

DARRELL GEORGE, CHAIRPERSON
ANDREW FRIEDMAN

Mayor, City of Los Angeles Appointees

ANA PONCE
ANESSA KARNEY

CA Contract Cities Association Appointee

JORGE MORALES

L.A. County Div. League of CA Cities Appointee

SHARON SPRINGER 1ST Vice Chairperson

Independent Cities Association Appointee

VACANT

President, Los Angeles City Council Appointees

VACANT

VACANT

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 and its 88 cities.

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.

HISTORIC 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 and its 88 cities. On the first Tuesday of each month the Commission holds its virtual meeting at 9:30 a.m. for presentations and discussions of various issues that may affect the County and its 88 cities.

ANNUAL WORK PLAN

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Commission incorporates a wide range of perspectives and contexts – stemming from the past, present, and future – in how we approach our mission. The Commission offers a balance of educational components and recommendations that serve a diverse and vibrant community through an array of public services and programs to improve the quality of life for all. The County was built, and survives, on values that promote diversity, equity, togetherness, and progress. Consistent with this approach, the Commission works to ensure our recommendations serve all members of the community in a fair and equitable manner.

The Commission benefits from having a variety of interests represented on the commission. We have all types of municipalities represented (city/county, contract/independent city), types of municipal leader (elected/appointed), types of industry representation (government/non-profit/for-profit), as well as having racial and gender diversity.

The Commission on Local Governmental Services promotes respectful dialogue, explores reasonable action to prevent instances of injustices and discrimination, encourages peaceful expressions of opinion, and always serves to listen. The Commission encourages any member of the public and stakeholders to visit one of our many communication outlets to engage with any member of the Commission.

FOCUS

Homeless Initiative

Since 2018, the Commission has 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, Director Homeless Initiative 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.

In July 2020, the Commission sought input from Christine Ma, Account Executive, Smart Cities, Esri, Inc. on her organization and the Smart City Plan, a program the organization uses to create areas of available affordable housing.

In December 2021, the Commission sought input from Lieutenant Geoffrey R. Deedrick, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department who provided the history and an update on the Homeless Outreach Services Team (HOST) program. Lieutenant Deedrick reported that he supervises the HOST program and although it is only funded for one lieutenant, and four deputies, they rotate volunteers from within the Department to work in the program which currently consists of twenty-six deputies, two sergeants and two lieutenants. He noted the program also collaborates with many outreach partners and several County Departments to assist individuals experiencing homelessness connect with vital services. Lieutenant Deedrick added that additionally there are sister programs such as the Los Angeles County Homeless Encampment protocol created in 2011, followed by the El Niño Task Force created to address and remedy unknown homeless populations residing along five waterway riverbeds that were exposed to the potential dangers of flooding. Lieutenant Deedrick developed and currently conducts the First Responders Homeless Training which resulted in the training of 3,830 deputies and 1,200 civilians. Not criminalizing homelessness, has proven to be a collaborative achievement while working with all the housing and mental health services available in the County. The utilization of these programs and approaches has led to the successful transition of 900 individuals out of riverbeds and into housing.

The HOST program has a lead role in the fight against homelessness. It assesses the homeless and connects them to resources that meet their specific needs. These techniques ensure acceptance of services and housing placements. He also highlighted the benefits of trauma informed care, crisis stabilization, field dynamics, as well as the reporting hotline, and provided extensive examples and success stories. He went on to explain the many concepts and the processes used by HOST which are dictated by the Homeless Encampment Protocol.

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 and County 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. The Commission understood the need for assistance to grow and the successes through collaborative efforts with additional funding. They will continue to explore other programs to address homelessness in 2022.

Illegal Fireworks

Commissioner Waite provided an overview of initial research regarding the increasing presence of illegal fireworks in Los Angeles County. This research showed that there was difficulty with enforcement and that many of the fireworks coming into the Port of Los Angeles are legal for commercial use but are being illegally diverted to private individuals. Newly introduced Senate Bill (SB)277 addressed the re-classification of certain types of fireworks and increasing fines for illegal possession and use of fireworks.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION / LONG-TERM GOAL:

Unincorporated areas or communities of Los Angeles County are encouraged to continue to consult with local and state law enforcement regarding use of illegal fireworks.

The Commission agreed to continue to monitor legislation and keep the initiative as a future issue.

COVID-19 and Pandemic Response / Management

In February 2021, the Commission explored services available to constituents to address the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's public announcements, the Commission concluded there was a greater public need for increased public access. There were breakdowns in both County and City levels with price gauging, defiance, lack of access, testing, vaccine distribution and unemployment. The Commission found the definite need for clear communication and coordination of the pandemic response.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION / LONG-TERM GOAL:

The Commission will continue to monitor and utilize the information provided by the Department of Public Health and local officials to prioritize and compile goals in response to the pandemic.

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 (SB)11 and the Sheriff's training curriculum.

In February 2018, Lieutenant John P. Gannon, Sheriff, reported that the Bring Our Loved Ones Home 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.

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 system.

Lieutenant Gannon reported from 2018 to 2019, that the Mental Evaluation Team (MET) was recognized for its comprehensive approach and was chosen to provide the Crisis Intervention training mandated for all Sheriff Department personnel.

Presently, LASD has 24 MET teams with plans to add 10 more and the eventual goal is to have 45 teams, the minimum for the size of Los Angeles County. 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.

Conclusion

The Commission has made significant changes to how it conducts its meetings to adhere to Covid restrictions, encourage diversity, equity and inclusion to its projects and activities. Conducting virtual meetings has provided the ability for all constituents to join Commission meetings without in-person constraints. The implementation of the Commission's Code of Conduct allowed for stakeholders to share and express ideas openly during meetings.

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.

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