
Economy & Efficiency Commission

Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

THURSDAY, July 1, 2004
ROOM 830, KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 West Temple St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

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

In the absence of a quorum of commissioners, Chairman Philibosian called the meeting to order at 10:25a.m. as a Committee of the Whole

II. APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER'S ABSENCES

Chairman Philibosian asked the present commissioners to note the following absences.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Clayton Anderson
Fred Balderrama
Jaclyn Tilley Hill
Ronald K. Ikejiri
Roman Padilla
Robert H. Philibosian
Julia Sylva
Ira Thierer

COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

Joanne Baltierrez
Isaac Diaz Barcelona
Hope J. Boonshaft
Annie E. Cho
Jonathan Fuhrman
Chun Lee
Tony Lucente
Royal F. Oakes

William J. Petak
G. Thomas Thompson
Tony Tortorice

COMMISSIONERS NOT REQUESTING AN EXCUSE

None

It was so noted. The Commission was unable to approve the absences due to a lack of a quorum.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Philibosian asked if those present had any corrections or amendments to the minutes of the June 3, 2004 Commission meeting. Approval of minutes was deferred do to lack of a quorum. Approval of the June 3, 2004 Commission minutes was deferred do to lack of a quorum.

IV. APPROVAL OF PRESENTATION

Chairman Philibosian asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the presentation of the May 6, 2004 Commission meeting. Approval of the June 3, 2004 presentation was deferred do to lack of a quorum.

V. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Sylva introduced Mr. Will Usugi, who is returning as her summer associate at Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith. Mr. Staniforth introduced Mr. Edward Shaw, who will be his administrative assistant for the next 3 months. Mr. Shaw will be working on the EEC web site.

VI. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Philibosian stated that he did not have a report at this time.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Staniforth stated that he did not have a report at this time.

VIII. LIAISON REPORTS

Local Government Services Commission

Commissioner Selditz stated that since the LGS Commission had not met, he did not have a report this month.

Quality and Productivity Commission

Commissioner Hill stated that the Quality and Productivity Commission is gearing up for its October event. All project proposals for the Commission awards will be reviewed and rated. The top ten will be reviewed a second time. From the top ten, three project proposals will be selected as the winners. Commissioner Hill also stated that the Commission was actively seeking Productivity Fund investment proposals.

IX. OLD BUSINESS - TASK FORCE REPORTS

Emancipation Services Task Force

Chairman Philibosian discussed the possibility of a follow-up report on the state of the county's emancipation services and the potential need to improve said services.

Grand Jury

Commissioner Hill stated she wished to have a meeting of the task force to discuss pending issues. Chairman Philibosian suggested that Commissioner Thierer is welcome to continue to attend meetings in a non-voting status once his replacement is appointed. Commissioner Thierer responded by expressing his feeling that the Commission could make a contribution by examining worker's compensation in those departments that use sworn officers. Recommendations have been made by the previous Grand Jury in this area to the County's Fire Department and it would be valuable for the Commission to know if they have been implemented. Commissioner Hill concurred but expressed concern against covering old ground, and she felt that the Commission should seek opportunities to showcase positive responses rather than negative ones. Chairman Philibosian opined that it would be productive if the Commission could ascertain if reforms have been enacted.

Organization & Accountability Task Force

Mr. Staniforth stated that the EEC report addressing worker's compensation fraud currently includes 49 proposals to reduce the potential for the commission of fraud and abuse within the County. The report has been reviewed by the District Attorney, Chief Administrative Office, Metro Transit Authority, and the County Council and revisions are to be incorporated into the report before it can be published. Chairman Philibosian directed that a note be added to the report that there are legislative actions pending that could affect some portions of the report.

Commissioner Thierer expressed the concern that the incidence of fraud within the County system is less than the public may believe. Mr. Staniforth replied that the system used to determine the existence of fraud and abuse is not providing a complete picture of the situation. He also commented that the recommendations made in this report focus on the preventative measures to be taken, rather than punitive measures. Commissioners Sylva and Padilla expressed concern over the differentiation between Worker's Compensation frauds within the total County vs. fraud committed by County employees. Chairman Philibosian responded that the report addresses the actions of county employees, but that the measures recommended are such that they can be applied across all segments of the County. Commissioner Sylva asked if the report would address the impact of legislative action at the state level. Mr. Staniforth responded that although state legislative action can affect the structure of worker's compensation, the report focuses on actions that can be taken at the county level to have an immediate impact on workers' compensation costs. Commissioner Ikejiri expressed concern at the lack of oversight on worker's compensation cases that are \$5,000 or under and the opportunities created for abuse at this level. Commissioner Thierer suggested that the managers within the County should be held accountable for the worker's compensation costs incurred within their departments.

Economic Development Task Force

Commissioner Sylva stated that she'd had a constructive meeting with the Chief Administrative Office. The meeting was also attended by Ms. Lari Sheehan and Mr. Martin Zimmerman of that office. Also attending was Ms. Edna Bruce from the Office of Small Business, Community Development Commission. They are very eager to find a project for this task force. Ms. Sheehan will schedule a meeting with Mr. Carlos Jackson, the Executive Director of the Community Development Commission, along with Mr. Lee Harrington of the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation and Mr. Sam Olivito from Contract Cities Association. They will discuss what they can do to promote economic development which is unrelated to re-development and contract services. Commissioner Sylva informed the Commission that they were invited to the quarterly meeting being held on July 7th at 1:00p.m. at the Community Development Commission Office with the purpose of enhancing the dialog between the County and the various city municipalities. Commissioner Balderrama suggested that we also invite District Director Albert Alvarado of the Small Business Administration to the meeting.

Sheriff's Transportation Task Force

Commissioner Anderson informed the Commission that he had met with the lieutenant in charge of transportation at the county detention facility and two of his senior deputies. They were able to clarify the needs of the department, but were unable to secure data on the day-to-day activity at the facility. The situation is being examined further.

Asset Management

Commissioner Hill reported that she had spoken with the new chair, Commissioner David Farrar, as well as several other members of the Task Force. They are eager to have a meeting; until then, she recommends that the Commission remain supportive, but on hold.

X. PRESENTATION (a)

Chairman Philibosian introduced The Honorable Don Knabe and welcomed him to the meeting.

The Honorable Don Knabe
Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and Supervisor, Fourth District, Los Angeles County
Topic: The State of the County

Supervisor Knabe's presentation focused on the current state of the County, its relationship with the Los Angeles Air Force Base, the development of the Grand Avenue Project, and various political relationships that have been influencing the actions of the county.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Philibosian requested that the Commission defer the consideration of any new business until a quorum is convened.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. No members of the public commented.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted.



Bruce J. Staniforth
Executive Director

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