

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES 2022 - 2023

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APPOINTED MEMBERS

First District Appointees

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MARK BURMAN
BUFFANY N HUNTER

Third District Appointees

JON DEARING – Chairperson
JOHN BWARIE

Fourth District Appointees

BARRY WAITE
JOHNCITO PERAZA

Fifth District Appointees

VACANT
VACANT

Mayor, City of Los Angeles Appointees

ANA PONCE
ANESSA KARNEY

CA Contract Cities Association Appointee

BRENDA OLMOS – VICE CHAIRPERSON

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

LINDA FREEDMAN

Independent Cities Association Appointee

VACANT

President, Los Angeles City Council Appointees

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VACANT

**JULES S. BAGNERIS, III, PH.D. – 2ND VICE
CHAIRPERSON**

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: by 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 examines services at the County level and within the County's 88 incorporated cities. The Commission advises the Board of Supervisors and other government leaders in the County on its findings and recommendations by issuing reports and monitoring 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. On the first Tuesday of each month, the Commission holds its meeting at 9:30 a.m. for presentations and discussions of various issues that may affect the County.

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 fairly and equitably.

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 leaders (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

The Commission has worked diligently to address street takeovers within Los Angeles County. The commission sought additional input from the City of Paramount, which focused on addressing the pervasive issue of intersection takeovers and street racing within the community. The problem persisted despite the passing of an impactful ordinance in August 2020 aimed at curbing large intersection takeovers. However, the ordinance did not entirely resolve the issue, particularly concerning quick burnouts or "donuts" in residential intersections. This led to a presentation in February 2022 to the City Council, where the City Engineer highlighted the limitations of physical barriers on arterial streets and proposed alternative options, ultimately recommending exploration of the traffic circle option.

Key points emphasized the necessity of adhering to established engineering standards in road design, referencing guidelines from entities such as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Streets and Highways Code (SHC), American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO), California Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CaMUTCD), and the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). The presentation underscored the challenges associated with implementing physical barriers, including maintaining traffic flow, eliminating hazards, and ensuring safety for all users, particularly on arterial streets.

Past attempts at addressing the issue in smaller residential intersections, such as using Raised Pavement Markers (RPMs) or "Botts Dots," proved ineffective in deterring quick vehicle maneuvers like donuts. Constraints were also highlighted regarding the placement of speed bumps or barriers in the middle of intersections.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION / LONG-TERM GOAL:

The proposed solution centered on a Traffic Circle Pilot Project at the intersection of Madison St. and Orizaba Ave. The reasons for selecting this location were likely multifaceted and may have included factors like traffic volume, historical incident data, and suitability for implementation. The presentation detailed the improvements expected from the traffic circle, including reduced incidents of burnouts, potential traffic calming effects leading to reduced speeds, and overall positive reception from residents. The initial installation costs for temporary measures, such as striping and delineators, were estimated at \$12,000, with a projected \$100,000 for a permanent traffic circle featuring landscaping and matured trees.

Initial feedback from residents was notably positive, citing decreased incidents of burnouts and a general slowdown in vehicle speeds, contributing to improved community satisfaction and safety perceptions. However, concerns were raised regarding potential proliferation of traffic circles in other parts of town, the criteria for selective implementation, and the costs associated with making these measures permanent.

Next steps include continued monitoring of activity, making necessary adjustments, conducting an engineering analysis after one year of implementation, and earmarking funding in the FY24 Budget for the potential permanent installation of the traffic circle. This approach demonstrates a proactive stance towards evaluating the effectiveness of the traffic circle pilot project and potentially expanding its implementation while being mindful of community impact and financial considerations.

Organic Waste Disposal Reduction

The Department of Public Works provided a comprehensive update on the progress made in implementing Senate Bill 1383, focusing on the reduction of organic waste disposal. The key components of the presentation were structured into various sections, highlighting the requirements of SB 1383, ongoing education and outreach initiatives, updates on edible food recovery efforts, advancements in infrastructure development, and the subsequent steps planned.

Senate Bill 1383, established in 2016, aimed to significantly reduce organic waste disposal in landfills. It set specific reduction targets, requiring a 50% reduction by 2020, a 75% reduction by 2025, and the recovery of 20% of edible food for human consumption by 2025. CalRecycle regulations, vital for implementing the bill, were adopted in November 2020, laying the groundwork for compliance.

The regulatory requirements of SB 1383 mandated local jurisdictions to adhere to disposal reduction targets, with penalties of up to \$10,000 per day for non-compliance, effective as of January 1, 2022.

Education and outreach played a pivotal role, utilizing various strategies such as the launch of a new website (<https://www.fightfoodwastela.com/>), enhanced engagement with residents, and the implementation of the Commercial and Institutional Recycling Program (CIRP). Guidelines were provided to residents and businesses in unincorporated County areas on managing organic waste, donating excess edible food, and applying for waivers. Information was made accessible on the CleanLA website to facilitate easier access to guidelines.

An insightful update on edible food recovery highlighted the staggering amount of disposed food waste (1.76 million tons annually), with a significant portion (774,000 tons) being edible. Recovering 20% of this edible food equated to providing 155,000 tons of food, crucial in addressing food insecurity affecting 1 in 4 people in the County. Efforts aimed at achieving the SB 1383 food recovery goal were projected to aid 15% of people experiencing food insecurity. Collaboration with Food Recovery Organizations (FROs) was emphasized, detailing existing capacities and plans for expansion to meet recovery goals, including the development of a centralized Food Recovery Database and an integrated Food Recovery Map available on FoodDROPLA.com.

Regarding organic waste processing infrastructure, statistics revealed a disposal rate of 4.6 million tons annually, indicating a need for an additional processing capacity of 1.1 million tons per year. The projected capital cost for new facilities to process food waste, green waste, wood waste, and paper products was estimated at \$1 billion. A proposed Calabasas Landfill Anaerobic Digestion (AD) Facility gained traction, with Public Works conducting outreach and the Board of Supervisors directing negotiations and the development of a Community Advisory Committee proposal.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION / LONG-TERM GOAL:

Regional collaboration efforts were highlighted through initiatives like the InfrastructureLA Sustainable Waste and Recycling Management (SWARM) Subcommittee, the Southern California Conversion Technology Project, and the upcoming 2023 Waste and Climate Solutions Summit, all aimed at collective waste management solutions.

Forthcoming steps, which included continued efforts towards SB 1383 compliance, feasibility analyses for additional infrastructure, and a focus on reducing plastics and packaging.

Public Works maintains a holistic approach towards achieving organic waste disposal reduction targets set by SB 1383, encompassing educational outreach, food recovery strategies, infrastructure development, regional collaboration, and a proactive stance toward future challenges in waste management. The Commission will continue to monitor and utilize the information provided by the Department of Public Works and local officials to prioritize and compile goals in response to Organic Waste Disposal.

Military and Veterans Affairs

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 reviewed coordination of public health matters between the County and Cities for the ongoing pandemic response. Commission members discussed coordination of vaccine distribution and the implementation of public health measures and ongoing restrictions.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION / LONG-TERM GOAL:

The Commission emphasized that the lessons learned from the pandemic response, including goals and recommendations to address the current pandemic and future emergencies, be presented to the Board of Supervisors at a future date. 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 and encourage diversity, equity, and inclusion in 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 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
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